

THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 157

Approved March 22, 2012

WHEREAS, According to NASA, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, with 2005 and 2010 tied as the hottest years every; and

WHEREAS, The current level of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is 392 parts per million (ppm); and

WHEREAS, According to the director of NASA's Goddard Institute, for human civilization to continue as we know it, carbon dioxide levels need be reduced to at most 350 ppm; and

WHEREAS, According to the Global Humanitarian Forum, climate change is already responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths and has caused worldwide economic losses of \$125 billion; and

WHEREAS, Climate change is threatening food supply and security, as crop growth and yields diminish and droughts, floods, and changes in snowpack depth are disrupting water supplies; and

WHEREAS, For four decades, the Clean Air Act has successfully protected the air we breathe through a proven and comprehensive system of pollution control; and

WHEREAS, Between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act were all reduced by between 47% and 93%, and airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and

WHEREAS, The Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion, roughly 30 times the cost of regulation; and

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court ruled in Massachusetts v. EPA (2007) that greenhouse gases are "air pollutants" as defined by the Clean Air Act, meaning the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS, Despite this ruling, the EPA has yet to use the authority granted under the Clean Air Act to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in our air.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence hereby respectfully requests that the Environmental Protection Agency use the full extent of its authority under the Clean Air Act and Massachusetts v. EPA to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the entire Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL

MAR 15 2012

READ AND PASSED

  
PRES.

  
CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.

  
Mayor

Date: 3/22/12