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RESOLUTION

City of Manitowoc Resolution Re-Affirming Support for the Lake Michigan-Wisconsin National Marine Sanctuary And Urging Governor Scott Walker To Reconsider His Recent Decision to Rescind His Sanctuary Nomination

WHEREAS, the City of Manitowoc, along with several other Great Lakes coastal cities in our region, sees great potential benefits from the establishment of the proposed Lake Michigan - Wisconsin National Marine Sanctuary off our shores; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manitowoc has, by formal resolution of this body has, expressed its strong, enthusiastic support for said Sanctuary on four prior occasions:

2012, in support of Governor Walker petitioning the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to re-open its site evaluation process, for consideration of a Sanctuary in this area;

2014, in support of the Governor's actual nomination of this area to be America's newest Marine Sanctuary; that nomination was submitted to NOAA by Governor Walker in December 2014;

2015, for presentation at the NOAA public scoping session for the Manitowoc-Two Rivers area, held to receive public input on the application;

2017, for the second round of public input sessions, following NOAA's recommendation to create the Sanctuary and publication of the draft Management Plan and draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding the proposed Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, members of this Common Council, our Mayor and staff, community organizations including the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, and hundreds of local residents and businesses have devoted considerable effort to learning about the proposed Sanctuary, increasing public awareness of the proposed sanctuary, and further educating NOAA and the State of Wisconsin on the assets our area offers for such a Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, following the investment of tremendous community effort, over the course of more than five years, our community believes now, more than ever, that the Sanctuary will be of great benefit to Manitowoc; and

WHEREAS, up until last week, our community had reason to believe that the Sanctuary designation process was moving forward and destined for completion later this year; and

WHEREAS, Manitowoc, along with other coastal cities in the Sanctuary area—Two Rivers, Sheboygan and Port Washington—were shocked and dismayed to learn on March 6 that Governor Walker had, by letter dated February 27, 2018, informed NOAA of his decision to rescind his Sanctuary nomination, citing Federal regulation and "red tape" as "too much of a trade-off for the negligible benefit to protecting shipwrecks;" and

WHEREAS, this decision was made absent any dialogue with local officials in the above-cited cities, without adequate dialogue with NOAA officials in the interest of resolving any State concerns, and appears to have overlooked the very real tourism and economic development benefits that would have accrued to our communities as the result of the Sanctuary designation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Manitowoc does hereby officially express its disappointment with Governor Walker's surprise decision in this matter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Manitowoc does hereby urge Governor Walker to reconsider his decision in this matter, and to direct appropriate staff from his administration to meet with NOAA representatives, representatives of our city and the other cities of the Sanctuary area, as well as any concerned citizens, in a good faith effort to address and resolve any legitimate concerns that may remain regarding Federal regulations applicable to the Sanctuary area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Manitowoc does hereby re-affirm, for the fifth

time in six years, its strong support for the Lake Michigan – Wisconsin National Marine Sanctuary, based on our understanding of the considerable benefits the Sanctuary offers to our region, not only in terms of shipwreck preservation, but also public education on our maritime history, the resources the Sanctuary would bring to the study and exploration of our unique region of Lake Michigan, and the tourism and economic benefits that would come from sharing our unique maritime history with the rest of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City hereby urges our many local organizations, businesses and individuals who have supported the Sanctuary throughout the past six years to likewise re-affirm their support for this major cultural and economic development initiative, by contacting Governor Walker and area legislators to urge that dialogue between the State and NOAA be resumed, as soon as possible.

Adopted this 16th day of April, 2018.

INTRODUCED _____ ADOPTED _____ APPROVED _____
APR 16 2018

Justin M. Nickels, Mayor

Fiscal Impact: n/a
Funding Source: n/a
Finance Director Approval: /sc
Approved as to form: /kmm

This Resolution was drafted by Stacey L. Groll, Assistant to Mayor Justin M. Nickels