

1 **Resolution No. 190709**

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3 **CITY OF GAINESVILLE**

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5 **A Resolution of the Gainesville City Commission Declaring a**  
6 **Climate Emergency**

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9 **A RESOLUTION OF THE GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION, DECLARING A**  
10 **CLIMATE EMERGENCY, URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND THE UNITED STATES**  
11 **GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY, AND REQUESTING REGIONAL**  
12 **COLLABORATION ON A TRANSITION PLAN AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT**  
13 **TO RESTORE A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE; FURTHER DIRECTING THE CLERK**  
14 **OF THE COMMISSION TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE OFFICIALS**  
15 **STATED HEREIN.**

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, in April 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of  
18 climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to  
19 keep the increase in global average temperature to “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,”  
20 and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the 2019 IPCC landmark United in Science Report indicates that the Paris  
23 Climate Agreement’s National Determined Contributions (NDC’s) for CO2 emissions must be  
24 tripled to align with a 2 degree C increased temperature limit and increased 5 fold to meet the  
25 1.5 degree C limit; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the UN IPCC landmark report urges adaptation including infrastructure  
28 hardening to mitigate climate change impacts that cannot be avoided by reductions in  
29 greenhouse gas emission; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the planet has experienced the disruption and destruction already wrought  
32 by climate change through hurricanes, flooding, and other climatic events that is evidenced by  
33 increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme  
34 weather nationwide; and

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36 **WHEREAS**, the ecological effects of climate change are driving an increased rate of  
37 extinction of species, which could consequently devastate ecological stability and much of the  
38 biological life on Earth for future generations; and

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40 **WHEREAS**, the Industrialized Countries have disproportionately contributed to climate  
41 change and the ecological crises and have repeatedly failed to lead global efforts to transition  
42 towards a carbon-neutral economy, thus bearing a significant responsibility to solve these  
43 crises; and

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45 **WHEREAS**, reaching zero anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions around the globe  
46 and drawing down or removing all excess greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere to  
47 preindustrial levels and to implement measures to protect all people and other biological species  
48 would require a coordinated emergency mobilization on the scale not seen since World War II;  
49 and

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51 **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville is committed to pursuing policies and programs that  
52 are ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all; and

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54 **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville is dependent on a healthy aquifer, our waterways  
55 and water resources are considered as vital links to our natural, life sustaining resources; and

56           **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville wishes to act as a global leader by both converting to  
57 an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative economy at emergency speed and by  
58 catalyzing a unified and coordinated climate emergency mobilization effort; and  
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60           **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville commits to a Citywide climate emergency  
61 mobilization efforts to mitigate climate change, aiming, with appropriate financial and regulatory  
62 assistance from Alachua County, the State of Florida, and Federal authorities, as well as  
63 ultimately GRU customers and City taxpayers to end Citywide greenhouse-gas emissions as  
64 quickly as possible to safely drawdown carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and accelerate  
65 adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and  
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67           **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville further commits to educating its residents about the  
68 climate emergency and working to catalyze climate emergency mobilization efforts on local,  
69 state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for its residents; and  
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71           **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville understands the need for full community  
72 participation, inclusion, and support and recognizes that City residents and community  
73 organizations that include faith, youth, labor, academic institutions, homeowners' associations,  
74 and a diverse range of civil society institutions will be integral to and in the leadership of the  
75 mobilization effort; and  
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77           **WHEREAS**, the City of Gainesville further commits to keeping the concerns of  
78 vulnerable communities central to climate emergency mobilization efforts and inviting and  
79 encouraging such communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their  
80 needs;  
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82           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Gainesville City Commission declares that  
83 a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, civilization,  
84 humanity and the natural world; and  
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86           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The Gainesville City Commission urges the State of  
87 Florida and the United States Government to declare a climate emergency, and requests  
88 regional collaboration on an immediate emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate;  
89 and  
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91           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Gainesville City Commission commits to engaging  
92 our residents in public deliberations on the climate emergency, with the creation of the  
93 Gainesville City Climate Mobilization Action Plan in order to accomplish this city-wide climate  
94 mobilization effort and to ensure a just transition with the full democratic participation of the  
95 residents of Gainesville; and  
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97           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Gainesville City Commission directs the City  
98 Manager and General Manager for the Utility to report back within 90 days on the establishment  
99 of a Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force, with duties to oversee a city-wide mobilization  
100 effort, with all necessary powers to coordinate City climate and environment programs including  
101 the development of a 10-year "Climate Mobilization Action Plan" to guide the climate emergency  
102 response, as well as all climate mitigation, resilience, adaptation, engagement, education,  
103 advocacy, and research and development programs; and

104           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Gainesville City Commission directs the Clerk of the  
105 Commission to send a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of  
106 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, each Florida Senator and  
107 Representative in the United States Congress, the Commissioners of Alachua County and to  
108 the Mayors of all municipalities within Alachua County.  
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110 This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

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112 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019

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Lauren Poe  
Mayor

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120 Attest:

Approved as to form and legality:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie P. Kessler  
Acting Clerk of the Commission

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Nicolle M. Shalley  
City Attorney

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