

RESOLUTION NO. 2783

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria recognizes its natural environment is irreplaceable and fragile, and must be preserved for future generations; and

WHEREAS, climate change or global warming, as the name implies, is truly a worldwide issue requiring collaboration and coordination between localities and regions or states and countries; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Climate Agreement, effective since November 4, 2016, is a historic step in the right direction, and the United States played a critical role in making this happen; and

WHEREAS, under the Paris Agreement, the United States is committed to achieving an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 26% to 28% below its 2005 level in 2025 and to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 28%; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria is located on the shores of the Potomac River and has been adversely impacted by flooding events due to torrential rains and hurricanes. With the dire prospect of a sea level rise of four to six feet and increased severity and frequencies of flooding events by the end of this century, adapting to climate change will be key to Alexandria's environmental and economic future, since our historic district, located along the Potomac waterfront, is a significant social and economic driving force for the city; and

WHEREAS, in late 2006, the City embarked on the Eco-City Alexandria initiative aimed at leading the City toward environmental sustainability and becoming an Eco-City. Alexandria defines sustainability as meeting our community's present needs while preserving our historic character and ensuring the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria, in partnership with the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission and Virginia Tech Alexandria Campus, adopted the Eco-City Charter in 2008, and, the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2030 in 2009. The City was the first locality in the Commonwealth of Virginia to adopt such a holistic sustainability framework; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the City adopted the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments region-wide GHG emission reduction targets of 20% compared to 2005 levels by 2020, and 80% compared to 2005 levels by 2050; to help meet these targets, the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan calls for all new buildings in the City to be carbon neutral by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City has made significant progress in greenhouse gas reduction efforts through its smart growth transit-oriented-development land use policies, solid waste recycling and management, innovative transportation initiatives, permanent shutdown of the coal-fired Mirant power plant, and implementation of energy efficient and renewable energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City, with support from its first ever sustainability coordinator and the Environmental Policy Commission, will be updating its Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2030 and Green Building Policy over the next two years, and will be seeking input from the entire community on new ways that the City can contribute locally to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts taking into special consideration the impact of climate change on our most vulnerable residents.

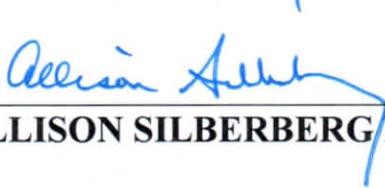
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA:

Reaffirms its full commitment to combat climate change and adapt to its unavoidable adverse impacts alongside the many U.S. local jurisdictions and, on June 2, joined the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, pledging to uphold goals embodied in the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Recommits itself to striving to achieve the GHG reduction targets, including that all new buildings in the City are carbon neutral by 2030, established in the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, which are consistent with the previous U.S. commitment under the Paris Agreement; and

In the short term, reaffirms its commitment in the 2017-2022 Alexandria's Strategic Plan to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent from 2012 levels.

Adopted: June 13, 2017


ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC, City Clerk