

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

BY SENATOR HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Lakefront Management Authority to keep the westbound lanes of traffic open on Lakeshore Drive to vehicular traffic and to allow traffic in both directions (eastbound and westbound) between the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue.

WHEREAS, the Lakefront Management Authority, hereafter referred to as the "authority", is a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana and the governing authority of the nonflood protection assets within the jurisdiction of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East is established as a levee district pursuant to Article VI, Sections 38 and 38.1 of the Constitution of Louisiana and is operated by a board of commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the legislature may appropriate up to five hundred thousand dollars annually to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund pursuant to Article VI, Section 38.1(C) of the constitution; and

WHEREAS, Lakeshore Drive and adjacent parkways and green spaces are part of the nonflood protection assets owned by the authority and under the management, control, regulation, operation, and maintenance of the authority pursuant to R.S. 38:330.12.1; and

WHEREAS, for public safety reasons the westbound traffic lanes on Lakeshore Drive for many years have been closed on weekends to vehicular traffic between the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue and on weekends these lanes of traffic have only been available for recreational use by pedestrians, joggers, skaters, and bikers, thus not allowing the use of motorized vehicles; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, there were requests from members of the public to open the westbound traffic lanes on Lakeshore Drive on weekends to vehicular traffic between the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue; and

WHEREAS, after considering those requests from members of the public, the then Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority, after considering the recommendation of the Recreation/Subdivision Committee authorized the opening on weekends of the westbound lanes of traffic on Lakeshore Drive to vehicular traffic and to allow traffic in both directions (eastbound and westbound) between the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue; and

WHEREAS, since the opening on weekends of the westbound lanes of traffic on Lakeshore Drive between the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue, the traffic flow demonstrates a need to keep the westbound lanes of traffic open on Lakeshore Drive on weekends to vehicular traffic without any safety concerns between Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East shall not interfere in the authority's full corporate powers to manage, control, regulate, operate, and maintain assets within its jurisdiction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Lakefront Management Authority within its full power to manage, control, regulate, operate, and maintain a nonflood protection asset, pursuant to R.S. 38:330.12.1(A) keep the westbound lanes of traffic open on Lakeshore Drive to vehicular traffic and to allow traffic in both directions (eastbound and westbound) between the Senator Ted Hickey Bridge and Franklin Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the chairman and the executive director of the Lakeshore Management Authority and the president of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East at their respective offices.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE