

The global climate emergency continues apace, despite the world's attention being appropriately drawn to the COVID-19 crisis and to the Black Lives Matter movement forward on systemic racism issues across the country.

Record-breaking wildfires continue globally, including those currently burning in Arizona and those which devastated Australia, the Brazilian rainforest, Siberia, Indonesia and Angola this past fall, coupled with extreme weather events increasing in enormity, intensity and frequency, like climate-exacerbated Typhoon Amphan which brought devastation to coastal areas of India and Bangladesh during the pandemic, are bringing about personal and economic destruction at historic levels previously unimagined, particularly to low income communities of color who have done the least to add to the climate crisis.

A peer-reviewed study published in the journal, *Nature*, entitled "The projected timing of abrupt ecological disruption from climate change," predicts a more abrupt collapse of many animal species than previously thought, starting in the next decade. As reported in the *New York Times*, "The sudden die-offs would be catastrophic not only for wildlife, but for the humans who depend on it."

That the COVID-19 crisis and ensuing lockdown resulted in a significant drop in worldwide CO₂ emissions has given hope that the countries of the world could, with profound intention, work together to reconfigure their approach to global energy production and greenhouse gas emissions.

Among the many ways the COVID-19 crisis has reinforced long-standing institutional racism has been increased air pollution in Black, Indigenous and people of color frontline communities, in spite of the global decrease in CO₂ emissions. The higher than average death rate for people of color due to COVID-19 is related to disproportionate toxic burdens from air pollution.

Unfortunately, the rapid reopening of society is already bringing about a rebound of those pollutions.

If we are to succeed in keeping civilization intact and the planet habitable, we must move aggressively forward on climate action. If we are to do so with justice at the forefront, we must do so with leadership from Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities who are most impacted by climate and toxic pollutions.

Accordingly, the City Council has again in its wisdom moved in its annual City Budget process to fund the creation of the Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization and the Climate Emergency Commission. While the Council has already approved these items, some clarifications are necessary to draft an ordinance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council's prior actions on July 8, 2019 (C.F. No. 18-0054) and October 11, 2019 (C.F. No. 19-1084) BE AMENDED to provide that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, be requested to prepare and present an ordinance as follows:

1. The Commission will be formally titled the "Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission."
2. The Commission will be appointed as set forth in Council's action on July 8, 2019 (C.F. No. 18-0054), with the exception that section 1(g) (non-voting City staff members) in Council's Amending Motion 7A dated July 3, 2019 (C.F. No. 18-0054) is deleted and replaced in its entirety with the following: "The Mayor may appoint Assistant General Manager-level representatives from any department in the City to serve as non-voting members on, or as advisors to, the Commission."

JUL 1 2020

3. The Commission's functions will be limited to advising the Mayor and the Council on issues related, directly or indirectly, to the climate emergency, toxic pollution, biodiversity, related environmental justice and health concerns, including job creation and a just transition, and the impacts upon the communities of Los Angeles and the global community of any of these.
4. The Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and its Director, as set forth in Council's actions on July 8, 2019 (C.F. No. 18-0054) and October 11, 2019 (C.F. No. 19-1084), will be established to operate within the Department of Public Works under the Board of Public Works' authority, and the Commission will advise the City Council, the Mayor and, thereby, the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office and its Director.
5. In the future, the Council may consider additional changes to the structure.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)
Councilmember, 3rd District