



**TO:** HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** GIL FRIEND, CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER

**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Mayor to Sign, on Behalf of the City, Letters to the "Compact of Mayors" (Global) and the "Mayor's National Climate Action Agenda" (Domestic), Committing to Climate-Related Actions the City has Already Undertaken or Set in Motion, and Calling on the President of the United States to Pursue the Strongest Possible Climate Agreement at the Upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris, France

After further review of the above report Staff offers one clarification and one minor edit.

1.

Page 2 of the staff report states

The letter of intent (see Attachment A) includes commitments to:

"2. Measure community emissions inventory using a consistent and robust standard," but does not describe the "consistent and robust standard."

The Letter of Commitment to the Compact of Mayors pledges the City to "publicly report on the following within the next three years" including:

- The greenhouse gas emissions inventory for our city consistent with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC), within one year or less

The Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) is a joint project by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability ([ICLEI](http://www.iclei.org)), the World Resources Institute ([WRI](http://www.wri.org)) and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group ([C40](http://www.c40.org)), with additional collaboration by the [World Bank](http://www.worldbank.org), [UNEP](http://www.unep.org), and [UN-Habitat](http://www.unhabitat.org). As a global reporting standard, the GPC enables cities and communities to consistently measure and report GHG emissions and develop climate action plans and low-emission urban development strategies. The final version of the GPC was published in December 2014. (<http://www.iclei.org/our-activities/our-agendas/low-carbon-city/gpc.html>)

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The City of Palo Alto currently reports its GHG emissions to The Climate Registry, a non-profit organization governed by U.S. states and Canadian provinces and territories. TCR designs and operates voluntary and compliance GHG reporting programs globally, and assist organizations in measuring, verifying and reporting the carbon in their operations so they can manage and reduce it. (<http://www.theclimateregistry.org/>)

Staff's understanding that these protocols—the North American focused TCR and the internationally focused GPC are about 95% congruent, and expects that our new sustainability dashboard software will streamline the reporting process to either protocol.

2.

The Letter of Commitment to the Compact of Mayors pledges the City to report:

- Our plans to address climate change mitigation and adaptation within three years of less

Which should read:

- Our plans to address climate change mitigation and adaptation within three years or less
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