

**Resolution No. 343-2019**

**Council Members:** Zone, Brancatelli, J. Jones, Polensek and Mayor Jackson

**An emergency resolution urging the Ohio General Assembly to implement a statewide Climate Action Plan to mitigate current effects and reduce future impacts of climate change based on scientific evidence.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cleveland and the State of Ohio have been leaders in protective environmental action, including actions to restore the Cuyahoga River from past damages; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Cleveland released an updated 2018 Cleveland Climate Action Plan, which includes 28 objectives all designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 80% by 2050 and make Clevelanders more resilient to the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio can take its place among the many other states that have implemented climate action plans to reduce environmental impact and attempt to maintain a planet that is recognizable to what it is now; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Ohio should do its part to reduce GHG emissions to a level below 350 parts per million to protect its most vulnerable residents from the impacts of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a present threat and is caused, and therefore can be resolved, by human action; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of climate change are imminent and have grave social and economic consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the impacts of climate change will burden all future generations and climate change will continue to worsen if action is not taken immediately; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs of allowing climate change to continue to worsen are much greater than the costs of changing current practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the current amount of atmospheric greenhouse gases, estimated to be approximately 410 parts per million, are leading to devastating impacts, including but not limited to: increased temperatures, heightened sea levels, more frequent severe weather events, increased rates of species extinction, and significantly increased asthma rates in children and young adults; and

**WHEREAS**, a full assault on climate change will benefit countless generations, both current and upcoming; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council and Mayor Jackson's Office of Sustainability, along with the students in the Environmental Heroes Program at the Leonard Gelfand STEM Center, Case Western Reserve University, including Vincent Aldewereld, Aidan Holdsworth, Anthony Koonce, Lily Kwiatkowski, Kathryn Kwiatkowski, Cecelia Ross, Hannah Ross, Maya Serna, and Nina Serna, urge the Ohio General Assembly to include youth in the development of a climate action plan; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health or safety, now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:**

**Section 1.** That this Council and the Jackson Administration urge the Ohio General Assembly to implement a statewide Climate Action Plan to mitigate current effects and reduce future impacts of climate change based on scientific evidence.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of Council is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Ohio General Assembly and Kathryn Kwiatkowski, Director-Math and Science Programs, Leonard Gelfand STEM Center, Case Western Reserve University.

**Section 3.** That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

**Adopted March 25, 2019.**

**Effective March 26, 2019.**