



CITY OF DETROIT
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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March 17, 2023

Detroit City Council
1340 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: Approval and Authorization to commit (\$150,000) (the “City Contribution”) to support the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority (“Port Authority”) in the installation of an additional bollard along the Riverwalk

Dear Honorable City Council,

The General Services Department hereby requests the approval and authorization from your Honorable Body to commit One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) (the “**City Contribution**”) to the Port Authority to construct an additional bollard servicing cruise ships that dock along the Riverwalk (the “**Bollard**”). The Bollard will be installed in the portion of the Riverwalk in front of the Renaissance Center. The primary purpose of the Bollard project is upgrade facilities in order to accommodate large cruise ships — particularly cruise ships brought to Detroit by Viking Cruises, which are 200 feet longer than any other cruise ship entering the Great Lakes.

The Port Authority is a special purpose public authority jointly formed by the City of Detroit and Wayne County to, among other functions, operate the Port Authority terminal at 130 East Atwater. Its operations are supported annually by contributions by the City and Wayne County, along with the State of Michigan.

The Bollard project is part of the Port Authority’s increasingly successful efforts to increase Great Lakes cruise ship tourism in Detroit. The Bollard project is an investment in growing those revenues. The need for this facility upgrade became obvious last year, when the first Viking Octantis arrived in Detroit. Unexpectedly, the ship’s captain was unwilling to dock at the Port Authority downtown facility due to stability issues. As a result, all 8 Viking visits to Detroit last season had to be relocated to the Port Authority’s cargo dock in the industrial waterfront at 4461 West Jefferson.

The Bollard is needed to secure the bow of long cruise ships and prevent the strong Detroit River current from pulling the ship outward. There are 16 Viking dockings scheduled for the 2023 season, beginning May 1st. The Port Authority is confident the Bollard project will not only improve the tourism revenue results for those 16 dockings, but will drive interest in more long cruise ship dockings in future years.

The Bollard project is expected to cost Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$450,000). Cost factors include the Riverwalk deck, where the bollard will be anchored, sitting on fill material. The bedrock is more than 100 feet below the deck and four 105-foot metal pilings will need to be drilled into the bedrock in order to ensure that the bollard will not be pulled out. The weight of the Viking ship, the strong current of the river, and the torque that could be placed on that bollard, all require the design and strength of material.


Given the expected costs and the urgency to install the Bollard, the Port Authority has organized a variety of funding sources, including a One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollar (\$150,000 contribution from Wayne County (the “**County Contribution**”). Other sources include the Port Authority itself, the Lakes Pilots Association, and Viking Cruises. All other sources are approved or committed:

Source	Amount	Status
Wayne County	\$150,000	Approved by Commission on 3/16/23
City of Detroit	\$150,000	City of Detroit Ask
Viking	\$50,000	Committed; will be allocated as additional docking fee
Pilots Association	\$50,000	Committed
Port Authority Budget	\$50,000	Committed
Total:	\$450,000	

The City Contribution will enable this project to move forward. If approved now, the Port Authority is confident the Bollard Project can be completed in time for May 1, when the first Viking ship is scheduled to dock in Detroit.

We, therefore, respectfully request that your Honorable Body approve the commitment of funds to the following resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

DocuSigned by:

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[Jamal Harrison]
Director, General Services Department

CC: Brad Dick, Chief Operating Officer
Brandon Lockhart, Senior Advisor, Jobs & Economy
Sam Krassenstein, Chief of Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

BY COUNCIL MEMBER _____

WHEREAS, the Detroit/Wayne County Port authority (the “Port Authority”) desires to construct a bollard along the Detroit River in the vicinity of the GM Renaissance Center for the docking of cruise ships and other vessels (the “Improvements”) at the total estimated cost of four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) and has requested support from the City of Detroit (“City”) and Wayne County to help pay for such Improvements;

WHEREAS, the City expects to materially benefit from increased traffic and tourism from cruise ships and other vessels docking along the Detroit River due to the Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City through the General Services Department (“GSD”), wishes to contribute one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) towards such Improvements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that GSD be and is hereby authorized to pay to the Port Authority the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) (the “**City Contribution**”) from Account 4533-20507-470010-644124, to be used solely for the cost of the Improvements; and further

RESOLVED, that the Director of GSD, or her authorized designee, be and is hereby authorized (1) to enter into an agreement with the Port Authority, in a form satisfactory to said Director, which shall provide for the conditions upon which the City Contribution will be paid to the Port Authority and shall require that the City Contribution be used solely to pay for the cost of the Improvements, and (2) to accept, execute, and/or deliver any such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate the payment of the City Contribution to the Port Authority; and further

RESOLVED, that the City’s Chief Financial Officer, or his authorized designee, is hereby authorized to accept and process all documents consistent with the authorizations and approvals grant herein.

A WAIVER OF RECONSIDERATION IS REQUESTED.