

**RESOLUTION NO: 91-12-13648**

**A Resolution of the City of South Miami to the Environmental Protection Agency  
Administrator Lisa P. Jackson in support of reducing greenhouse gas pollution  
under the Clean Air Act.**

**WHEREAS**, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record<sup>1</sup>, and 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the current level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is approximately 392 parts per million<sup>3</sup> (ppm); and

**WHEREAS**, one of the world's leading climate scientists, Dr. James Hansen, stated in 2008: "If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and climate change suggest that CO<sub>2</sub> will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350 ppm<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency determined that current and future greenhouse gas concentrations endanger public health<sup>5</sup>, and according to the Global Humanitarian Forum climate change is already responsible every year for some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic losses worldwide of U.S. \$125 billion<sup>6</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation extremes, are striking with increased frequency<sup>7</sup>, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; in the United States in 2011 alone, a record 14 weather and climate disasters occurred, including droughts, heat waves, and floods, that cost at least \$US 1 billion each in damages and loss of human lives<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is affecting food security by lowering the growth and yields of important crops<sup>9</sup>, and droughts, floods and changes in snowpack are altering water supplies<sup>10</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as a tenth of all species may be on the verge of extinction due to climate change<sup>11</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the world's land-based ice is rapidly melting, threatening water supplies in many regions and raising sea levels<sup>12</sup>, and Arctic summer sea ice extent has decreased to about half what it was several decades ago<sup>13</sup>, with an accompanying drastic reduction in sea-ice thickness and volume<sup>14</sup>, which is severely jeopardizing ice-dependent animals<sup>15</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, sea level is rising faster along the U.S. East Coast than it has for at least 2,000 years<sup>16</sup>, is accelerating in pace<sup>17</sup>, and could rise by one to two meters in this century, threatening millions of Americans with severe flooding<sup>18</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times<sup>19</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved significantly since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial production; and

**WHEREAS**, between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act — particulate matter and ground-level ozone (both of which contribute to smog and asthma), carbon

monoxide, lead, sulfur and nitrogen oxides (the pollutants that cause acid rain) — were reduced by between 47 percent and 93 percent, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion, equivalent to 30 times the cost of regulation; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts vs. EPA* (2007) that greenhouse gases are “air pollutants” as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change threatens to put much of South Florida underwater in the next century; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of South Miami prides itself on being a leader in the fight against climate change and for clean air, having signed the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement, and working to promote tree canopy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1.** Climate change is not an abstract problem for the future or one that will only affect far-distant places but rather climate change is happening now, we are causing it, and the longer we wait to act, the more we lose and the more difficult the problem will be to solve; and we, the City of South Miami Commission, on behalf of the residents of the City, do hereby urge the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa P. Jackson, and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to do our part to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million.

**Section 2.** The City Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Lisa P. Jackson of the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall take effect upon adoption.

Passed and adopted this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2012.

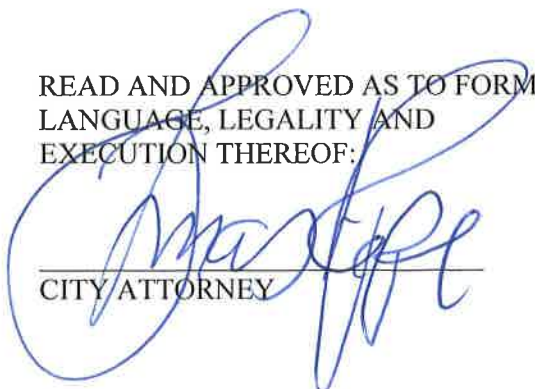
ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR

READ AND APPROVED AS TO FORM  
LANGUAGE, LEGALITY AND  
EXECUTION THEREOF:

  
CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSION VOTE:	5-0
Mayor Stoddard:	Yea
Vice Mayor Liebman:	Yea
Commissioner Newman:	Yea
Commissioner Harris:	Yea
Commissioner Welsh:	Yea

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Press Release, National Aeronautic Space Association, *NASA Research Finds Last Decade was Warmest on Record, 2009 One of the Warmest Years* (Jan. 21, 2010), [www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2010/jan/HQ\\_10-017\\_Warmest\\_temps.html](http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2010/jan/HQ_10-017_Warmest_temps.html).

<sup>2</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA: *2010 Tied for Warmest Year on Record*, [www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110112\\_globalstats.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2011/20110112_globalstats.html) (last visited on 3/30/12).

<sup>3</sup> Co2now.org, *What the World Needs to Watch*, <http://co2now.org> (last visited on 3/30/12); Earth System Research Laboratory of NOAA, *Trends in Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide*, [www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/](http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/) (last visited on 4/2/12).

<sup>4</sup> J. Hansen et al., *Target atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: Where should humanity aim?*, *Open Atmos. Sci.* 2, 217 (2008), <http://pubs.giss.nasa.gov/abs/ha00410c.html>.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act*, 74 Federal Register 66496-66546 (Dec. 15, 2009) (to be codified at 40 C.F.R. ch. 1), <http://epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html> (last visited 4/2/12).

<sup>6</sup> Global Humanitarian Forum, *The Anatomy of a Silent Crisis* (2009), [www.eird.org/publicaciones/humanimpactreport.pdf](http://www.eird.org/publicaciones/humanimpactreport.pdf), p.1 of pdf.

<sup>7</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX)* (2012), <http://ipcc-wg2.gov/SREX/>; U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Global Climate Change* (2009), <http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/global-climate-change>; D. Coumou and S. Rahmstorf, *A decade of weather extremes*, *Nature Climate Change* (2012), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/NCLIMATE1452>.

<sup>8</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *Extreme Weather 2011*, <http://www.noaa.gov/extreme2011/> (last visited April 2, 2012); Press Release, World Meteorological Organization, *2011: world's 10<sup>th</sup> warmest year, warmest year with La Niña on record, second-lowest Arctic sea ice extent* (2012), [www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/gcs\\_2011\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/gcs_2011_en.html).

<sup>9</sup> D.B. Lobell et al., *Climate Trends and Global Crop Production Since 1980*, *Science* 333, 616 (July 29, 2011), [www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/05/04/science.1204531.abstract](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/05/04/science.1204531.abstract); U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Agriculture* (2009), [www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/agriculture](http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/agriculture).

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Global Change Research Program, *Global Climate Change Impacts in the US: Water Resources* (2009), [www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/water-resources](http://www.globalchange.gov/publications/reports/scientific-assessments/us-impacts/full-report/climate-change-impacts-by-sector/water-resources).

<sup>11</sup> I.M.D. Maclean and R.J. Wilson, *Recent ecological responses to climate change support predictions of high extinction risk*, *PNAS* 108, 12337 (2011), <http://www.pnas.org/content/108/30/12337>, summary at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/07/110711151457.htm>.

<sup>12</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report* (2007), [http://www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_ipcc\\_fourth\\_assessment\\_report\\_synthesis\\_report.htm](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_ipcc_fourth_assessment_report_synthesis_report.htm), pp. 30, 49 of pdf.

<sup>13</sup> J. Stroeve et al., *Arctic Sea Ice Extent Plummets in 2007*, *EOS* 89, 2 (January 8, 2008), <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2008/2008EO020001.shtml>, p. 13 of pdf.

<sup>14</sup> Polar Science Center, *Arctic Sea Ice Volume Anomaly, version 2*, <http://psc.apl.washington.edu/wordpress/research/projects/arctic-sea-ice-volume-anomaly/> (last visited April 3, 2012); R. Kwok and D.A. Rothrock, *Decline in Arctic sea ice thickness from submarine and ICESat records: 1958-2008*, *Geophysical Research Letters* 36, L15501 (2009), <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2009/2009GL039035.shtml>.

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<sup>15</sup> Center for Biological Diversity and Care for the Wild International, *Extinction: It's Not Just for Polar Bears* (2010), [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate\\_law\\_institute/the\\_arctic\\_meltdown/arctic\\_extinction\\_report.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/the_arctic_meltdown/arctic_extinction_report.html).

<sup>16</sup> A.C. Kemp et al., *Climate related sea-level variations over the past two millennia*, PNAS 108, 11017 (2011), <http://www.pnas.org/content/108/27/11017>, summary at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/06/110620183242.htm>.

<sup>17</sup> M.A. Merrifield et al., *An Anomalous Recent Acceleration of Global Sea Level Rise*, Journal of Climate 22, 5772 (2008), <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/2009JCLI2985.1>.

<sup>18</sup> B.H. Strauss, *Tidally adjusted estimates of topographic vulnerability to sea level rise and flooding for the contiguous United States*, Environmental Research Letters 7 (2012), <http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/7/1/014033>, summary at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/03/120314111738.htm>.

<sup>19</sup> For Clean Air Act facts, see Center for Biological Diversity, *The Clean Air Act Works* (2011), [http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate\\_law\\_institute/global\\_warming\\_litigation/clean\\_air\\_act/pdfs/CleanAirActWorks\\_032011.pdf](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/global_warming_litigation/clean_air_act/pdfs/CleanAirActWorks_032011.pdf); and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1970 to 1990* (1997), <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/>; and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, 1990 to 2010* (1999), <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/>.