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A resolution by Supervisors Moore Omokunde, Shea, Nicholson, Martin, and Haas, creating the Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity to convene area leaders for the purpose of making practical recommendations consistent with the 2018 IPCC and NCA4 reports so our community may achieve net greenhouse gas emission reductions of 45 percent of 2010 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner and mitigate racial and income inequality through “green” jobs, by recommending adoption of the following:

**AN AMENDED RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the United Nations (U.N.) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report in October 2018 titled, “Global Warming of 1.5° Celsius (C), an IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty,” and the United States Global Change Research Program released the “Fourth National Climate Assessment” (NCA4) in November 2018, which found:

- The global climate is diverting from its prehistoric pattern, due primarily to human activity since the Industrial Revolution, including increased greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and other land use changes.
- Human activities have up to the present increased the average global temperature by approximately 1.0°C (1.8° Fahrenheit [F]) since the early 1800s, will likely rise to 1.5°C (2.7°F) between 2030 and 2052, and 2.0°C (3.6°F) under current emissions, making the Earth significantly less habitable for humans and wildlife alike.
- The Midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, with cumulative populations of 60 million people, and producing 18 percent of the American gross domestic product, would likely experience:
  - Decline to 1980s levels in agricultural productivity due to forecasted precipitation changes, and increases in extreme temperatures by 2050.
  - Downturn in the forestry industry, as trees including birch and ash species may not be able to cope with temperature changes, and the advancement of invasive species which will not perish on account of warmer winters.
  - Degeneration of biodiversity as many plant and animal species may not adapt to the changes in climate and other human pressures.

- 47                   ○ Increased public health problems from poorer air quality due to increases  
48                   in ground-level ozone, extended length of pollen seasons, and deadlier  
49                   urban heat island effects.  
50  
51                   ○ Increased costs in maintaining and reconstructing Midwestern  
52                   transportation and stormwater infrastructure will likely become more  
53                   expensive due to higher intensities and frequencies of storms and floods.  
54

55 ; and  
56

57                   WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District in an October 2014  
58 “Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis” anticipates that, among other things,  
59 Metropolitan Milwaukee will likely see larger storms, and more precipitation will fall as  
60 rain rather than snow, potentially rendering area green infrastructure less effective when  
61 contending with storm surges, and lowering the water level of Lake Michigan due to  
62 evaporation exceeding precipitation; and  
63

64                   WHEREAS, the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, of which the  
65 United States (U.S.) is a Member State, adopted the Paris Agreement (Paris Climate  
66 Accord) in 2016, a global plan to counteract climate change and prevent the average  
67 global temperature from rising to or above 2°C, and the U.S. signed and ratified the  
68 Paris Agreement that year; and  
69

70                   WHEREAS, in 2017, the City of Milwaukee (the City) and Milwaukee County  
71 (the County) both declared their intent to adhere to the Paris Agreement, adopted by the  
72 County in File No. 17-506; and  
73

74                   WHEREAS, reducing locally produced greenhouse gas emissions is imperative,  
75 and will likely lead to the creation of new “green” jobs, and for example, the  
76 Madison-based Center on Wisconsin Strategy estimated in a February 2019 report that  
77 100 percent of domestic energy production with renewable sources in the State of  
78 Wisconsin (the State) may produce a net increase of 162,100 jobs, and would keep  
79 \$14.4 billion in the State by not importing fossil fuels for State power plants; and  
80

81                   **WHEREAS, 40 years ago, the City’s vibrant manufacturing sector and the**  
82 **Great Migration combined to temporarily create the most prosperous**  
83 **African-American middle class in the U.S., but decades of de-industrialization,**  
84 **outsourcing to the suburbs and overseas, hyper-segregation, and other aspects**  
85 **of structural racism, have stolen that fleeting prosperity away, creating persistent**  
86 **Depression-like conditions in African-American neighborhoods while also**  
87 **harming the Latino community; and**  
88

89           **WHEREAS, Professor Marc Levine of the University of Wisconsin (U.W.) –**  
90 **Milwaukee Center on Economic Development wrote in 2010 in “Race and Male**  
91 **Employment in the Wake of the Great Recession” that, “No metro area has**  
92 **witnessed more precipitous erosion in the labor market for black males over the**  
93 **past 40 years than has Milwaukee” and “in no other large metro area is the**  
94 **contemporary black male employment crisis more acute than in Milwaukee;” and**  
95

96           WHEREAS, in 2018, in the U.W. – Madison “Supplement to the 2016 Wisconsin  
97 Poverty Report”, University researchers found:  
98

- 99           • Using the Wisconsin Poverty Measure, in 2016, 30.3 percent of Blacks and 18.5  
100 percent of Latinos and other minorities lived in poverty, compared to ten percent  
101 of Whites.
- 102
- 103           • Overall poverty in the County is significantly higher than the rest of the State,  
104 17.5 percent versus 10.8 percent in 2016.
- 105
- 106           • “These data suggest that improving economic and social outcomes for  
107 individuals and families in Milwaukee, especially for blacks, would reduce poverty  
108 rates within the county and overall in the State.”  
109

110 ; and  
111

112           WHEREAS, according to a U.W. – Milwaukee study published in March 2019,  
113 “Milwaukee 53206: The Anatomy of Concentrated Disadvantage in an Inner City  
114 Neighborhood, 2001-2017,” in 2017 the Milwaukee 53206 ZIP code had:  
115

- 116           • Approximately 50 percent employment rates of working-age adults.  
117
- 118           • Only 46 percent of prime-age adults (ages 25-54) worked full-time jobs, versus  
119 69 percent of the entire City, and 75 percent in the Milwaukee suburbs.  
120
- 121           • More than one-fifth of employed 53206 residents with incomes below the Federal  
122 poverty level.
- 123
- 124           • The overall poverty level at 42.2 percent, six times the poverty rate in the City’s  
125 suburbs.  
126

127 ; and  
128

129           **WHEREAS, the same March 2019 report found specific to working-age**  
130 **males in the 53206 ZIP Code, that the area “has come to epitomize the social and**  
131 **economic distress facing inner city neighborhoods in this hyper-segregated**  
132 **metropolitan area,” and “only 49.7 percent of prime working-age males (ages 25-**  
133 **54) in 53206 were employed in 2017, compared to 89.4 percent in the Milwaukee**  
134 **suburbs. An astonishing 34 percent of 53206 males in their prime working years**  
135 **were not even in the labor force;” and**  
136

137           WHEREAS, investments toward greenhouse gas reduction and other “green”  
138 jobs used to counter climate change can be targeted to raise up those living in poverty  
139 through creating living-wage jobs, particularly for minorities; and  
140

141           WHEREAS, the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., said at the 1963 March  
142 on Washington, “We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are,  
143 confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and  
144 history, there ‘is’ such a thing as being too late. There is no time for apathy or  
145 complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action;” and  
146

147           WHEREAS, the Committee on Parks, Energy, and Environment, at its meeting of  
148 July 16, 2019, recommended adoption of File No. 19-582 as amended (vote 5-0);  
149 now, therefore,  
150

151           BE IT RESOLVED, Milwaukee County (the County), pending mutual affirmation,  
152 hereby co-establishes a joint taskforce with the City of Milwaukee (the City) named the  
153 “Milwaukee City-County Joint Taskforce on Climate and Economic Equity” (the  
154 Taskforce) to convene area leaders for the purpose of making practical  
155 recommendations consistent with the 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on  
156 Climate Change and United States Global Change Research Program Fourth National  
157 Climate Assessment reports, so our community may achieve net greenhouse gas  
158 emission reductions of 45 percent of 2010 levels by 2030, and achieve net zero  
159 greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner, and mitigate racial and income inequality  
160 through “green” jobs; and  
161

162 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall be co-chaired by the  
163 Chairman (the Chairman) of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County  
164 Board) or his designee, and the President (the President) of the Milwaukee Common  
165 Council (Common Council) or his designee, and shall be composed of 13 members,  
166 including a representative from the following organizations:  
167

- 168 • County Board (Chairman appointed)
- 169 • Non-Elected County Community Member (Chairman appointed)
- 170 • Common Council (President appointed)
- 171 • Non-Elected City Community Member (President appointed)
- 172 • Milwaukee Youth Council (President appointed)
- 173 • Citizen Action of Wisconsin
- 174 • Clean Wisconsin
- 175 • Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
- 176 • Milwaukee Area Labor Council
- 177 • Milwaukee Environmental Collaboration Office
- 178 • National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- 179 • Sierra Club
- 180 • Wisconsin Climate Table

181  
182 ; and

183  
184 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall advise the City and County of  
185 its recommendations which shall include, but is not limited to, providing:

- 186  
187 • A roadmap of required and measurable governmental actions to accomplish  
188 greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- 189  
190 • Suggested policy changes and investments required to simultaneously  
191 reduce racial and income inequality, including advice on creating training  
192 and/or vocational programs for maximizing the number of Milwaukee “green”  
193 jobs in the new American economy.
- 194  
195 • Determine how County local governments may be able to assess and map  
196 vulnerabilities to climate change by neighborhood and community across the  
197 County.
- 198  
199 • Compile a list of outside experts that the City and County may contract with  
200 for technical expertise who may further the goals of the Taskforce, and write a  
201 comprehensive plan for the City and County.

202  
203 ; and  
204

205 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall make recommendations**  
206 **on how to dramatically reduce racial inequality by assuring that greenhouse gas**  
207 **reduction investments and policies will create the maximum number of**  
208 **permanent living-wage jobs for people who live in the most impoverished**  
209 **Milwaukee neighborhoods and are currently shut out of economic opportunity;**  
210 **and**

211

212 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pending City-confirmation, the Office of the City  
213 Clerk shall provide staffing support to the Taskforce; and

214

215 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Taskforce shall be formed and meet as soon  
216 as practicable, and shall present their findings to the County Board and Common  
217 Council within six months of both resolutions' passage.

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kae  
07/16/19  
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