RESOLUTION NO. 2017-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT AND JOIN THE CLIMATE MAYORS

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that global warming caused by emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (e.g. droughts and floods), adverse impacts on ecosystems, demographic patterns and economic value chains; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that current and future greenhouse gas concentrations endanger public health, 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 \$125 billion; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels, reduced snow pack in the Sierras, and extreme weather are issues are beginning to affect the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, by mid-century, our waterfront is estimated to be inundated by rising sea levels, and we could experience three to four times as many extreme heat days as we do today with related increases in hospitalizations and deaths, especially for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany has been a leader in the fight against climate change, having adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2010, which aims to reduce the city's carbon emissions to 25% below 2004 baseline emission levels by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany will continue to lead this effort through its ambitious long term greenhouse gas reduction goals of 60% by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, responding to the climate change provides communities an opportunity to access first mover advantage in the range of products, services and know-how that transitioning to a climate-compatible future brings; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement resulted in a commitment from almost every nation to take action and enact programs to limit global temperature increase to less than 2 degrees Celsius, with an expectation that this goal would be reduced to 1.5 degrees in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albany City Council hereby:

1. Indicates its commitment to reducing GHG emissions through implementation of our Climate Action Plan; and

- 2. Joins other US cities in the Climate Mayors network in adopting and supporting the goals of the Paris Agreement; and
- 3. Commits to exploring the potential benefits and costs of adopting policies and programs that promote the long-term goal of GHG emissions reduction while maximizing economic and social co-benefits of such action.

PEGGY MCQUAID, MAYOR



City of Albany

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PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY,

The 19th day of June, 2017, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Barnes, Maass, Nason, and Mayor McQuaid

NOES: none

ABSENT: Council Member Pilch

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this

20th day of June, 2017.

Eileen Harrington

DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Eileen Harrington