

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, an overwhelming international scientific consensus, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, has found unequivocally that climate change constitutes a serious and growing threat and that human activities are the primary source of increased atmospheric concentrations of global warming gases; and

WHEREAS, climate change demands international, national, and local action; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has therefore implemented a Climate Protection Plan to reduce its share of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Austin is one of 35 US cities joined together in the U.S. Mayors' National Climate Action Agenda who are committed to ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, set climate action, regularly report on our progress, share lessons and hold each other accountable; and

WHEREAS, methane is a greenhouse gas that is many times more potent than carbon dioxide and the second largest contributor to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry is the largest source of methane emissions in the U.S., with most of these emissions due to outmoded practices and obsolete technology utilized by the industry in the gathering, transmission, production, and processing of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, lost and leaking emissions from drilling operations waste an amount of gas sufficient to meet the heating and cooking needs of over 7 million homes nationwide for a year; and

WHEREAS, existing technology could cut these toxic air emissions and leaks in half at a cost of one cent per thousand cubic feet of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed reasonable and effective standards to address new and modified sources of methane to reduce methane emissions and wasted energy; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has also begun consideration of reasonable and effective standards to address existing sources of methane from oil and gas operations, which account for over 90% of methane pollution from these operations; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council of Austin supports the EPA moving forward to finalize methane pollution standards to reduce fugitive oil and gas methane emissions from both new and existing oil and gas operations without delay and without exception to ensure better air quality for the benefit of all communities in Texas.

ADOPTED: _____, 2016

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk