

Dear Mayor Pantelides and City Council,

On June 1, 248 U.S. mayors, representing 56 million Americans, agreed to adopt, honor, and uphold the commitments to the goals enshrined in the Paris Climate Agreement. The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) urges the Annapolis City Council to join these cities and adopt a resolution similarly supporting the Paris goals.

In a June 9 commentary to *Eye on Annapolis*, Mayor Pantelides affirmed the city's commitment to generating renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, and addressing increasing nuisance flooding and the threat of storm surges. The two Democratic candidates running for Annapolis mayor said (*Capital*, June 6) they would support the Paris climate accord if elected.

Such statements, while encouraging, do not have the weight of a council resolution. Such a resolution would affirm our city's commitment to combatting and mitigating climate change, and since Annapolis is already experiencing the effects of sea level rise, it is undoubtedly in the city's interest to help mitigate the underlying problem. The resolution would also serve as an example to other local and state governments, and hopefully at some point, the federal government.

Such a resolution could include the following points, recognizing the increasing risk of flooding and echoing the June 1 mayors' statement:

- The City of Annapolis supports the 2015 Paris Agreement by most of the world's nations to limit the threat of climate change.
- The City will seek to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to the greatest degree possible and to meet the 2025 and 2050 goals of the Sustainable Annapolis Community Action Plan. This plan set a government goal to reduce emissions 50% of 2006 levels by 2012, and a community goal to reduce emissions 25% of 2006 levels by 2012. Beyond 2012, the city government goal was a 75% reduction by 2025 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and the community's long-term goal is 50% by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050.
- The City will increase investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- The City government will prioritize the purchase of high-mileage and low-emission vehicles.
- The City will encourage and incentivize businesses and residents to reduce the use of fossil fuels through voluntary efforts.
- The City requests that the State of Maryland support the 2015 Paris Agreement and meet or exceed the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (reducing greenhouse gases 25 percent from 2006 levels by the year 2020).
- The City requests that the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee phase out the purchase of coal-generated electricity as quickly as possible, replacing it with clean, renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Diane Butler
Chair, Annapolis Environmental Commission