City of Memphis Resolution

WHEREAS, in 1978, Memphis/Shelby County was designated nonattainment under section 107 of the 1977 Clean Air Act with respect to the Carbon Monoxide (CO) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS); and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Memphis established an Inspections and Maintenance Program (I/M) in response to its non-attainment status and to improve air quality standards in the area as required by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, while air quality in Memphis has improved with the city having reached attainment for CO in 1994, Shelby County was deemed marginal nonattainment for Ozone in 2004 and later reclassified as moderate nonattainment in 2009 pursuant to the 1997 NAAQS; and

WHEREAS, for almost three decades, the citizens of Memphis have been unfairly subjected to auto inspections while drivers in Shelby County and within the Metropolitan Statistical Area have enjoyed not participating in the inspections program even though they contribute to this community's air quality standards.

WHEREAS, air quality issues should not be the sole responsibility of Memphians who have paid 100% of the costs, particularly in light of the fact that Shelby County is in nonattainment for ozone and County residents contribute to the problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL that the City of Memphis will no longer operate an Inspections and Maintenance Program effective July 1, 2013, and will instead allow Shelby County government or the State of Tennessee to assume responsibility for addressing air quality issues and operation of the I&M program.

Jim Strickland
Shea Flinn