RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTION TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, there is broad agreement among the worldwide scientific community that increasing emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases released to the atmosphere are affecting the earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take actions to reduce global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as energy conservation and development of renewable energy sources may have multiple benefits, including economic development, job creation, cost savings and improved air quality that are not limited to individual state boundaries; and

WHEREAS, regional technical and policy collaboration to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions can build upon individual state efforts by coordinating and combining available resources, enhancing communication and dialogue, and promoting and advancing clean energy technologies that are economically and environmentally beneficial to the City of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves;

more frequent and greater concentrations of smog; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2005, the Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to address climate disruption, went into effect in the 141 countries that have ratified it to date, and 38 of those countries are now legally required to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America, with less than five percent of the world's population, is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Kyoto Protocol emissions reduction target for the U.S. would have been 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012; and

WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate social responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the U.S. to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to remain competitive in the international marketplace, to mitigate financial risk and to promote sound investment decisions; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emission reduction targets and programs, and such leadership efforts are bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic governors and mayors alike; and

WHEREAS, many cities throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reduced energy bills, green space preservation, air quality improvements, reduced traffic congestion, improved transportation choices, and economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new energy technologies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Las Vegas has identified as a strategic priority to create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City is a leader in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the use of alternative fuel vehicles, with 87% of the City's non-emergency fleet running on alternative fuels and comprising a significant portion of the 7,000 alternative fuel vehicles operating

in Southern Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the City provides incentives and subsidies to employees who commute by mass transit, van pool or car pool, has increased employee enrollment in the Club Ride Program in May of 2006 by 18%, and is recognized by the EPA as one of America's "Best Workplaces for Commuters"; and

WHEREAS, all new public facilities to be built by the City will be built to meet or exceed the standards of the United States Green Building Council LEED-Silver rating scale requirements; and

WHEREAS, the City actively promotes the development of mass transit options throughout the City and the Southern Nevada region including light rail, monorail, bus rapid transit and a super speed train connecting Las Vegas with Primm, Nevada and ultimately with Barstow and Anaheim, California; and

WHEREAS, the City actively promotes the creation and maintenance of open space through the implementation of the Conservation, Parks and Recreational Trails Elements of the Las Vegas Master Plan 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City actively promotes the planting of trees and for thirteen years has been recognized as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation; and

WHEREAS, mayors from around the nation have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which, as amended at the 73rd Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting, reads as follows:

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

A. We urge the federal government and state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the target of reducing global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, including efforts to: reduce the United States' dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the development of clean, economical energy resources and fuel-efficient technologies such as conservation, methane recovery for energy generation, waste to energy, wind and solar energy, fuel cells, efficient motor vehicles, and biofuels;

B. We urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation that

includes 1) clear timetables and emissions limits and 2) a flexible, market-based system of tradable allowances among emitting industries; and

C. We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:

1. **Inventory global warming emissions in City operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan;**
2. **Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;**
3. **Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;**
4. **Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags," advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology;**
5. **Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;**
6. **Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;**
7. **Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;**
8. **Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;**
9. **Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;**
10. **Increase recycling rates in City operations and in the community;**
11. **Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO_2; and**

12. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Las Vegas endorses the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and will continue to be a leader in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through:

- Continuing to increase the percentage of vehicles that use alternative fuel in the City's non-emergency fleet.
- Expanding the availability and use of mass transit for the employees, residents and visitors of the City.
- Developing neighborhood parks in areas with deficient service levels and develop mini-parks/urban parks in areas of high density.
- Requiring that new residential development provide adequate neighborhood parks as development occurs.
- Improving streetscape enhancements in the highly urbanized areas of the City.
- Maintaining recognition by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City USA.
- Establishing programs and incentives to encourage builders and developers to implement green building practices.

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- Encouraging the Clark County Board of County Commissioners, and the Mayors of Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City and Mesquite to support the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- Promoting the efforts of the City in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this 2nd day of August, 2006.

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

BY _____
OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
BARBARA JO RONEMUS, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

_____ 7-19-06
Date