RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO REDUCE ETHYLENE OXIDE EMISSIONS IN THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, TENNEESSEE

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") has completed a risk assessment to better understand the impact of ethylene oxide ("EtO") gas emissions from the Sterilization Services of Tennessee facility and found an elevated cancer risk for the South Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has found EtO to be 60 times more toxic than previous estimates, and in South Memphis, the estimated lifetime cancer risk is 100 in 1 million or greater from breathing air containing EtO emitted from the Sterilization Services of Tennessee facility, meaning if 1 million people in close proximity breathed air containing EtO 24 hours a day for 70 years, 100 individuals would be expected to develop cancer due to that exposure; and

WHEREAS, later this year, the EPA will be proposing to strengthen the current limited regulations for EtO Commercial Sterilizers, but as outlined in the Clean Air Act, must give commercial businesses between 2 and 3 years to comply; given the elevated cancer risks to South Memphians and the lengthy timeline of federal regulation implementation, the Memphis City Council strongly supports any and all immediate efforts to reduce EtO fugitive emissions; and

WHEREAS, at the January 10, 2023, Memphis Parks and Environment Committee Meeting of the City Council, Representatives of the EPA stated that while the Sterilization Services of Tennessee in South Memphis had not yet made efforts to reduce fugitive emissions, sister agencies in other locations have taken steps to reduce fugitive emissions and, as a company, are aware of possible steps they may take to limit emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Memphis City Council recognizes the serious risk EtO poses to individuals in the City of Memphis, particular those in South Memphis, and wishes to support the efforts to reduce EtO emissions to the greatest extent the body may.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Council strongly encourages Sterilization Services of Tennessee at 2396 Florida Street to immediately begin working with the EPA, State of Tennessee, and Shelby County Health Department to halt fugitive emissions, in lieu of waiting for the passage of federal regulation as the health and safety of Memphians continues to be at risk.

BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED, the Council calls upon the EPA, State of Tennessee, and Shelby County Health Department to keep the citizens and Council well-informed with updated information including health advisories, updates on progress at the Sterilization Services of Tennessee facility, the opening of the comment period for proposed regulation, and community meetings in South Memphis to be hosted in coordination with the Memphis City Council.

#22.

Sponsors

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I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy and document was adopted, approved by the Council of the City of Memphis in regular session on

Date 01/24/2023

Valerie C. Snipes

Deputy Comptroller-Council Records