

**RESOLUTION**

**R-06-300**

**CITY HALL: July 20, 2006**

**BY: COUNCILMEMBER FIELKOW AND CARTER**

**WHEREAS**, since the founding of New Orleans, ferry service across the Mississippi River has been a vital commercial link between the East and West banks of New Orleans; and

**WHEREAS**, Post--Katrina the population of Algiers and the entire West bank has increased creating higher demands on area roads and public transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to Hurricane Katrina the Canal/ Algiers Ferry operated between the hours of 6:00 am to Midnight, Monday through Sunday, providing a necessary means of transportation for citizens and employees of New Orleans and their employers; and

**WHEREAS**, the service industry in New Orleans is a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week industry that requires a workforce available throughout the day and evening; and

**WHEREAS**, post Hurricane Katrina, the Canal/ Algiers Ferry has been operating on an abbreviated schedule between the hours of 6:00am to 8:45 pm Monday through Sunday, which permits only one shift of workers to be fully serviced; and

**WHEREAS**, bus service provided by the Regional Transit Authority also provides reduced post Katrina service; and

**WHEREAS**, post Katrina there is an acute shortage of hospitality workers which hinders the operations of New Orleans hotels and restaurants and hinders the economic recovery of New Orleans and the financial health of its working citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the reduction in hours of operation for the Canal/Algiers Ferry has a negative affect on tourism and commerce, resulting in less revenues and economic opportunities for Algiers and French Quarter merchants; and

**WHEREAS**, Concerned residents and organizations have joined to form The Friends of the Ferry to promote the Canal/Algiers Ferry and to encourage reinstition of the 6:00 am to Midnight schedule.; and

**WHEREAS**, the hospitality industry represented by the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau has expressed its support of restoration of the pre-Katrina hours of operation of the Canal/Algiers Street ferry as critical to the continued rebuilding the workforce for New Orleans' tourism industry, now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS**, that Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Crescent City Connection Division, is requested to reconsider its decision to reduce the hours of operation of the Canal/Algiers Ferry and to reinstate the ferry's pre-Katrina operations of 6:00 am to Midnight, Monday through Sunday.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That certified copies of this Resolution also be forwarded to the Executive Directors of the Hotel and Lodging Association, the Louisiana Restaurant Association and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitor's Bureau urging their support in restoring the Canal/Algiers Ferry to its pre-Katrina hours of operation.