

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 77

Approved FEBRUARY 19, 2008

WHEREAS, Providence has joined the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, and has pledged to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, Rising sea levels caused by global warming would threaten low-lying homes and businesses in the City of Providence; and

WHEREAS, Rising sea levels caused by global warming would also threaten the City's infrastructure, flooding streets and destabilizing bridges; and

WHEREAS, Global warming threatens the City's waterfront and coastline with increased erosion; and

WHEREAS, Global warming threatens the natural species of Narragansett Bay with rising water temperatures; and

WHEREAS, Global warming threatens the viability of native species and natural ecosystems of Rhode Island; and

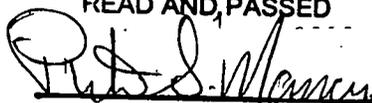
WHEREAS, Adapting to the physical changes to the environment that will take place if global warming goes unchecked will be extremely costly to the residents of the City and State; and

WHEREAS, The report Climate Change 2007 released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in November of 2007 concludes that the worst effects of global warming can be avoided if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Actions from cities throughout the United States have been an integral part of pressing for solutions at higher levels of government; and

WHEREAS, A multitude of state governments are developing plans and policies to address global warming and spur federal action;

IN CITY COUNCIL
FEB 7, 2008
READ AND PASSED


PRES.


CLERK

APPROVED


MAYOR 2-19-08

Councilmen Wood & Ferdin, Councilman Apote, De Luca, Councilwoman Di Russo, Councilmen Hesselt,
Kwzsi, Jackson, Kombudi, Liana, Marducci, Solomon, and Councilwoman Young, Council President
Manini, Councilman Tegada

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The City of Providence supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst impacts of global warming.

2. The City of Providence calls on the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to adopt a comprehensive plan to reduce the State's greenhouse gas to 20% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

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WHEREAS, Diesel engines in Providence are a key part of the local economy by providing vital public and private services such as road construction, mail delivery, garbage removal, and public and school bus transportation and are very durable and reliable; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence is dedicated to creating a vibrant and healthy environment in which to live, work, go to school, recreate, and do business, and is concerned about the health of its residents, workforce and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Diesel emissions are a major contributor to fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which has been shown to cause harm to human health including asthma attacks, respiratory disease, and heart problems, and has been shown by EPA to be responsible for more U.S. cancers than all other air toxins combined; and

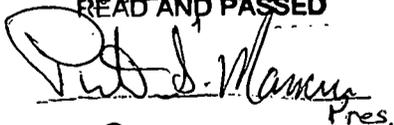
WHEREAS, Providence County ranks among the worst 6% of all counties in the U.S. for health risks from diesel pollution. Unhealthy levels of diesel pollution are a proven trigger for asthma attacks, and 1 in 10 Rhode Island adults have asthma. Providence is particularly at risk from diesel pollution with the highest child asthma hospitalization rate in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Providence is in the business of owning, leasing, or contracting for the services of school buses, transit buses, trucks, waste haulers, and construction equipment and other kinds of heavy-duty diesel vehicles and equipment, which are concentrated in Providence and other urban areas;

WHEREAS, Upcoming federal emissions standards will significantly reduce toxic diesel emissions only in vehicles built after 2007, leaving multitudes of existing diesel vehicles emitting high levels of toxins on Rhode Island roads for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Solutions for reducing high toxin levels from existing diesel exhaust vehicles are available in the form of retrofit controls which can lower emission by up to 90 percent, and retro-fitting would significantly contribute to improving the City and State's air quality; and

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CLERK

APPROVED


2-19-08

Councilmen Jorden & Wood, Council President Mancini, Councilmen Aponte, DeLuca, Councilwoman
DiPierro, Councilman Hasset, 19/03/34, Juehor, Lombardi, Luna, Narducci, Solomon, Teyler,

WHEREAS, It in the best interest of the residents of Providence, to take advantage of non-city resources, in the form of Federal CMAQ grants, to achieve its goals for cleaner air and improved health;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the City of Providence supports a future of cleaner air and cleaner transportation and hereby requests that the Governor, along with the Rhode Island State Legislature, require pollution reductions from diesel vehicle and equipment fleets starting with school buses, transit buses, waste haulers, and state-funded construction equipment, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that citizens, denizens, and employees of the City of Providence hereby commit to supporting diesel pollution reduction at the municipal level by continuing to promote reduction of diesel emissions operating in and around the City, starting by:

- Each department or agency establishing a list of all heavy-duty diesel vehicles and equipment owned by the municipality or operated under contract or lease (of more than three months duration),
- Each department or agency establishing and enforcing a operational policy to ensure compliance with Rhode Island's five-minute anti-idling laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Providence Sustainability Task Force shall submit a report within ninety days of passage of this resolution and additional reports as it determines necessary to the City Council detailing compliance with this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That City departments, agencies and their staff shall cooperate with the Providence Sustainability Task Force by providing them with relevant documents and information in a timely manner.