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2022-01

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE WATERWAYS COMMISSION'S SUPPORT FOR THE CITY TO REQUEST THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS ("USACE") UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND SOLUTION FOR A SANDBAR OR SHOAL THAT HAS FORMED IN THE ST. JOHNS RIVER ADJACENT TO THE FULTON CUT AND BLOUNT ISLAND: URGING AND REQUESTING THAT A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER SPONSOR A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE MAYOR SEND A LETTER TO THE USACE WITH THAT REQUEST OR THAT THE MAYOR PROVIDE THE LETTER WITHOUT CITY COUNCIL ACTION.

WHEREAS, in the natural section of the St. Johns River that is adjacent to the "Fulton Cut" and Blount Island, a sandbar or shoal ("shoal") has developed; and

WHEREAS, the Jacksonville Waterways Commission is committed to the protection of Jacksonville waterways and the citizens of Jacksonville; and

WHEREAS, the shoal was not there ten (10) years ago, but has formed and is rapidly increasing in size and now encompasses approximately 7 to 10 football fields in length and about 1 football field in width; and

WHEREAS, at low tide the depth is only 1.5 to 2 feet and presents great safety risk to people and watercraft; and

WHEREAS, in discussions with the USACE staff, in order to obtain help from the USACE in this matter, the City will need to make a written request, via the Mayor of the City of Jacksonville or designee, to the USACE to determine if the USACE has the authority or jurisdiction to conduct a study to determine the cause of the

formation of the shoal and to plan a strategy for its removal and prevention of future formation; and

WHEREAS, the USACE staff stated that a study of similar magnitude would cost approximately \$3,000,000, and the USACE would be looking to the City as sponsor to provide \$1,500,000 of that cost; and

WHEREAS, this letter, which will be drafted by the Office of General Counsel, will identify the location of the shoal, provide a timeline or history of its creation, and request that the USACE proceed to determine if they have jurisdiction over this type of issue, ask for the authority to conduct a study regarding the cause and the solution for removal and prevention of future shoaling in that location, and acknowledge that the City will be a financial partner with the USACE in that study; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Waterways Commission of the City of Jacksonville:

Section 1. FINDINGS. The Waterways Commission finds the foregoing to be true and accurate.

Section 2. RECOMMENDATION and REQUEST. The City of Jacksonville Waterways Commission herby expresses its support for a letter to be drafted outlining the aforementioned request to the USACE, and for the City Council to act, or the Mayor's Office to act, to provide that letter to the USACE.

DONE AND ORDERED at the February 9, 2022 meeting of the Jacksonville Waterways Commission.

Form Approved:

Office of General Counsel

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Jacksonville Waterways Commission

City Council Member, District 2

Albert Ferraro, Chairman,