

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
PAUL KORETZ
FIFTH DISTRICT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Paul Koretz and Activist/Author Naomi Klein Announce Aggressive WWII-scale Climate Mobilization Initiative

LOS ANGELES – June 21, 2017 - City Councilmember Paul Koretz of the 5th District held a press conference today with award-winning journalist/international bestselling author, Naomi Klein, and Republican Mayor of the City of Lancaster R. Rex Parris among community members. Together, they announced a new, aggressive climate initiative in partnership with the national Climate Mobilization group designed to speed up current efforts in Los Angeles to combat climate change and drawdown greenhouse gas emissions through the lens of a just transition and climate justice called for in Canada's LEAP Manifesto. Koretz announced the creation of a Climate Justice Mobilization 2025 Working Group to oversee the effort to achieve a just, carbon neutral Los Angeles by 2025. The website for the effort can be found at: <http://mobilize.la/>.

"Los Angeles took on the needs of the entire United States and much of the world during World War II by embracing wartime mobilization. Hundreds of thousands of Los Angeles residents not only contributed massively to aircraft and ship manufacturing, they also volunteered to aid the Red Cross by the tens of thousands," said Councilmember Koretz. "I'm calling on all Angelenos to mobilize once again. We need a World War II-scale mobilization in order to keep our City safe and our planet habitable and resilient. And we need to ensure that we do it in a way that honors frontline communities, ensures equity, and protects workers. I'm asking the creative minds of Los Angeles to join with the grassroots activists in creating the City of the future, not some fictional Tomorrowland, but here, on the ground, in the City of Angels we all love."

"The Leap Manifesto was launched by a coalition of movement leaders, coming together across a spectrum of issues, said Naomi Klein. "We started by acknowledging the overlapping crises that we face: inequality, racial injustice, violations of Indigenous rights and the pressing need for us to transform our energy, transportation and housing systems to get to 100 percent renewable energy very, very quickly to confront climate change. We responded with a hopeful, inspiring vision: intersecting, ambitious policies that solve multiple problems at once. That's what The Leap is. We've seen people across North America take ownership and define what a leap looks like in their community. This announcement today is a remarkable development. If the city of Los Angeles listens to the voices of communities on the frontlines, and centers racial and economic justice in the way it addresses climate change, this could be an historic leap, with ripples around the world."

"Local municipal leadership is paramount to addressing the many issues we are discussing here today. And, the City of Lancaster is paving the way," said City of Lancaster Mayor R. Rex Parris. "We have become a global leader in the Alternative Energy arena, and are now leading the way for other municipalities which seek to take charge of climate change concerns within their own communities."

Speakers included: Aura Vasquez, LADWP Commissioner; Russell Greene, Los Angeles Coordinator of The Climate Mobilization; Anthony Rogers-Wright, U.S. Coordinator of the Leap; Lydia Ponce, Co-Director, American Indian Movement Southern California; Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility; Bill Gallegos, Executive Director Emeritus, Communities for a Better Environment; Yvette Lopez, Deputy Director, Pacoima Beautiful; RL Miller, Climate Hawks Vote; Steve Wicke, Sierra Club; Jack Eidt, SoCal 350; Joe Galliani, SouthBay 350; Alex Nagy, Food & Water Watch; and Eugene Shirley, Pando Populus.

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