

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE “IKE DIKE PROJECT” FOR A COASTAL BARRIER TO PROTECT THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON REGION, INCLUDING GALVESTON BAY, FROM HURRICANE STORM SURGES; DIRECTING THE CITY SECRETARY TO SEND A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT SMITH III, USN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON.

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Whereas, the City of Friendswood is located near the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston Bay and is susceptible to wind and storm surge damage resulting from hurricanes and severe storms;

Whereas, on September 13, 2008, Hurricane Ike caused devastation and destruction across the Houston-Galveston region with massive flooding from storm surge waters, Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula being the hardest hit areas;

Whereas, the Houston-Galveston region is home to a concentration of petrochemical plants along the Houston Ship Channel and the Port of Houston, one of the nation’s busiest ports;

Whereas, Professor Bill Merrell of Texas A&M University at Galveston has conceived the “Ike Dike Project” which is a proposal to create a “coastal spine” with a combination of barriers and gates extending along Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula;:

Whereas, flood gates at Bolivar Roads, the entrance to the Houston, Texas City, and Galveston ship channels, and at the San Luis Pass would provide the necessary barriers to protect these vulnerable areas against Gulf surges into Galveston Bay;

Whereas, the “Ike Dike Project” looks to existing technologies created in the Netherlands and duplicated with the building of the Greater New Orleans Barrier that protects New Orleans from storm surge;

Whereas, providing a comprehensive system of barriers and gates along the Gulf coast would protect the economy, the environment, and, more importantly, the people in the region;

Whereas, in 2010, the Texas Governor’s Commission on Recovery and Renewal reviewed the Ike Dike Project and recommended that a six county public corporation be established to explore viable options for storm surge protection of the Houston-Galveston region;

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District desires to support the “Ike Dike Project” in order to advance the need for a coastal barrier to protect the Houston-Galveston region from hurricane storm surges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS:

Section 1. The findings and recitations set out in the preamble by the City Council and made part hereof for all purposes are true and correct.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Friendswood, Texas, hereby wholeheartedly supports and endorses efforts by Professor Bill Merrell of Texas A & M University at Galveston to create the “Ike Dike Project” for a coastal barrier to be completed for protection of the Houston-Galveston region from hurricane storm surges including Galveston Bay.

Section 3. The City Council of the City of Friendswood, Texas, hereby encourages efforts to create a coastal barrier to protect Galveston Island and surrounding communities from hurricane storm surges.

Section 4. The City Council of the City of Friendswood, Texas, hereby directs the City Secretary to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Rear Admiral Robert Smith III, USN, President and Chief Executive Officer of Texas A & M University at Galveston.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be and become effective from and after its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED this the 4th _ day of August, 2014.

Kevin M. Holland
Mayor

ATTEST:

Melinda Welsh, TRMC
City Secretary