



**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Lee Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

**DATE:** October 1, 2013

**TITLE:** Motion approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ethekwini Municipality (Durban, South Africa), the International City/County Management Association, the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County to Facilitate Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Practices on a Regional Level.

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the City Commission approve a Memorandum of Agreement among the Ethekwini Municipality (Durban, South Africa), the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County to assist Durban to find ways of engaging municipalities outside of its borders, to better facilitate climate change adaptation policies and practices on a regional level. It is further recommended that the City Commission sign the Durban Adaptation Charter, a voluntary pledge to commit to local climate action.

**Background**

The city of Durban, on the east coast of Africa is dealing with the effects of climate change like many coastal communities worldwide. Durban is a global climate adaptation leader; however, city officials recognize the need and benefit of broadening their efforts regionally. Durban looked to ICMA's CityLinks program for assistance in this regard. The ICMA team utilized its network of professionals to find an American coastal city that had experience with these same issues. The City of Fort Lauderdale answered the initial request and the City of Durban requested our assistance. Since Durban was particularly impressed and interested in our regional work, the City invited Broward County to participate in the exchange.

CityLinks facilitated and funded a city-to-city trip in late July 2013 between Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Durban to assess the feasibility of creating a multi-municipality approach to address regional climate adaptation issues. Assistant City Manager Susanne Torriente and Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director of Natural Resource Planning and Management in Broward County, Florida, traveled to Durban to provide assistance. Both Ms. Torriente and Dr. Jurado have been involved in staffing the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact since its inception in 2009; and the City of Fort Lauderdale is the first municipality to serve on the Compact Staff Steering Committee. That initial exchange builds on the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) Implementation Guidance Workshop (IGW) in March 2013, where signatories of the charter discussed the transformation of the DAC into a governing body that could one day provide guidance on climate change adaptation issues for its members.

Over the course of the week staff discussed the policy and administrative challenges and opportunities in working across multiple jurisdictions, with diverse priorities and political environments, to cooperate under a common goal of community resilience through climate change initiatives. The Compact model has been recognized nationally and now internationally for its ability to overcome the social, political, and technical challenges of working across city and county boundaries.

During the exchange, Dr. Jurado and Ms. Torriente met with stakeholders within the eThekweni municipality and visited the city's landfill conservancy, a community reforestation project, and Umdloti Beach, which was severely damaged in a 2007 storm. After learning more about the challenges that Durban faces, the Florida delegation worked with municipal staff to create an action plan outlining the initial steps Durban will take to begin a regional conversation with nearby municipalities. Durban will initiate a series of feasibility meetings with neighboring municipalities to assess potential connections that could be made amongst those municipalities that have developed climate change strategies. For those municipalities that have yet to do so, Durban will consider creating a more integrated strategy for the future.

The second half of the city-to-city exchange will take place in November and will allow staff from Durban to visit Fort Lauderdale and attend the Fifth Annual Climate Leadership Summit, co-hosted by the City of Fort Lauderdale. South African officials will meet with stakeholders from Florida counties and attend field trips that will address common water and biodiversity issues that affect both Durban and Southeast Florida.

### Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC)

The Durban Adaptation Charter commits Local Governments to local climate action in their jurisdiction that will assist their communities to respond to and cope with climate change risks thereby reducing vulnerability. By signing the Durban Adaptation Charter they commit to:

1. Planning for climate adaptation;
2. Ensuring that adaptation strategies are aligned with mitigation strategies;
3. Promoting the use of adaptation that recognizes the needs of vulnerable communities and ensuring sustainable local economic development;
4. Prioritizing the role of functioning ecosystems as core municipal green infrastructure;
5. Seeking innovative funding mechanisms.

The Durban Adaptation Charter was launched at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 17 held in the City of Durban (eThekweni Municipality), South Africa in December 2011. The South African Government, through the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), South African Cities Network (SACN), eThekweni Municipality and the Department of Environmental Affairs partnered with ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability in hosting the Durban Local Government Convention: adapting to a changing climate.

The signing of the Durban Adaptation Charter by 114 signatories, representing 950 local government organizations from 27 countries illustrates the need for local municipal action. The elements of the DAC are consistent with existing City plans and policies; therefore, it is recommended that the City become an official signatory to the DAC to show our support of their work for our new relationship

### **Resource Impact**

There is no fiscal impact to the City

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 - Durban Adaptation Charter

Exhibit 2 - Memorandum of Agreement

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