

RESOLUTION 14-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES, FLORIDA, REQUESTING ANY AND ALL INVOLVED GOVERNMENTAL UNITS AND PUBLIC AGENCIES TO REQUIRE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA AND FLORIDA EAST COAST INDUSTRIES TO PAY ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA PROJECT AND ITS IMPACTS ON LOCAL COMMUNITIES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, All Aboard Florida, a subsidiary of Florida East Coast Industries, is proposing to construct and operate a high-speed passenger rail system between Miami and Orlando along Florida East Coast Railway (“FEC”) tracks (“All Aboard Florida Project”) that run near the Town of Indian River Shores; and

WHEREAS, initially the All Aboard Florida Project was touted as being a private enterprise to be funded solely through financial resources and without government or taxpayer participation; and

WHEREAS, it is now becoming clear that All Aboard Florida and Florida East Coast Industries are not relying solely on private financial resources to fund the All Aboard Florida Project as they are seeking funding through a Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (RRIF) Program loan of potentially up to \$1.5 billion from the Federal Railroad Administration, an agency of the United States government; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is now proposing to spend \$215 million of taxpayer money for the design and construction of a rail station to serve the All Aboard Florida Project at Orlando International Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Indian River Shores is in complete agreement that local governments along the Treasure and Space Coast, should **not** be saddled with the burden of designing, constructing and maintaining upgraded rail crossing safety enhancements necessary to meet quiet zone requirements, which zones are necessary to hopefully alleviate some of the adverse impacts of the All Aboard Florida Project and other increased rail traffic along the All Aboard Florida Project route, especially since this project has no local benefit; and

WHEREAS, instead of the All Aboard Florida Project being a passenger rail service provided by a private company using solely private resources, it is now painfully clear that, as currently structured, a significant portion, if not all, of the financial burden of the All Aboard Florida Project will be borne by the taxpayers through several forms of assistance from federal, state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Indian River Shores finds it to be in the best interest of the public and taxpayers, local and statewide, that any and all costs of the All Aboard Florida Project, including but not limited to rail stations, quiet zones, and rail corridor improvements, together with the maintenance of such improvements, should be privately funded by All Aboard Florida and Florida East Coast Industries because to do otherwise unfairly places the financial burden on taxpayers and citizens solely for the benefit of private enterprise; and

WHEREAS, at the October 23, 2014 Regular Town Council meeting, there was consensus not to support this project as it is not beneficial to our area and is much more suited for non-stop rail service through the unpopulated center of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council Of Indian River Shores that:

Section 1. The Town Council of the Town of Indian River Shores hereby respectfully requests that any and all governmental units and public agencies involved with the All Aboard Florida Project, including but not limited to the Federal Railroad Administration, any other federal agency, the State of Florida, the Florida Department of Transportation, and any other state agency, require that All Aboard Florida pay for all costs of the All Aboard Florida Project, including but not limited to rail stations, quiet zones, and other rail corridor improvements and maintenance.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Town Council.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at the Regular Town Council Meeting held **November 19, 2014.**

/s

Brian M. Barefoot, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s

Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk