WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is clear that human activities are primarily responsible for accelerating global climate change, and that the climate emergency now represents one of the preeminent threats to global civilization; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2018 that we must achieve net zero in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) well before the middle of this century in order to have a reasonable chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense and military and national security experts have identified climate change as a national security threat which is already seriously impeding military operations, testing and training, and a "threat multiplier" – a phenomenon that can worsen other sources of instability and conflict, such as food insecurity, competition for natural resources and ethnic tensions; and

WHEREAS, changes in our climate are already being felt, with the increase in record-setting wildfires across California causing widespread destruction to homes, habitat and community, unhealthy exposure to wildfire smoke, and rising costs that are taking an unsustainable economic toll on the State’s coffers; and

WHEREAS, our entire community is being impacted by the health and safety risks of fossil fuel expansion, particularly those who also face socioeconomic and health inequities, including Indigenous and frontline communities of color, low-income families, those experiencing homelessness, youth, seniors, and those experiencing mental and physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, people with health conditions caused or exacerbated by pollution from fossil fuel extraction, transportation, or use are dying at a higher rate from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, our youth and future generations have the most to lose from a lack of immediate action to stop fossil fuel expansion as they face major and lifelong health, ecological, social, and economic impacts from prolonged and cumulative effects of climate change, including food and water shortages, infectious diseases, and natural disasters, although climate impacts are already affecting us all; and

WHEREAS, the unfortunately weak Paris Climate Agreement is silent on coal, oil and gas, an omission with respect to the supply and production of fossil fuels (the largest source of GHGs) that needs to be collectively addressed by other means; and

WHEREAS, global governments and the fossil fuel industry are currently planning to produce about 120% more emissions by 2030 than what is allowable to limit warming to 1.5°C and avert catastrophic climate disruption, and such plans risk undoing the work of Los Angeles to reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry is currently claiming over 50% of COVID-19 recovery funding from senior levels of government in the G20, thereby siphoning away recovery funding badly needed by cities and other industries, and funding that could otherwise be used for climate mitigation; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure and expanded reliance on fossil fuels exposes communities to untenable risks to public health and safety at the local and global levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic opportunities presented by a clean energy transition far outweigh the opportunities presented by an economy supported by expanding fossil fuel use and extraction; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council have launched Green New Deal initiatives, which set aggressive goals for the City’s resilient future, tackle the climate emergency with accelerated targets through a lens of equity, strengthens our economy and our middle class, and sets the City on a course to be carbon neutral well before 2050; and
WHEREAS, the City Council created the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization and is committed, as part of its climate emergency response, to leadership from frontline and Indigenous communities, a just energy transition and climate drawdown, and to ambitious investments in the green infrastructure and industries that will create jobs and rapidly decarbonize our economy; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of governments, NGOs, and the business community as a whole to lead in putting an end to fossil fuel development and to manage the decline of existing production; and

WHEREAS, a new global initiative modeled on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty calls for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty that will end new fossil fuel exploration and expansion, phase out existing production in line with the essential global commitment to limit warming to well below 1.5°C, accelerate equitable transition plans and, facing the economic tsunami caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, expedite widespread creation of green jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which entered into force on January 22, 2021 also serves as a useful model by making it illegal under international law, for nations that are party to it, to “develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;” and

WHEREAS, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons also explicitly recognizes the past harm done to the environment and human health and provides clear direction to “adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance [to impacted communities], without discrimination, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion;” and

WHEREAS, the City’s support for the United States to enter into the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been recognized by Nobel Peace Prize-winning ICAN (the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) as paving the way for other cities, such as Philadelphia, Washington DC, Salt Lake City, Honolulu, Tucson, Portland and Syracuse, to join in support; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that independent of an international Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, concrete actions must be taken by the Mayor and the City to equitably decarbonize at the earliest possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles formally endorses and hereby includes in its 2021-2022 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for the United States to enter into a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty and make such non-proliferation the centerpiece of its national security policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Los Angeles affirms its ongoing commitment to exceeding the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets as called for by the IPCC to keep global warming well below 1.5°C, and pledges to exceed its proportionate greenhouse gas reductions under the Paris Climate Agreement.

PRESENTED BY: PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: