

RESOLUTION NO. 2019- 2659

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY; URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY; REQUESTING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON A TRANSITION PLAN AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE; PROCLAIMING A CALL TO ACTION FOR THE TOWN TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARDS ADAPTATION, MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY STRATEGIES, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOWN'S CLIMATE CRISIS REPORT; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep the increase in global average temperature to “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside (the “Town”) has experienced the disruption and destruction already wrought by climate change through hurricanes, flooding, and other climatic events, that are also evidenced nationwide and worldwide by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the ecological effects of climate change are driving an increased rate of extinction of species, which could consequently devastate ecological stability and much of the biological life on Earth for future generations; and

WHEREAS, reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions around the globe will require a drawdown or removal of all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and other biological species, requiring a coordinated emergency mobilization on a global scale; and

WHEREAS, the Town is directly impacted by climate change through climatic events of increased number and size and has engaged in a series of efforts on climate adaptation, mitigation and resiliency initiatives, as detailed in the Town’s Climate Crisis Report; and

WHEREAS, the Town has forged strategic relationships with the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, the Resilient 305 Program through the 100 Resilient Cities Initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Compact of Mayors, the American Flood Coalition, the Youth Environmental Alliance, Florida International University, the University of Miami, Environment America’s “Mayors for Solar Energy,” Solar United Neighbors, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and The CLEO Institute to build a broad coalition to support strengthening the Town’s adaptation, mitigation and resiliency initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Town has focused its attention on safeguarding our community through:

- 1) adaptation including such initiatives as revamping its floodplain management regulations, improving its stormwater system, advocating for beach re-nourishment and enhancing its Zoning Code;
- 2) mitigation including such initiatives as creating a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District, establishing Florida Friendly landscaping requirements, enhancing our urban canopy, incentivizing the installation of solar PV systems, and completing a greenhouse gas emissions inventory; and
- 3) resiliency including such initiatives as creating a community garden and dog park, various programs that build a sense of community, creating the Sustainability and Resiliency Committee, and hiring a Sustainability and Resiliency Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Town is committed to pursuing policies and programs that are ecologically sustainable, equitable and just for all such as prohibiting the use of plastic straws, certain fertilizers, and polystyrene food service articles that negatively impact the Town’s environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed and by catalyzing a unified and coordinated climate emergency mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, the Town commits to Town-wide climate emergency mobilization efforts to reverse climate change, aiming, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida, and Federal authorities, to decrease and minimize Town-wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to safely drawdown carbon from the atmosphere and accelerate adaptation and resiliency strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Town further commits to educating its residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze climate emergency mobilization efforts on local, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for its residents and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Town understands the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support and recognizes that Town residents, property owners and community organizations that include faith, youth, labor, academic institutions, condominium associations, and a diverse range of civil society institutions will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

WHEREAS, the Town further commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to climate emergency mobilization efforts and inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission finds that this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. That each of the above-stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Declaration of Climate Emergency; Call to Action. That the Town Commission hereby declares a climate emergency, urges the State of Florida and the United States government to declare a climate emergency, and requests regional collaboration on an immediate emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate. The Town Commission hereby declares an immediate call to action, consistent with the Town’s Climate Crisis Report, to mobilize and engage in continued efforts to achieve adaption, mitigation and resiliency initiatives aimed at addressing climate impacts.

Section 3. Transmittal. That the Town Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Florida Senator and Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor and members of the Commission of Miami-Dade County, all municipalities within Miami-Dade County, all members of the South Florida Legislative Delegation, the Florida League of Cities, and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 10th day of December, 2019.

Moved By: Commissioner Paul
Second By: Vice Mayor Gielchinsky

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

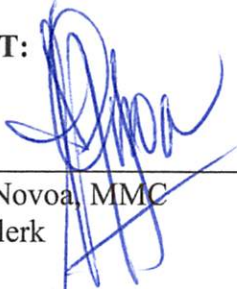
Commissioner Barry Cohen	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Michael Karukin	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Tina Paul	<u>Yes</u>

Vice Mayor Daniel Gielchinsky Yes
Mayor Daniel Dietch Yes



Daniel Dietch
Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra Novoa, MMC
Town Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND BENEFIT OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE ONLY:**



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney