

**RESOLUTION NO. 20220728-100**

**WHEREAS**, our climate crisis is worsening daily, resulting in rising temperatures that fuel natural disasters, weather extremes, food and water insecurity, rising sea levels, a melting Arctic, devastation to the oceans and forests, and death of humans and ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States is the second greatest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and power plants generate 25% of its greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as granted by Congress through the Clean Air Act, is charged with creating regulations to address pollutants that destroy our environment at power plants, and science has well established that greenhouse gas emissions are destroying our environment, and the Supreme Court's opinion in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* strips the EPA of its ability to do this job; and

**WHEREAS**, fundamental American values include individual freedom, and the right to decide one's own future, and nothing is more significant to individual rights than the right to decide when and whether to have children; and

**WHEREAS**, *Roe v. Wade* balanced the rights of women who are not able or willing to bring a child into the world, due to health reasons, psychological damage (such as victims of rape and incest), financial reasons, such as not being able to afford (another) child – with the interests of the unborn; and

**WHEREAS**, *Roe v. Wade* protected women, who were unjustly denied the right to vote until one hundred and one years ago, from over-reaching by states, and allowed women to participate fully and equally in society; and

**WHEREAS**, rape and incest cause trauma, and forced birth potentially causes further trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, the impact of both climate change and denial of choice in personal reproductive health issues falls disproportionately on persons in poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to combatting climate change, as evidenced in its Climate Equity Plan as well as numerous resolutions and planning documents; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is committed to women's reproductive health, as evidenced over many years and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the rulings in *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency* and *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* are both direct assaults on the health, safety, and welfare of the planet and its people, especially those forced to give birth; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

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

The City Council of Austin condemns the Supreme Court's rulings in *West Virginia v. EPA* and *Dobbs v. Jackson*, and the Court's attacks on American freedom, health, and safety.

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

City Council calls on the Environmental Protection Agency to continue to regulate all pollutants, including carbon emissions, at power plants; and

City Council calls on Congress and all State Legislatures to immediately pass national and local laws requiring plant emission reductions by any means possible, including shifting to other, readily available power production technologies; and

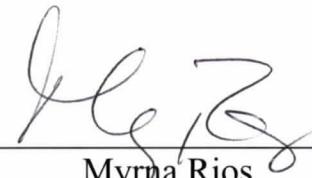
City Council calls on the United States Government to enforce the laws which protect persons seeking abortion, as iterated in President Biden's recent executive orders; and

City Council calls on the Texas Legislature and the United States Congress to immediately put forth legislation that supports: healthy and positive life outcomes for children and families, including but not limited to access to health care during pregnancy and the first 12 months after birth for both those giving birth and their children; creation of a national support system providing adoption services; programs to increase the quality and funding for Child Protective Services; and increasing health programs for school children such as healthy food programs; and

The City Manager is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Judiciary Committee for the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, as those bodies play a role in the selection of members of the federal judiciary, including the United States Supreme Court, and to the Texas delegations in the United States Congress and to the President of the United States, in formal notice of this Council's carefully considered actions today.

**ADOPTED:** July 28, 2022

**ATTEST:**

  
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Myrna Rios  
City Clerk