RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW PALTZ ESTABLISHING A GLOBAL WARMING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community's most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement states that recent, well-documented impacts of climate disruption include average global sea level increases of four to eight inches during the 20th century; a 40 percent decline in Arctic sea-ice thickness; and nine of the ten hottest years on record occurring in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, , the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement states that climate disruption of the magnitude now predicted by the scientific community will cause extremely costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including: increased risk of floods or droughts; sea-level rises that interact with coastal storms to erode beaches, inundate land, and damage structures; more frequent and extreme heat waves; more frequent smog; and

WHEREAS, the Village of New Paltz, having recognized both the severity of this crisis and our obligation to do what is in our power to avert it, passed a resolution authorizing Mayor Jason West to sign the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, that agreement reads, in part, that, "We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution by taking actions in our own operations and communities such as:

1. Inventory global warming emissions in Village operations and in the community, set reduction targets and create an action plan.
2. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities;
3. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit;
4. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money;
5. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for City use;
6. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system;
7. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel;
8. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production;
9. Increase recycling rates in Village operations and in the community;
10. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO2; and
11. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement further commits the U.S. Conference of Mayors to, "work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to track progress and implementation of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting."; and

WHEREAS, ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability has created a US-based Northeast Regional Climate Center, along with a Cities for Climate Protection program; and

WHEREAS, the Village of New Paltz has joined ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, and through such membership has secured the software necessary to map and measure greenhouse gas emissions emanating from the Village of New Paltz; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Village of New Paltz have already begun to educate ourselves and each other on issues

of global warming; and

WHEREAS, said residents have formally requested that the Village of New Paltz support and fund the work of such residents, so as to both increase their effectiveness and delegate to them the task of ensuring our village meets the commitments made both to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of New Paltz does create a Global Warming Task Force, charged with the task of implementing, to the best of their ability, the Village's commitments to the Kyoto Protocols, the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and any relevant portions of the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said Global Warming Task Force be charged with the measuring of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the Village of New Paltz using software made available by ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, or any other relevant organization, in pursuit of their goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that membership on said Global Warming Task Force be composed of anyone desiring to volunteer on such task force who communicate such in writing to the Village Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such Global Warming Task Force be funded in a sum of one thousand, two hundred dollars ($1,200), such funds to be transferred from line A8030 in the fiscal year 2007-2008 Village Budget; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the first Chair of the Global Warming Task Force shall be Ms. Theresa Fall, who has already shown leadership in our community on issues of global warming -- having already begun public educational work on the issue, having organized volunteers to continue such work, being willing to serve, and having been responsible for requesting the creation of this Task Force; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor with approval by the Board of Trustees, shall appoint subsequent Chairs of such task force at the Village Board's annual Re-organizational Meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of such Global Warming Task Force shall present an annual report on their progress to the Board of Trustees of the Village of New Paltz by May 1st of each year, as well as such updates as either the Global Warming Task Force and/or Board of Trustees feel relevant.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW PALTZ, NEW YORK:

Dated May 16, 2007

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BRITTANY TURNER, VILLAGE CLERK