NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of South Portland hereby declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, our region, our state, our nation, humanity, and the natural world and reaffirms its commitment to local climate action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Portland City Council continues to support immediate actions to safeguard against the current, inevitable and potential consequences of the climate crisis; and will set specific policy goals, provide emergency funding to address these goals, and mobilize our community to implement these goals once the One Climate Future plan is completed in 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs staff to continue its development of the One Climate Future plan, and provide options for aggressive interim targets to accelerate the reduction pathway by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The City of South Portland re-commits to ensuring that the City’s actions remain in alignment with the most current scientific findings regarding climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the South Portland City Council commit to keeping the concerns of vulnerable communities central to the One Climate Future planning process, and invites and encourages those communities to actively participate in order to advocate directly for their needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to incorporate climate resilience policies identified in the One Climate Future plan in all updates of the South Portland Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Plan, Waterfront Master Plan, and other City plans to ensure climate change and resiliency efforts are strong, effective, and aligned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is directed to promote inter-departmental coordination to ensure that emergency management plans offer an aligned approach to the threats of the climate crisis and natural hazards, including but not limited to sea level rise and flooding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the South Portland City Council commit to educating our residents about the financial and regulatory actions needed to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible - with a priority focus to putting in place policies, programs and actions within the 2030 timeframe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Portland City Council commits to educating our residents about the climate emergency and advocating for a just and accelerated transition away from fossil fuels at the local, regional, state, and national level through the climate planning process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the South Portland City Council demand that our federal government, and all governments and peoples around the world initiate an immediate social and economic mobilization to reverse global warming and ecological destruction by:

• Immediately halting the development of all new fossil fuel infrastructure;

• Rapidly phasing out the use of fossil fuels and the technologies which rely upon them;
• Ending greenhouse gas emissions within 10 years

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Portland City Council and Mayor call on the United States Congress to address climate change at the federal level by adopting as one important measure among others a Carbon Fee and Dividend as a sound, effective policy tool; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Portland City Council and Mayor urge the United States Congress to increase the carbon fee structure upon implementation to accelerate the rate of greenhouse gas emissions reductions commensurate with the Paris Accord goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the South Portland City Council ask the City Manager to send a copy of this resolution to South Portland’s state and federal legislative delegations, to the Governor of Maine, and to the President of the United States.

Fiscal Note: Less than $1,000

Dated: October 8, 2019