

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN NEW DEAL

WHEREAS: On November 23, 2018, the federal government issued a comprehensive climate study that makes clear urgent action over the next 12 years is needed by Congress to avert catastrophic damage to our planet; *and,*

WHEREAS: For decades, working-class communities and communities of color have been first to be hit by pollution, and last to be rebuilt after a climate disaster; and every Boston resident and American has a right to clean air and water, protection from disasters, and healthy food, no matter the color of their skin or where they were born; *and,*

WHEREAS: The Northeast has experienced an average increase in temperature of 0.26°C per decade since 1970. Boston's *Climate Ready Boston* initiative predicts that sea levels will rise ten feet by 2030, threatening residents, businesses, and infrastructure on the Boston waterfront. Boston has experienced a significant increase in the amount of extreme precipitation events over the past fifty years; *and,*

WHEREAS: Boston is committed to promoting policies that allow families to sustain themselves and build an economy that works for all such as paid parental leave for City of Boston employees, the BostonHires initiative which connects Boston residents with jobs that pay a living wage, and the Boston City Academy, among others; *and,*

WHEREAS: To address the urgent climate crisis, on February 7, 2019, members of Congress proposed House Resolution 109 and Senate Resolution 59, collectively known as the "Green New Deal" outline, which presents a 10-year plan to mobilize every aspect of American society to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2030, a guaranteed living-wage job for anybody who needs one, and a just transition for both workers and frontline communities; *and,*

WHEREAS: Key goals stated in the legislation include efforts to:

- Ensure a just transition for all communities and workers to ensure economic security for people and communities that have historically relied on fossil fuels
- Secure clean air and water, a stable climate, healthy food, and access to nature for generations to come
- Guarantee a job with a family-sustaining wage, labor protections, and retirement security to all members of our society; *and*,

WHEREAS: To achieve these goals, the Green New Deal legislation calls for a 10-year national mobilization effort, which would include:

- Building resilience against climate change-related disasters;
- Providing funding for community-based solutions to climate change;
- Overhauling transportation systems to remove pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible;
- Repairing and upgrading infrastructure;
- Expanding the use of clean, renewable and zero-emission sources of power with the goal of zeroing out fossil fuel sources;
- Creating energy-efficient, distributed, and "smart" power grids;
- Cleaning up existing hazardous waste and abandoned sites; identifying other pollution sources and creating solutions to remove them;
- Maximizing water and energy efficiency in new buildings and by retrofitting existing buildings;
- Removing greenhouse gases and restoring natural ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions that increase soil carbon storage, such as land preservation and reforestation;
- Removing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from industry as much as is technologically feasible;
- Restoring and protecting fragile ecosystems by enhancing biodiversity; *and*

WHEREAS: Doing what is now necessary to adequately address the climate crisis requires a national mobilization of a scope and scale that is a historic opportunity to address inequities caused and exacerbated by the fossil fuel economy, as well as providing unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people in the United States; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council, in a meeting assembled, go on record in support of H.Res 109 and S.Res 59 "A Resolution Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal" in an effort to advance clean and renewable energy, a guaranteed living-wage job for anybody who needs one, and a just transition for both workers and frontline communities.