

RESOLUTION

Item #

RE: RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

To Her Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain:
the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018 the Federal Government issued a climate study detailing the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscoring the need for immediate climate emergency action at all levels of government; and

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 warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C”; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, a growing list of cities, districts and counties across the world have recently declared or officially acknowledged the existence of a climate emergency, including Berkeley, Hoboken, Los Angeles, Montgomery County, Oakland, Richmond, and Santa Cruz in the United States; Ballarat, Byron Shire, Darebin, Moreland, Vincent, and Yarra in Australia; and Bristol, Frome, London, Stroud, the Forest of Dean and Totnes in the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and ecological crises and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a sustainable economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly solve these crises; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at wartime speed, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of abrupt climate change; and

WHEREAS, justice requires that frontline communities, which have historically borne the brunt of the extractive fossil-fuel economy, participate actively in the planning and implementation of this mobilization effort at all levels of government and that they benefit first from the transition to a renewable energy economy; and

WHEREAS, fairness demands a guarantee of high-paying, good-quality jobs with comprehensive benefits for all and many other tenants of a Green New Deal effort as the mobilization to restore a safe climate is launched; and

WHEREAS, the City of New Britain can act as a global leader by both converting to an ecologically, socially and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed, and by catalyzing a unified regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New Britain declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Britain commits to a citywide just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort by creating a task force that will work to reverse global warming, which with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities, end citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerates adaption and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Britain and its task force commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and working to catalyze a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, state, national and global levels to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Britain and its task force underscores the need for full community participation, inclusion, and support, and recognizes that the residents of New Britain, and community organizations, faith, youth, labor, business, academic institutions, homeowners' associations and environmental, economic, racial, gender, family and disability justice and indigenous, immigrant and women's rights organizations and other such allies who will be integral to and in the leadership of the mobilization effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Britain and its task force commits to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to all just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort planning processes and to inviting and encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Britain joins a nation-wide call for a regional just transition and climate emergency mobilization collaborative effort focused on transforming our region and rapidly catalyzing a mobilization at all levels of government to restore a safe climate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Britain calls on the State of Connecticut, the United States of America, and all governments and peoples worldwide to initiate a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming by restoring near pre-industrial global average temperatures and greenhouse gas concentrations, that immediately halts the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure, rapidly phases out all fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them, ends greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible, initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, transitions to regenerative agriculture, ends the sixth mass extinction, and creates and

guarantees high-quality, good-paying jobs with comprehensive benefits for those who will be impacted by this transition.

Ald. Aram Ayalon

Ald. Eva Magnuszewski

Ald. Richard Reyes

Ald. Brian Keith Albert