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Climate Emergency Declaration Passes Chicago Environmental Committee

CHICAGO, IL — A resolution calling upon the City of Chicago to declare a climate emergency passed the Committee on Environmental Protection & Energy today. The chief sponsors of the resolution are Alderman Matt Martin (47) and Committee Chairman George Cardenas (12). Forty-four other aldermen have co-sponsored the resolution.

“We’ve heard loud and clear that Chicagoans need City Council to urgently address climate change with bold solutions,” said Alderman Martin. “This is an important first step, highlighting the scope of the challenges we face so that the policy solutions we adopt in the coming months and years are tailored accordingly.”

The science is clear, and Chicago must lead by example to significantly reduce carbon emissions. While the Trump Administration fails to address climate change and deregulates fossil fuels, our city needs to act urgently to ensure an equitable and sustainable future.

In 2017, Chicago organized global leaders to sign onto the Chicago Climate Charter, with more than 50 cities worldwide pledging to reduce carbon emissions and committed to reaching 100% renewable energy for all electricity used in municipal buildings by 2025. These actions and many more are necessary to combat the impact of climate crisis, which we see in Chicago through catastrophic lakefront erosion, citywide flooding, severe unseasonal weather.

The 47th Ward Green Council, which engages residents around environmental issues through ward initiatives and citywide policy proposals, declared a climate emergency at its November 2019 meeting, calling on Alderman Martin to present the resolution to City Council.

“In the past few months, the 47th Ward Green Council has mobilized hundreds of neighbors to address important environmental issues in the city,” said Jeremy Atherton, a Green Council member. “In the coming months, we are committed to addressing Chicago’s poor recycling rate, advocating for a ban on single-use styrofoam food containers, and encouraging the planting of more trees and native plants in the ward.”

“Each of us are motivated to the core of our being by our love and hope for our children and our planet,” said Jules Peterson-Green of the Green Council. “We express our deepest gratitude to the many who deserve credit for this milestone.”

Matt Martin 
47th Ward Alderman

“I am growing up in a time and place where I see fires or hurricanes or other ‘natural’ disasters occurring on the news everyday. As a young person, it is disturbing to see what the future could hold. That’s why I, along with many other youth, are committed to fighting back and stopping climate change,” said Katya Chadha, junior at Lane Tech and 47th ward youth council member.

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