



RESOLUTION NO. 2012-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA
SUPPORTING CONTINUATION OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER FERRY**

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Ferry connects historic State Road A1A between the Mayport Village on the south bank and the Fort George area on the north bank of the St. Johns River and closing the ferry would result in this important State highway becoming a dead end; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Ferry is an extension of A1A Highway (.9 miles over water) requiring capital improvements as the rest of State Road A1A; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Atlantic Beach and Neptune Beach support keeping the St. Johns River Ferry running and State Road A1A intact; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville has invested approximately seven million dollars on infrastructure improvements in Mayport Village to encourage redevelopment which will increase the ad valorem taxes to the City and the value of those improvements will be greatly diminished if ferry service is discontinued; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Ferry is used throughout the year by the Navy and Coast Guard at Mayport when they have ships in repair or dry dock at Atlantic Marine to avoid a 26-mile alternate route to travel between the two sides of the St. Johns River; and

WHEREAS, the continued operation of the St. Johns River Ferry saves time and energy by reducing approximately two thirds the fuel that the passenger vehicles would use if they had to drive the half hour, 26-mile alternate route, improves traffic safety by reducing travel and saves the cost of road and bridge maintenance on the alternate routes; and

WHEREAS, the St. Johns River Ferry is a valuable and integral element in our parks systems and remains an important tourist attraction for approximately one million visitors that annually visit the Beaches' communities, and the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida supports continuation of the St. Johns River Ferry.

This Resolution adopted by the City Council of Neptune Beach, Florida, at the Regular Council Meeting held this 6th day of February 2012.

Harriet Pruette
Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Volpe, CMC
City Clerk