

10-R-0775

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

AN ORDINANCE

BY: COUNCIL MEMBER H. LAMAR WILLIS

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RECONSIDER THE NEW ROUTING RULE THAT ALLOWS THE RAILROAD COMPANIES TO DETERMINE THE SAFEST AND MOST SECURE ROUTES FOR TRANSPORTING CHLORINE AND OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND TO AMEND THE RULE TO REQUIRE RAILROAD COMPANIES TO WORK WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE SAFEST AND MOST SECURE ROUTES

- CONSENT REFER
REGULAR REPORT REFER
ADVERTISE & REFER
1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred: 4/19/10
Referred To: Finance/Executive
Date Referred
Referred To:
Date Referred
Referred To:

First Reading

Committee
Date
Chair
Referred To

Committee: Finance/Executive
Date: 4/19/10
Chair: Williams

Action: Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action: Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other:

Members

ADOPTED BY

MAY 03 2010

COUNCIL

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action: Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other:

Members

Refer To

Committee

Date

Chair

Action: Fav, Adv, Hold (see rev. side)
Other:

Members

Refer To

- FINAL COUNCIL ACTION
2nd
1st & 2nd
3rd
Consent
V Vote
RC Vote

CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED
MAY 03 2010
ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CERTIFIED
MAY 03 2010
MUNICIPAL CLERK

MAYOR'S ACTION

APPROVED

MAY 11 2010
MAYOR



CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

A RESOLUTION

BY: COUNCILMEMBER H. LAMAR WILLIS

10-8-0775

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO RECONSIDER THE NEW ROUTING RULE THAT ALLOWS THE RAILROAD COMPANIES TO DETERMINE THE SAFEST AND MOST SECURE ROUTES FOR TRANSPORTING CHLORINE AND OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, AND TO AMEND THE RULE TO REQUIRE RAILROAD COMPANIES TO WORK WITH STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE THE SAFEST AND MOST SECURE ROUTES

WHEREAS, major US railroads operate through the City of Albany, and the greater Capital Region, bringing rail freight which includes chlorine gas, anhydrous ammonia, and other hazardous cargoes of concern to federal homeland security officials; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Atlanta Region, including all or parts of the following counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties, as well as the City of Atlanta, which together make up the areas covered by the Atlanta Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, liquefied chlorine gas and anhydrous ammonia rail shipments, of highest concern to homeland security officials, total nearly 100,000 railcars per year in the US; and

WHEREAS, the current routes used by major railroads pass within yards of our urban neighborhoods, through the downtown and near many potential terrorism targets including sports arenas and government buildings; and

WHEREAS, possible alternative rail routes could transfer the most dangerous through chemical cargoes onto available non-target lines that skirt well around the City of Atlanta and other target cities, and would therefore significantly reduce both terrorism risk and the potential consequences of accidental releases; and

WHEREAS, chlorine is classified as a Toxic Inhalation Hazard by the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, the Chlorine Institute estimates that one chlorine tank car can release a cloud at a potentially lethal level that extends 15 miles downwind and 4 miles wide; and

WHEREAS, recent filings with the US Surface Transportation Board indicate clearly that railroads transport many chlorine gas railcar cargoes hundreds, even thousands of miles across the US, on routes some of which no doubt routinely traverse the City of Atlanta; and



WHEREAS, a recent statement submitted to a federal regulatory docket, by major chlorine “captive shipper” PPG Industries, indicates that railroads may have available alternative routes that can lower both the distance and the terrorism risk potentials for chlorine shipments but that the railroads can refuse to do so, instead unnecessarily forcing shipments onto routes hundreds of miles longer and through major target urban areas; and

WHEREAS, immediately after the 9/11 attacks chlorine and other ultrahazardous railcars were promptly ordered off the tracks and brought to safe havens, and subsequently, federal agencies have been quietly meeting with railroads and shippers to try to shorten chlorine and other ultrahazardous cargo routes to reduce terrorism risks; and

WHEREAS, a regulation finalized by the Bush Administration’s Federal Railroad Administration, effective December 26, 2008, provides that each individual railroad during 2009 will unilaterally analyze and select its hazardous cargo urban routes, with no significant input from state and local officials; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments have a direct interest in protecting the community from the threat of hazardous materials releases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Atlanta hereby urges the Obama Administration and the United States Congress to revise the routing law and the routing rule to include requirements that railroads work together with state and local officials to determine the safest and most secure routes for chlorine and other hazardous cargo transport that involve all carriers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Atlanta has a seat at the table with the railroad companies as they work on their routing analyses and selections that impact our citizens, and to assess the adequacy of the transportation security vulnerability assessments and security plans produced by the railroads for routing and storage of hazardous shipments that place our citizens at risk throughout the metropolitan Atlanta region.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Senators Chambliss and Isakson, Congressmen Lewis, Gingrey and Johnson, and Jo Strang, Acting Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration.

A true copy,

Rhonda Daughin Johnson
Municipal Clerk

ADOPTED by the Atlanta City Council
APPROVED by Mayor Kasim Reed

MAY 03, 2010
MAY 11, 2010

RCS# 209
5/03/10
2:27 PM

Atlanta City Council

REGULAR SESSION

CONSENT I

ADOPT

YEAS: 11
NAYS: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 3
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 2

NV Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	B Bond
Y Hall	Y Wan	Y Martin	NV Watson
Y Young	Y Shook	Y Bottoms	Y Willis
B Winslow	Y Adrean	Y Sheperd	NV Mitchell

CONSENT I

		05-03-10
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