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3 Introduced by:

4
5 **CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND**

6
7 **RESOLUTION 2019-**
8 **DECLARING A CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY**

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10 WHEREAS, recent reports from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the
11 National Climate Assessment have made clear that we are in a global climate
12 emergency, by documenting the extent, speed and acceleration of global climate
13 change and planetary warming, and their dramatic effects on our Earth; and
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15 WHEREAS, climate change is already inflicting and will continue to inflict substantial
16 damages to our physical, social and economic well-being; and
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18 WHEREAS, these damages, such as an increase in stormwater runoff and extreme weather,
19 will continue to worsen without immediate significant action; and
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21 WHEREAS, our own community is already feeling these climate impacts, such as more
22 frequent, more intense rainfall and greater stormwater runoff; and
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24 WHEREAS, communities most vulnerable to climate impacts, both in our own community and
25 worldwide, tend to be the least prepared to manage and recover; and
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27 WHEREAS, as part of the City’s commitment to working toward racial equity in all its actions,
28 and the Council’s established priorities, in particular housing affordability, it is
29 vital that City climate related actions thoroughly integrate these commitments;
30 and
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32 WHEREAS, a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory has identified residential and
33 commercial buildings as the largest contributing sources in Takoma Park; and
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35 WHEREAS, Takoma Park strives to be a leader in responding to the challenges of climate
36 change and in reducing GHG emissions through our many local policies and
37 actions; and
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39 WHEREAS, the City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global
40 Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the
41 Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge; and
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43 WHEREAS, the City in Resolution 2018-9 (January 30, 2018) recently affirmed its
44 commitment to aggressively implement its current Sustainable Energy Action
45 Plan and related actions for all sectors of the City as its resources allow, and

46 acknowledged and supported Montgomery County’s aspirational goals of 80%
47 reduction in GHG emissions by 2027 and 100% reduction by 2035.
48

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park joins with
50 communities across the US and the world to declare that we are in a climate related emergency
51 which threatens our community and others in our nation and worldwide, and which requires
52 mobilizing more aggressive action on all our parts; and
53

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park calls on our county, state and
55 federal governments to take more aggressive action on climate change mitigation, adaptation and
56 resiliency to move rapidly toward net zero GHG emissions, and the City will continue to
57 advocate at all levels of government for adoption of policies to achieve these goals; and
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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park Sustainability Manager will
60 accelerate an update of its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (Plan) and GHG inventory for all
61 sectors of the City, to identify the most aggressive local actions its authorities and resources will
62 allow, along with costs and benefits of these actions; and
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64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Plan update should identify what steps the City can
65 take to move toward net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035, including near term
66 implementation steps and achievable interim goals and dates; and
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68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Plan should:

- 69 • Focus on dramatically improving efficiency of all our buildings (single family,
70 multifamily, commercial and institutional), by far the largest sector of local GHG
71 emissions, as well as a transition to renewably generated energy in electricity and
72 heating/cooling, and new construction and renovation;
- 73 • Propose actions that integrate with other City Council priority goals, such as housing
74 affordability and racial equity;
- 75 • Offer methods that consider equity, affordability, and access for all members of our
76 community, especially renters and low income and energy-burdened residents;
- 77 • Consider opportunities for reducing GHG emissions in the transportation sector through
78 local initiatives and collaboration region-wide;
- 79 • Include a transparent and inclusive public process to gather public input, increase
80 community engagement, and ensure that community members and local businesses have
81 opportunities to participate; and
- 82 • Examine leading policies around the country and build on them to propose nation-leading
83 policies for our community; and
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85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council seeks results of this planning effort and
86 recommendations from the City Sustainability Manager on specific methods (as well as budget
87 implications, and costs and savings for affected stakeholders) to accelerate the City’s sustainable
88 energy action program by December 31, 2019; and
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90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Takoma Park will address a strategy for local
91 actions for climate adaptation and resiliency, with a focus on managing stormwater from

92 increased rainfall in our region, as well as trees canopy, green space, and carbon capture and
93 sequestration, as our authorities and resources will allow.

94

95 Adopted by the Council of the City of Takoma Park this ____ day of _____, 2019.

96

97 Attest:

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100 Jessie Carpenter, CMC

101 City Clerk

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