

RESOLUTION NO. R2007-19

**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ACT WITH ALL DELIBERATE SPEED
TO RENEW THE EXEMPTION
OF THE STEAMBOAT DELTA QUEEN
FROM THE TERMS OF THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA ACT**

WHEREAS, the Steamboat Delta Queen was built in 1926 to operate as a passenger vessel in California between Sacramento and San Francisco, and during World II saw service in the United States Navy as a ferry for wounded being treated in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, after decommissioning in 1947, the Delta Queen was purchased by Greene Line Steamers, underwent a comprehensive refit, and has been carrying passengers on the inland waterways of the United States safely ever since; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Queen is the last remaining symbol of the nation's proud tradition of inland waterway travel, establishing herself as a priceless example of shipping history, typified by her recognition as a National Historic Landmark in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Queen has secured her position as one of the most beloved icons of the past in the hearts of passengers, crew and individuals who have been fortunate enough to see and travel on her throughout her decades of safe and reliable service; and

WHEREAS, the Safety of Life at Sea Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-777) requires that all passenger vessels having berth or stateroom accommodations for fifty or more passengers must comply with certain safety requirements, most notably applying to fire safety; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Queen's owners have treated the vessel's wooden superstructure with fire retardant materials to augment her sprinkler system; and

WHEREAS, the steamboat Delta Queen has been granted repeated exemptions from the Safety of Life at Sea Act since 1966; and

WHEREAS, the current exemption is due to expire in 2008 and, although the Delta Queen's safety record does not appear to support the conclusion that she is somehow less safe than she has been in the 41 years that she has sailed under various exemptions, Congress has yet to conform to its well-established practice of acting to permit the vessel to continue her service; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager has recommended in writing the passage of this Resolution as an emergency measure as it is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and property and in order to provide for the usual operations of the municipal departments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Gallipolis, Ohio, does hereby approve the following:

SECTION 1: The City of Gallipolis hereby urges the United States Congress to act with all deliberate speed to renew the exemption of the steamboat Delta Queen from the terms of the Safety of Life at Sea Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-777) in order to allow her to continue the legacy of her sister ships by serving as a tangible connection between the people of the United States and their heritage of river travel.

SECTION 2: Severability. If any provision of this Resolution shall be determined to be unlawful, invalid, void or unenforceable, then that provision shall be considered severable from the remaining provisions of this Resolution, which shall be in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: Repealer. Any Resolution or Ordinance or part thereof conflicting with the provisions of this Resolution is hereby repealed so far as the same affects this Resolution.

SECTION 4: The City Clerk of the City of Gallipolis, Ohio, is hereby directed to ensure delivery of this Resolution to the members of the Ohio delegation to the United States Congress.

SECTION 5: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon passage as an emergency measure.

PASSED: November 6, 2007

ATTEST:


Clerk of the City Commission


President of the City Commission

The foregoing Resolution is hereby approved as to form and correctness thereof.


Gallipolis City Solicitor