ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2018-286, As Amended

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the changing climate impacts the health and wellbeing of Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) residents and poses economic and safety challenges including increased wildfire risk and increased costs to maintain and operate critical Municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the MOA strives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the ability of Anchorage residents to respond to the impacts of the changing climate; and

WHEREAS, a climate action plan is the best platform to outline a comprehensive strategy to address a changing climate; and

WHEREAS, the MOA endeavors to lead by example through implementing practices that improve building energy efficiency, transportation choices, solid waste reduction, protect natural resources, sustainable economic development, and promote human health and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Municipal efforts to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate change impacts will have additional benefits for residents, including cost savings, improved air quality, better public health outcomes, and job creation; and

WHEREAS, a Climate Action Plan (CAP) supports the ongoing work of the MOA to improve climate preparedness, including hiring an Energy and Sustainability Manager within the Department of Solid Waste Services, piloting electric vehicle and alternative fuel projects, and implementing the LED Street Light Retrofit Project, actions that reduce the Municipality’s greenhouse gas emissions while saving money and energy; and

WHEREAS, the MOA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) supporting collaboration on community opportunities and challenges, and UAA has committed to assisting in the development of a CAP through this partnership; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. Municipal employees and departments will work with University of Alaska scientists and technical experts on an assessment that explores the current
and future impacts of climate change on the MOA. Municipal employee involvement in this project will not in any way depreciate the providing of services to Anchorage citizens nor delay the completion of the Comprehensive Plan or the issuing of permits or licenses.

Section 2. Municipal employees and departments will work with University of Alaska scientists and technical experts to establish feasible goals for the CAP and identify actions to achieve those goals.

Upon completion, the Assembly shall review the draft CAP for consideration and adoption.

Section 3. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 25th day of September, 2018.

[Signature]
Chair

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Municipal Clerk
From: MAYOR
Subject: A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

This resolution is intended to support the development of a Municipal Climate Action Plan (CAP) that will outline a comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The changing climate negatively impacts ecosystems, public health, the economy, and quality of life. In Anchorage, average annual temperatures are expected to rise by at least 4°F to 6°F, threatening the Municipality’s drinking water supply and increasing the risk of wildfire. Changes in freeze-thaw cycles have implications for street maintenance and other critical infrastructure.

Many other cities and states have adopted climate action plans, and have seen benefits ranging from energy and cost savings to new jobs. Other cities have successfully leveraged their climate action plans to attract grant funding for projects that improve community wellbeing and decrease cost of living. Actions undertaken as a part of the CAP will result in substantial community and environmental benefits, such as improving equity, economic prosperity, job creation, environmental quality, and health.

The University of Alaska (UA) will be a key partner with the Municipality in the development of the CAP, in accordance with the December 2017 MOU signed by the Municipality and UAA. The CAP steering committee composed of Municipal representatives and University faculty was recently awarded an $80,000 grant from the University of Alaska Faculty Initiative Fund to fund this project.

Recognizing the importance of broad engagement, UA faculty, non-profit, governmental, and community-based organizations, Anchorage residents, and Municipal staff will participate in the working groups that will develop these recommendations. The plan will focus on actions that the Municipality can take to reduce emissions within Municipal operations and beyond, and actions that prepare the entire community for future climate impacts. The CAP steering committee will facilitate community engagement throughout the development of the plan to ensure that it reflects the goals and values of Anchorage residents.

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.

Prepared by: Catherine J. Kemp, Office of the Mayor
Approved by: Ona R. Brause, Chief of Staff
Concur: Lance Wilber, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Concur: Alexander Slivka, CFO
Concur: William D. Falsey, Municipal Manager
Respectfully submitted: Ethan A. Berkowitz, Mayor