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Resolution from the Environmental Commission to City Council re: climate and community energy funding

Prepared by Emily Drennen

Whereas, The Environmental Commission’s review of the proposed budget finds there is insufficient funding allocated to meet the City’s important community-facing sustainability programs;

Whereas, the Environmental Commission is aware that there are very limited funds available for all City programs and that the City must provide a variety of critical and meaningful services and balance other urgent priorities, such as affordable housing;

Whereas, The Environmental Commission believes that more resources will be directed to sustainability when such resources become available;

Whereas, The Environmental Commission is charged to advise and make recommendation to the City Council and City Administrator on environmental policy, environmental issues, and environmental implications of all City programs and proposals on the air, water, land, and public health, The Environmental Commission makes the following recommendations to the City Administrator as an outline to maximize the effectiveness of the allotted funds in the proposed FY2018 budget.

Resolved, The Environmental Commission recommends that the majority of the recurring \$165,000 from the General Fund be used for two FTE’s in the Systems Planning Unit;

Resolved, The Environmental Commission recommends that the City Administrator direct appropriate City staff to work with the Environmental Commission and Energy Commission on identifying potential alternative revenue sources that would generate \$1-3 million dollars per year to support

community energy and climate programs by August 1st, 2017 for presentation to City Council, and that the Solid Waste Fund support one half of one of these positions for work to improve waste diversion in multi-family rental housing and to expand organics collection; and

Resolved, The Environmental Commission recommends that funds continue to support collaborating with the Washtenaw County Weatherization program to identify eligible Ann Arbor residents who would benefit from this program.