

RESOLUTION NO. R-06-2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER AS A MARINE HIGHWAY AND THE CREATION OF AN INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs, Florida finds that America's Marine Highway System consists of over 29,000 nautical miles of navigable waterways including rivers, bays, channels, the Great Lakes, the Saint Lawrence Seaway System, coastal, and open-ocean routes; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Highway Program works to further incorporate these waterways into the greater U.S. transportation system, especially where marine transportation services are the most efficient, effective, and sustainable transportation option; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds further that the America's Marine Highway Program is a Department of Transportation-led program to expand the use of our Nation's navigable waterways to relieve landside congestion, reduce air emissions, and generate other public benefits by increasing the efficiency of the surface transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds further that the America's Marine Highway Program was established by Section 1121 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to reduce landside congestion through the designation of Marine Highway Routes; and

WHEREAS, Section 405 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 further expanded the scope of the program beyond reducing landside congestion to efforts that generate public benefits by increasing the utilization or efficiency of domestic freight or passenger transportation on Marine Highway Routes between U.S. ports; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River, named as one of 14 American Heritage Rivers in 1998, is the longest river in the State of Florida and is most significant for commercial and recreational use; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs, Florida hereby recommends the Florida Legislature's consideration of legislation supporting designation of the St. Johns River as a Marine Highway and creation of an Inland Navigation District.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

DONE AND RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Daniel M. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney