

NO. R-06-301

BY: COUNCILMEMBER FIELKOW

SECONDED BY: COUNCILMEMBER CARTER

WHEREAS, prior to Hurricane Katrina, **AMTRAK** operated the Sunset Limited between Los Angeles, California and Orlando, Florida, providing passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast of the United States, specifically between New Orleans and Orlando; and

WHEREAS, that portion of the Sunset Limited route between New Orleans and Orlando generated ridership a substantial number of passengers per day; and

WHEREAS, since Hurricane Katrina, **AMTRAK** has not restored Sunset Limited service along the Gulf Coast portion of the route; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the economic benefits realized along the Gulf Coast portion of the Sunset Limited route, there is a increased need for this service as a vital transportation link for New Orleans area evacuees returning to rebuild their homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Rapid Rail Transit Commission, housed in the offices of the Regional Planning Commission for Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes is seeking an evaluation from **AMTRAK** concerning resumption of service east of New Orleans, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, that **AMTRAK** is strongly urged to do all in its power to restore the Gulf Coast portion of Sunset Limited passenger rail services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Southern Rapid Rail Transit Commission is requested to submit to the Clerk of Council, a report on the status of the restoration of the Sunset Limited passenger service east of New Orleans and that the Clerk submit a copy of said report to the Chair of the City Council Ground Transportation Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Chairman of **AMTRAK**, and the Executive Director of The Southern Rapid Rail Transit Commission.

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

YEAS: Carter, Fielkow, Midura, Thomas, Willard-Lewis - 5

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: Head, Hedge-Morrell - 2

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.