

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-309

CITY HALL: August 5, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS GISLESON PALMER, GIARRUSSO AND BANKS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) governs the safety of the nation's railroad system, including standards for sounding train horns at public highway-rail grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, to provide communities with an opportunity for relief from the routine sounding of train horns, the FRA established a process for establishing quiet zones; and

WHEREAS, while this process still allows for the use of train horns in the case of an emergency and to comply with certain railroad rules, overall it reduces the sounding of train horns, which increases the risk of a crossing collision; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, localities must install active warning devices at public highway-rail crossings within a quiet zone, and may also implement supplementary safety measures or alternative safety measures to reduce risks; and

WHEREAS, additional safety measures may be necessary at pedestrian crossings within quiet zones; and

WHEREAS, only public authorities are permitted to establish quiet zones, in light of their requirements, meaning local residents desiring a quiet zone are dependent upon the City of New Orleans to complete all necessary steps; and

WHEREAS, these steps include financing and preparing a diagnostic review of highway-rail grade crossings and pedestrian crossings; installing necessary active warning

devices, other safety measures, and required signage; and adequately notifying railroads, state and federal governing agencies, landowners, and other federally required entities; and

WHEREAS, in New Orleans neighborhoods along the Public Belt, from Audubon in District A to Bywater in District C, residents, businesses, and institutions have long sought relief from the ongoing disruption caused by train horn soundings, and they strongly desire for quiet zones to be established; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the City of New Orleans shall initiate or continue with due speed its efforts to create quiet zones in neighborhoods along the Mississippi River, from Audubon in District A to Bywater in District C, that are adjacent to the Public Belt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City will dedicate the public resources necessary to establish these quiet zones, and is expected to work with residents, businesses, and institutions who may wish to leverage private resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City must provide the City Council Transportation Committee a report with its progress to date on creating the aforementioned quiet zones by September 1, 2021, including any challenges or delays thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of Council shall submit copies of this Resolution to Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Laura Bryan, Director of the Office of Transportation; and Sunni LeBeouf, City Attorney, upon its approval.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTED THEREOF, AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSENT

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.