

## RESOLUTION 14-R14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE **STATE OF FLORIDA EITHER REQUIRE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA TO FUND ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR VISTORS TO AND RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, TO FUND THE COST OF QUIET ZONES AT THE RAILROAD CROSSINGS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE OR PROVIDE STATE FUNDING FOR THE COST OF THOSE QUIET ZONES;** PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Pierce acknowledges the efforts of Florida East Coast Industries to construct a high speed passenger rail system, called All Aboard Florida, from Miami to Orlando along current and additional FEC tracks; and

**WHEREAS**, seven (7) of the railroad crossings (Savannah Road, Orange Avenue, Avenue A, Avenue D, State Road A1A South, Fisherman's Wharf, State Road A1A North) are in Fort Pierce in addition to the Citrus Avenue Overpass and the Avenue C/Backus Avenue underpass; and

**WHEREAS**, the All Aboard Florida Project will increase railroad traffic and train noise; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of people who reside in close proximity to these crossings who would be significantly affected by traffic, noise and possible safety aspects of increased railroad traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, All Aboard Florida trains are proposed to travel through the locally-designated historic neighborhoods such as Edgartown, Rivers Edge, and Historic Downtown Fort Pierce. These historic neighborhoods contain residential and commercial historical structures, many of which have been restored at great expense to citizens and government, with some listed on the state and/or national historic register; and

**WHEREAS**, ingress to and egress from Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, which the citizens and the government have spent millions of dollars to redevelop, and where our reconstructed City Marina with its innovative waterfront protection islands have just been completed, will be severely impacted, by increased railroad traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, the FECI tracks run close to the environmentally sensitive Indian River Lagoon, which is the essence of the Treasure Coast and the most diverse estuary in North America, and reduction in waterfront access due to railroad traffic would significantly reduce economic and recreational opportunities for our community; and

**WHEREAS**, quiet zones are needed at all affected railroad crossings in order to mitigate the impacts of increased railroad traffic and railroad noise and to protect the health, safety, and the quality of life of all City of Fort Pierce residents, businesses, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the preservation of the quality of life of the City will, at the very least, depend on All Aboard Florida improving the rail crossings to maximize safety and minimize noise and disruption; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida has expressed a commitment to the success of All Aboard Florida, and may not have recognized the potential major disruption that it may bring to the City of Fort Pierce without direct passenger rail benefits;

**WHEREAS**, the cost of upgrading the infrastructure at crossings to meet maximum safety requirements would be beyond the funding ability of the City of Fort Pierce; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Pierce requires financial assistance for infrastructure improvements and other road and traffic related construction, to keep our citizens safe, and our jurisdictions solvent.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA**

**Section 1.** The City of Fort Pierce formally requests that the State of Florida require All Aboard Florida to fund the cost of all improvements required to mitigate impacts resulting from railroad expansion including quiet zones that may be designated in the near future.

**Section 2.** The City of Fort Pierce also requests any state funding assistance for All Aboard Florida related infrastructure access not displace funds already committed to projects in the City of Fort Pierce by the Florida Department of Transportation.

**Section 3.** The Governor and State Legislators do all within their power to urge FEI to explore extending direct benefits of passenger rail service to the City of Fort Pierce, to provide funding for crossing enhancements and corridor improvements, and explore partnerships from which the area may benefit directly to offset and/or mitigate the impacts of All Aboard Florida.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Resolution has been duly adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2014.

**CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Hudson, Mayor Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Linda W. Cox, City Clerk

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND CORRECTNESS:

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Robert V. Schwerer, City Attorney