

**Resolution 2018R-
By Johnson**

Approving the redevelopment plan of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and the surrounding area (“The Falls”), as well as the prohibition of development of any hydroelectric generating facilities on the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and the proposed principles and objectives for federal legislation.

Whereas, in 2014, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the “USACE”) was directed by an Act of the United States Congress to close the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam to navigation by Section 2010 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014; and, on June 9, 2015, it was closed to navigation; and

Whereas, in October, 2015, the USACE announced its intent to begin a disposition study for the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam pursuant to Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1830); and

Whereas, the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam continues to be used for flood risk management, public tours, and as a launching point for emergency water rescues; and

Whereas, the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam is a unit of Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (“MNRRA”), which was established by Congress in an act of November 18, 1988 and identified as a nationally significant historical, recreational, scenic, cultural, natural, economic and scientific resource (16 U.S.C. 460zz et. seq.); and

Whereas, Friends of the Lock and Dam, a nonprofit with 501c3 status, in cooperation with other local stakeholders and community partners, has developed a vision for the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam as described in “The Falls: St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam Park and Visitor Center” (“The Falls”) which is responsive to decades of public planning consistently recommending the creation of an iconic visitor center and attraction at St. Anthony Falls; and

Whereas, The Falls redevelopment vision is entirely congruent with the recommendations and adopted plans of the City and other key stakeholder entities, including the City’s recent *Destination Transformation 2030* plan; the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s *Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan*; the Downtown Council’s *Intersections: Downtown 2025* plan; the National Parks Conservation Association’s *Transforming the Lock* plan; and the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board’s *Changing Relationships to the Power of the Falls – West Bank* plan, as well as numerous other long range plans for the area; and

Whereas, Friends of the Lock and Dam is working with a broad coalition of interested parties to advance legislation for inclusion in the next Water Resources Development Act (“WRDA”) bill to further The Falls initiative and support the outcomes described in the other adopted plans described herein; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is seeking \$1.5 million of state bonds for predesign and design of the Upper St. Anthony Falls redevelopment, and Friends of the Lock and Dam have committed to matching bonding funds 2 to 1 (\$3 million private funds) for predesign, and design of The Falls; and Friends of the Lock and Dam has already raised \$5 million in private contributions to support these efforts; and

Whereas, the City Council has previously directed Intergovernmental Relations, Community Planning & Economic Development, City Attorney and Public Works staff to work with representatives of Friends of the Lock and Dam, USACE, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and other interested parties to examine options for the future of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, including examining different ownership and operational structures that could meet the state constitutional and statutory requirements for the receipt of state bond funds and other public financing support,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That the City Council recognizes the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and surrounding area as a nationally significant historical, recreational, scenic, cultural, natural, economic and scientific resource;

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council approves and supports the implementation of The Falls initiative, and reaffirms its direction to staff to work with representatives of Friends of the Lock and Dam, USACE and other interested parties to examine options to implement The Falls initiative;

Be It Further Resolved that to revitalize and preserve the value of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock – an invaluable part of MNRRA – the City Council hereby states its opposition to the development of any hydroelectric generating facilities on the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock; and

Be It Further Resolved that the City Council supports and commits the City to work toward outcomes described in principle for WRDA legislation attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Proposed Principles & Objectives for Federal Legislation

2018 Water Resources Development Act

1. Establish flood control, recreation and water supply management as the primary project purposes for Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam.
2. Remove Upper St Anthony Falls Lock from current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers disposition study and direct the U.S.A.C.E. to initiate a feasibility study to allow for development of (i) a visitor center, (ii) interpretive, exhibition and event spaces and (iii) other amenities intended to enhance and preserve the historical, cultural and recreational value of the Lock and Dam and surrounding area. Ensure the feasibility study considers partial disposition of the site in a fashion that will allow access to state G.O. bond-financed assistance.
3. Direct the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consult and establish partnerships with federal, state, local and non-profit entities, and if applicable, identify a resolution adopted by the City of Minneapolis supporting the redevelopment of the Lock and Dam.
4. Prohibit further development or increased capacity of hydroelectric generating facilities on Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock.