

Resolution of the City of Atlantic City

No. 355

Approved as to Form and Legality on Basis of Facts Set Forth

Factual contents certified to by

Legislative Counsel/ Robert Tarver, Esq.

/ Robert Tarver, Esq.

Prepared by Legislative Counsel

Council Members SHABAZZ, & RANDOLPH Present the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO HOLD FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE COSTS

WHEREAS, the City of Atlantic City is located in Atlantic County, New Jersey with approximately 38,000 residents bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, and the city is host to over 27 million visitors a year with \$1.7 billion invested in tourist attractions and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlantic City and communities across the state of New Jersey are experiencing the increasingly severe impacts of climate change and rising global temperatures. The sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004. In New Jersey, sea levels are rising more than twice the global average, and in Atlantic City, they have increased by more than 15 inches over the last century; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlantic City is uniquely vulnerable to severe weather, rising seas, and the costs of associated flooding. The city was recorded by the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration in 2017 as one of the top three U.S. cities with flooding from high tides, and has one of the highest rate increases of coastal flooding of any city in the U.S., according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Rutgers University research has projected the city will face up to 255 days of high-tide flooding per year by 2050, and the 2020 New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change found that, by the year 2100, Atlantic City has a 50% chance of experiencing high-tide flooding 355 days per year; and

WHEREAS, by initial New Jersey Department of Transportation estimates, raising just one stretch of road that passes through Atlantic City to prevent chronic flooding will cost at least \$22 million, and more roads and other critical infrastructure will require adaptation measures; and

WHEREAS, according to a study published by the Center for Climate Integrity, the City of Atlantic City is the number one municipality in New Jersey for projected seawall construction costs at nearly \$365 million by 2040. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has already spent tens of millions of dollars on seawalls and sand dunes to protect Atlantic City businesses and homes; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide, leaving 10,000 Atlantic City residents without electricity, and causing damage to homes and businesses in Atlantic City; and

WHEREAS, low-income families and public housing developments in the City of Atlantic City are most exposed to these threats, yet often go without access to the resources necessary in order to adapt, recover, and build resilience. Researchers at Climate Central found that affordable housing in Atlantic City is among the most vulnerable to flooding and sea-level rise in the country, with more than half of its affordable housing developments at risk; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the need for Atlantic City to protect itself against future super storms, in October 2019, Executive Order No. 89 outlined a statewide resiliency plan to address the state’s vulnerability to severe weather events, precipitation, and wind damage that cause disastrous consequences for public health and safety;

WHEREAS, in the United States, carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from burning fossil fuels amounted to 76% of total human-caused greenhouse gases (GHGs) and NASA explains the “greenhouse effect” as when carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxides trap heat in the atmosphere and cause temperatures to rise, known as “global warming;” and

WHEREAS, fossil fuel companies have knowingly produced, marketed, promoted, and sold fossil fuels over the last 50 years despite their contribution to global warming, without protecting or warning consumers about the dangers, and have spent millions of dollars on campaigns to obscure the truth to protect their own assets; and

WHEREAS, 26 states and municipalities throughout the United States have filed lawsuits against major oil and gas companies for the costs of adapting to climate damages those companies knowingly caused, and/or for defrauding consumers as to the risks those companies knew their products would cause; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of Atlantic City, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby urge Governor Murphy to take legal action against the fossil fuel industry for their role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis to ensure that the cost of adaptation and resilience does not fall solely on the shoulders of taxpayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to our representatives in Congress, the members of the New Jersey General Assembly and the State Senate, the Lieutenant Governor, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey.

June 30, 2021 12:49 PM

DO NOT USE SPACE BELOW THIS LINE													
RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE													
COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V	A.B.	MOT.	SEC.	COUNCIL MEMBER	AYE	NAY	N.V.	A.B.	MOT.	SEC.
DELGADO	X						MORSHED	X					
DUNSTON				X			RANDOLPH	X					X
FAUNTLEROY	X						SHABAZZ	X				X	
KURTZ	ABSTAIN						ZIA	X					
TIBBITT, PRESIDENT								X					
X-Indicates Vote NV-Not Voting AB-Absent MOT-Motion SEC-Second													

This is a Certified True copy of the Original Resolution on file in the City Clerk's Office.

DATE OF ADOPTION: HUNE 16, 2021 *Paula Geletei*
 /s/ Paula Geletei, City Clerk