

**CITY OF MIRAMAR
PROPOSED CITY COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

Presenter's Name and Title: Nixon Lebrun, Assistant Director of Building, Planning and Zoning Department

Prepared By: Nixon Lebrun, Assistant Director of Building, Planning and Zoning Department

Temp. Reso. Number: 7891

Item Description: Temp. Reso. No. 7891, JOINING THE CITIES RACE TO ZERO CAMPAIGN; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY COMMISSION TO SIGN ANY RELATED COMMITMENT FORM; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO COMMIT SUFFICIENT STAFF TIME AND RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT RACE TO ZERO ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND FOR ALL OTHER PURPOSES. *(Nixon Lebrun, Building, Planning and Zoning Assistant Director)*

Consent Resolution Ordinance Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

Instructions for the Office of the City Clerk: None

Public Notice – As required by the Sec. ___301.11___ of the City Code and/or Sec. 163.3184(11)____, Florida Statutes, public notice for this item was provided as follows: on _____ in a _____ ad in the _____; by the posting the property on _____ and/or by sending mailed notice to property owners within _____ feet of the property on _____ (fill in all that apply)

Special Voting Requirement – As required by Sec. _____, of the City Code and/or Sec. _____, Florida Statutes, approval of this item requires a _____ (unanimous, 4/5ths etc.) vote by the City Commission.

Fiscal Impact: Yes No

REMARKS: None


Content:

- **Agenda Item Memo from the City Manager to City Commission**
- **Resolution TR 7891**



**CITY OF MIRAMAR
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor, Vice Mayor, & City Commissioners

FROM: Dr. Roy L. Virgin, City Manager 

BY: Eric Silva, Director, Building, Planning and Zoning Department

DATE: May 11, 2023

RE: Temp. Res. No. 7891, Joining the Cities Race to Zero Campaign and authorizing the Mayor to sign any related Pledge

RECOMMENDATION: The City Manager of the City of Miramar, Florida (the “City”), recommends that the City Commission passes and adopts the above-referenced draft resolution for the City to sign on to the Cities Race to Zero Campaign, authorizing the Mayor to sign any related Commitment Form, and further authorizing the City Manager to commit sufficient staff time and resources to carry out Race to Zero activities to stave off the worst effects of climate change, decarbonize the City’s economy, fostering thereby greater intra-generational and intergenerational equity for current and future residents.

ISSUE: Climate change may well be our generation’s and, if not, this century’s greatest existential threats. Its wide-ranging ranging devastating impacts exacerbate inequalities associated with income, gender, ethnicity, disability, and more. As centers of communication, commerce and culture, cities are on the frontlines of the climate crisis – from rising seas and flooding to higher temperatures and poor air quality. The time is now to move from climate ambition to climate action. Delivering a climate-safe future requires cities to take transformational action to reduce transport emissions, improve building energy efficiency, remove fossil fuels from the energy supply, minimize waste to landfill or incineration, and change consumption patterns. Climate action planning thus is essential to a climate-safe future and to ensuring that city investments in infrastructure and services do not lock in a high-carbon future or aren’t future-proofed against the likely changes in climate.

However, without a municipal leadership-backed commitment, climate planning action will be a road that leads to nowhere. Indeed, it must all start, at a minimum, with publicly adopted commitments signaling the intent and direction of the governing bodies, and, if possible, with binding legislative commitments to develop a pathway to advance the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, as well as the wider principles of the 2015

Paris Climate Accord or Paris Agreement. As such, the above-referenced draft resolution is being placed on this City Commission meeting agenda for consideration by and an affirmative vote of the City Commission to secure and publicize the commitment of City leadership to join the Cities Race to Zero Campaign and help move the City's climate ambitions to climate action and ultimately foster a net zero economy.

BACKGROUND: Until the 1970s, there was a perception that the undesirable "side effects" of a growing world economy fueled by rapid population growth, urbanization and industrialization were purely local, with no global implications. However, from the 1980s onward, more so than the 1984 Union Carbide disaster at Bhopal, India¹, the 1986 Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine, or the 1989, Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska, a more pervasive phenomenon has emerged that radically changed that myopic view and opened the eyes of scientists to the oft disastrous global environmental impacts of many localized activities. That phenomenon was the melting of the polar ice caps, with effects on sea levels and climatic patterns, and the increased frequency of major hurricanes. This realization led to the 1987 Brundtland Report, "Our Common Future," by the United Nations ("UN") World Commission on Environment and Development ("WCED"), which advocated for long-term strategies to counter the threat posed by these trends and popularized the term, "sustainable development" therein defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

While that definition was apt, more practical steps were needed and this happened at the UN Conference on Environment and Development at Rio in 1992. Dubbed the "Earth Summit," that Conference arguably marked a turning point in the legal international framework for environmental issues, by creating an "Earth Charter," a bill of rights that set out principles for economic and environmental behaviors for peoples and nations, while giving rise to several agreements, in particular:

- The Rio Declaration, which aimed to establish "a new and global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of society, and people."
- Agenda 21, which is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally, and especially locally by Agenda 21 officers to implement sustainable development on the ground.
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate ("UNFCC"), which was directly concerned with the problem of global warming² and led to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol where the developed countries committed to reducing 1990 emission levels of six GHGs by 5 percent by 2012. The Kyoto Protocol was a significant initiative, but the

Page 2 of 5

¹ The 1984 Union Carbide disaster at Bhopal, India, is the world's worst ever industrial accident.

² Global warming describes the effects of GHGs. These gases consist mainly of carbon dioxide (CO₂) (77 percent) and methane (15 percent), which is 43 times worse in global warming terms than carbon dioxide, while not being mentioned as much. These gases collect in the upper atmosphere and prevent solar heat from being reflected back into space, with the immediate effect, over many years, but only recently noticeable, is argued to be the melting of the polar ice caps.

United States ("US"), which produced 25 percent of global greenhouse gases ("GHGs") refused to sign the protocol up to the election of President Barack Obama.

Nevertheless, the lack of universal agreement surrounding global warming did not really move the needle from soft to hard legislations, and from mere commitments to legal sanctions. With that backdrop, and even with the change in US attitudes starting in 2009, the two decades after Rio 1992 were punctuated by a series of conferences which sought to replace the Kyoto Treaty and cement a binding climate change agreement. While these conferences failed to come up with a binding agreement and rescue the Kyoto Treaty from oblivion, the 2012 Doha Climate Change Conference did bring a glimmer of hope, as the parties decided to meet again in Paris in December 2015. Agreement from that conference commits countries to try to keep global temperature rises "well below" 2°C (the level which is likely to signal the worst effects of climate change), and well below is interpreted as 1.5°C. The Paris Agreement requires countries to set increasingly ambitious targets or pledges for cutting national emissions, and to report on their progress. Countries were also asked to come back before 2020 to revisit their pledges, and make new, more ambitious pledges every five years thereafter.

DISCUSSION: in June 2020, the UNFCCC along with other partners established the Race to Zero as a global campaign to rally leadership and support from business, cities, regions, and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks equitable, sustainable growth; and to build global momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy, where governments can strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement. The Race to Zero specifically aims to halve GHG emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner. Race to Zero Partners are the pillars under the campaign, the funnels through which individual members can join the Race. They include, but are not limited to:

- The Under2 Coalition, which is a global community of state and regional governments committed to ambitious climate action in line with the Paris Agreement. It brings together over 220 governments representing more than 1.3 billion people and 43% of the global economy;
- The CDP, which is a not-for-profit charity running the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts;
- C40 Cities, which is a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis;
- The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, formerly the Compact of Mayors, which is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 11,500 cities and local governments hailing from 6 continents and 142 countries;
- ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, which is the first and largest global network of local governments devoted to solving the world's most intractable sustainability challenges.

- UCLG-United Cities and Local Governments, which is a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations, is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments to leave no-one and no place behind.
- the World Wide Fund for Nature (“WWF”), which is the world’s leading conservation organization, working in nearly 100 countries to tackle the most critical issues at the intersection of nature, people, and climate; and
- The World Resources Institute (“WRI”), which is a global research organization that works with governments, businesses, multilateral institutions, and civil society groups to develop practical solutions that improve people’s lives and ensure nature can thrive, focusing its work around seven global challenges: Food, Forests, Water, Energy, Climate, the Ocean and Cities; and
- Cities Race to Zero, who supports cities who sign onto the campaign by pledging to net-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

As of September 2022, the UN-backed Race to Zero has mobilized a coalition of leading net-zero initiatives, representing 11,309 non-State actors including 8,307 companies, 595 financial institutions, 1,136 cities, 52 states and regions, 1,125 educational institutions and 65 healthcare institutions. These “real economy” actors join the largest-ever alliance committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest. The science shows that governments are crucial partners in solving the climate emergency but that they must strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement to unlock a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.

As the official partner of the race to Zero, Cities Race to Zero is a track of Race to Zero for cities only, where cities are uniting to demonstrate inclusive and resilient climate action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Cities Race to Zero supports cities that sign onto the campaign by pledging to net-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5C. Cities must set an interim target to achieve within the next decade which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030. It also ensures consistency with reporting metrics annually, by encouraging cities to report to their usual or recommended reporting platform, such as CDP-ICLEI, of which the City is a member. Cities Race to Zero is the most aggressive set of climate-related commitments made at any level of government so far. All signatory cities – small or large, leading or beginning – have committed to implementing concrete climate actions to halve GHG emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050, at the latest.

ANALYSIS: Cities are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and responsible leaders who govern and live in cities already know that robust, transformational action is needed across sectors to safeguard livelihoods and welfare in their communities. Although the Race to Zero was born out of the galvanizing sense of urgency leading into COP26 in 2021, the imperative for communities to reach climate neutrality will continue for decades to come, which is why the Cities Race to Zero remains open to new signatory cities.

The City recognizes that, as an integral part of low-lying, subtropical South Florida, it is not immune to the threats of climate change and has therefore a responsibility to partner with other local leaders to foster a culture of resilience and preparedness and help protect its residents and its economy from the unprecedented challenges associated with climate change. The City further acknowledges that, before today's "once in a century" storms surges become "once in a decade" storms, it must start searching for ways to optimize the remaining economic life of its existing infrastructures and take advantage of the available resources from partners such as ICLEI and the Southeast Regional Climate Change Compact (the "Compact").

Signing on the Cities Race to Zero presents the City with an opportunity to meet this once-in-a-generation moment and send national governments across the globe a resounding signal that cities are united in meeting the Paris Agreement goals and in creating a more inclusive and resilient economy. By joining the ever-growing coalition of cities setting science-based targets and committing to inclusive and resilient climate action to get our cities to net-zero carbon emissions, the City will help prevent the worst effects of climate change and set a long-term vision for how the City's low-carbon, resilient and inclusive future should look. Such vision should outline the main features and local benefits of becoming emissions neutral and climate resilient by 2050 and include a commitment to take transformational and inclusive action in key emissions sectors – particularly energy, buildings, transportation, and waste, since it is more about making the connection between climate action and other local priorities, rather than seeking to quantify local benefits.

Joining Cities Race to Zero would mean that the City' governing body:

- ✓ Publicly endorses the following principles:
 - The City recognizes the global climate emergency.
 - The City is committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.
 - The City is committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
 - The City invites its partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join in recognizing the global climate emergency and help deliver on science-based action to overcome it.
- ✓ Pledges to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- ✓ Identifies interim, short- and medium-term targets and priority actions for the next decade which reflect a fair share of the necessary 50% global reduction in CO₂ by 2030.
- ✓ Plans at least one of those actions to begin implementation within the first year of signing up; and
- ✓ Reports progress annually.

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

**CITY OF MIRAMAR
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIRAMAR, FLORIDA, JOINING THE CITIES RACE TO ZERO CAMPAIGN; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY COMMISSION TO SIGN ANY RELATED COMMITMENT DOCUMENT; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT STAFF TIME AND RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT RACE TO ZERO ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Miramar (the "City") desires to join in the local, regional, national and international efforts to reduce contributions to climate pollution, strengthen resilience against climate-related hazards, transition to clean energy, and enhance livability and quality of life for all residents; and

WHEREAS, consensus exists among the world's leading climate scientists that global climate change, specifically global warming, caused by emissions of greenhouse gases ("GHG") from human activities like burning fossil fuels to produce electricity or driving our cars is among the most significant problems facing the world today; and

WHEREAS, global warming of 1.5 or 2 degrees Celsius ("°C") will cause untold damage to human societies, physical infrastructure, and ecosystems with which we share the planet, as recent dramatic floods, droughts, heatwaves, and wildfires with only 1.1 °C warming over late-19th-century levels have amply demonstrated; and

Reso. No. _____

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

WHEREAS, in April 2016, President Barack Obama along with world leaders from 174 other countries signed the Paris Climate Accord or Paris Agreement and agreed to keep global warming to average temperature to “well below 2°C above preindustrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1. 5°C;” and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Trump-era’s rollbacks of the Obama administration climate-change-mitigation policies, the United States became the first and only country to leave the historical Paris Agreement in November 2020; and

WHEREAS, upon taking office in January 2021, President Joseph Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement and further pledged to reach net-zero economy-wide emissions in the United States by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in line with the goals of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, President Biden approved in April 2021 a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (“NDC”) for the United States, which aims to cut net GHG emissions by 50-52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, while creating good-paying jobs and securing U.S. leadership in the global transition to a low-carbon economy; and

WHEREAS, in August 2021, the United Nation’s (“U.N”) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) released its Sixth Assessment Report, which reemphasized the urgent need to reduce global emissions by 50% by 2030, giving humanity less than a decade in which to take rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented action to stave off the worst effects of climate change; and

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

WHEREAS, the IPCC's Report, which U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres labeled as "an atlas of human suffering and a damning indictment of failed climate leadership, and a "code red for humanity," specifically listed Florida as a place where the adverse impacts of climate change are already being felt and where global warming is projected to raise average temperature by 2.2 to 5.5°C and sea level by 31 to 61 inches over the next 100 years; and

WHEREAS, cities consume 78 percent of the world's energy and produce over 60 percent of global climate changing carbon dioxide emissions (the primary human-caused GHG), meaning that local governments are in a unique position to combat climate change and must be leaders in their commitment to ambitious actions that drastically reduce GHG emissions and prevent a 1.5°C increase in average global temperature; and

WHEREAS, holding the increase in global average temperature to these levels would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, by taking positive steps to reduce GHG emissions and otherwise avoid the worst impacts of climate change, cities can improve their quality of life, enhance their economic prosperity, and protect the livability of our cities; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the major role of cities and local governments in the mobilization to address climate change, the United Nations General Secretary recognized the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (formerly, the "Compact of Mayors") in September 2014 in New York; and

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

WHEREAS, in June 2020, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“UNFCCC”) and many other partners have established the Race to Zero as a global campaign to rally leadership and support from business, cities, regions, and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth; and to build global momentum around the shift to a decarbonized economy, where governments can strengthen their contributions to the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, led by the High-Level Champions, the Race to Zero specifically aims to halve GHG emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 or sooner, and includes such partners as the Under2 Coalition, an alliance of subnational governments across the globe committed to climate action; CDP, a not-for-profit charity that runs the global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts; C40 Cities, a global network of mayors of the world’s leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis; the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 11,500 cities and local governments hailing from 6 continents and 142 countries; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the Race to Zero effort is led by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA, of which the City has been a member; and

WHEREAS, ICLEI provides technical assistance to participating governments in developing a science-based target for 2030 emissions reductions and community-specific

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

high-impact actions, along with additional technical assistance, networking opportunities with like-minded governments, and recognition of their net-zero pledges and actions, at no cost to participating governments; and

WHEREAS, to date, various Florida cities and local governments are among the 1,143 ones across the United States and the globe, which have joined the Race to Zero campaign, including Broward County, Miami-Dade County, Miami, Miami Beach, Boynton Beach, Hallandale Beach, West Palm Beach, Orlando, Tampa, and St. Petersburg; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that, as an integral part of low-lying, subtropical South Florida, it is not immune to the threats of climate change and has therefore a responsibility to partner with other local leaders to foster a culture of resilience and preparedness, and help protect its residents and its economy from the unprecedented challenges associated with climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City further acknowledges that, before today's "once in a century" storm surges become "once in a decade" storms, it must start searching for ways to optimize the remaining economic life of its existing infrastructures, and take advantage of the available resources from partners such as ICLEI and the Southeast Regional Climate Change Compact (the "Compact") to develop a robust climate action plan, one that features an integrated, long-term strategy for resilience, weaves together state, regional and local initiatives, and ultimately equips the City to prepare for, respond to and bounce back from future climate impacts and the natural disasters that we know will come; and

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

WHEREAS, the City is also in the process of taking steps to aggressively address renewable energy, reduce the GHG emissions of existing city-owned and operated facilities, and reviewing its Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code to include policies and regulations aimed at increasing resiliency standards; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined it is in the best interest of the City to join the Race to Zero and partner with national governments across the United States and the world to reach their highest climate ambitions.

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
MIRAMAR, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1: That the foregoing “Whereas” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2: That the City of Miramar, Florida, hereby joins the ICLEI150 on the Race to Zero.

Section 3: That the City:

- ✓ Publicly endorses the following principles:
 - The City of Miramar recognizes the global climate emergency.
 - The City is committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement.
 - The City is committed to putting inclusive climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
 - The City invites its partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join in recognizing the global climate emergency and help deliver on science-based action to overcome it.
- Pledges to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- Identifies interim, short- and medium-term targets and priority actions for the next decade which reflect a fair share of the necessary 50% global reduction in CO₂ by 2030.
- Plans at least one of those actions to begin implementation within the first year of signing up; and
- Will report progress annually.

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

Section 4: That the City Commission is authorized and directed to sign any related Commitment Form on behalf of the City and to arrange its transmittal to Cities Race to Zero.

Section 5: That the City Manager is authorized and directed to commit sufficient staff time and resources to carry out the tasks outlined in Section 3.

Section 6: **Severability.** If any term, provision, clause, phrase, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Resolution is held to be partially or wholly unconstitutional, unenforceable, or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality, unenforceability, or invalidity shall be considered as eliminated and shall not affect any of the remaining terms, provisions, clauses, phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or sections of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7: **Administrative Correction of Scrivener's Error.** The City Attorney is hereby authorized to correct scrivener's errors found in this Resolution by filing a corrected copy with the City Clerk.

Temp. Reso. No. 7891
3/16/23
5/11/23

Section 8: Effective Date. That this Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Mayor, Wayne M. Messam

Vice Mayor, Alexandra P. Davis

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Denise A. Gibbs

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have approved
this RESOLUTION as to form:

City Attorney,
Austin Pamies Norris Weeks Powell, PLLC

Requested by Administration

Commissioner Winston F. Barnes

Commissioner Maxwell B. Chambers

Commissioner Yvette Colbourne

Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis

Mayor Wayne M. Messam

Voted

Reso. No. _____