



Individual Resolutions
Meeting of the Municipal Council
Wednesday, October 27, 2021
RESOLUTION SUMMARY

2021-454

Hold the fossil fuel industry financially accountable for their role in creating and perpetuating the climate crisis.



RESOLUTION NO. 2021-454

**City of Asbury Park
County of Monmouth
State of New Jersey**

RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO HOLD FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES ACCOUNTABLE FOR DAMAGES AND RESILIENCE COSTS ARISING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEA-LEVEL RISE

WHEREAS, the City of Asbury Park is located in Monmouth County, New Jersey with approximately 16,000 residents along the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asbury Park is greatly impacted by severe weather, flooding and related costs; and

WHEREAS, based on data from policy experts, economic analysts, energy modelers, data engineers, and environmental scientists, the 2019 Rhodium Report indicates that the sea surface temperature in the Northeast United States has warmed faster than 99% of the global ocean since 2004, with New Jersey sea levels rising by more than twice the global average; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Super Storm Sandy caused more than \$30 billion in damages within the State of New Jersey, destroying 72,000 homes statewide, and causing damage and destruction within the City of Asbury Park; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with the need for the City of Asbury Park 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; and

WHEREAS, it is known that, 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, several major fossil fuel companies are advocating for immunity from lawsuits over climate change-related costs and damages and trying to eliminate municipalities' power to bring suit or assert specific causes of action;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor & Council of the City of Asbury Park, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, do hereby urge Governor Murphy and the Attorney General of New Jersey to hold the fossil fuel industry financially accountable 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.

I, MELODY HARTSGROVE, City Clerk of the City of Asbury Park, Monmouth County, New Jersey, DO HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of RESOLUTION NO. 2021-454 which was finally adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on the 27th day of October, 2021

CERTIFIED BY ME THIS 21st DAY OF October, 2021.


Melody Hartsgrove, City Clerk 10/28/2021

MELODY HARTSGROVE
CITY CLERK

✓ Vote Record - Resolution 2021-454					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn <input type="checkbox"/> Second Reading					
		Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent