

RESOLUTION NO. 25-

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Schulz who moved its adoption:

1
2 A Resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the Port, Charles D. Tillotson
3 to enter into and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Plaquemines
4 Parish Government, the governing authority of the Parish of Plaquemines (the
5 “Parish”) acting by and through its President, Keith Hinkley, and Plaquemines Port,
6 Harbor and Terminal District d/b/a Louisiana Gateway Port (“the Port”); and
7 otherwise to provide with respect thereto.
8

9 DIGEST: Authorization to enter into an agreement with Plaquemines Parish Government to
10 evidence the understanding of the Parties hereto with respect to securing and funding access to the
11 federal RAISE grant projects and funding. *The digest is for informational purposes only and is*
12 *superseded by the language of the actual Resolution.*
13

14 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation has published a Notice of Funding
15 Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1.5 billion in grant funding through the Rebuilding American
16 Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program for 2022. The
17 popular program helps communities around the country carry out projects with significant local or
18 regional impact; and
19

20 WHEREAS, RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the State and local levels,
21 including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others, to complete critical freight and
22 passenger transportation infrastructure projects. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow
23 project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT
24 grant programs; and
25

26 WHEREAS, in 2022, RAISE funded 166 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto
27 Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands; and
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29 WHEREAS, Half of the funding will go to projects in rural areas, and half of the funding will go
30 to projects in urban areas. At least \$15 million in funding is guaranteed to go towards projects
31 located in Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and projects
32 located in these areas will be eligible for up to 100 percent federal cost share, as directed by
33 Congress in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law; and
34

35 WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Transportation has selected PPG as a prospective recipient of
36 R.A.I.S.E. Grant funds for the Fiscal Year 2022 which would secure funding for Projects in West
37 Pointe a La Bache, LA which encompasses a historically disadvantaged community, and since
38 Hurricane Ida has experienced persistent poverty; and
39

40 WHEREAS, improvements made to the west bank ferry road will not only serve residents in the
41 entire southern end of the Parish but will offer consistent and specific service to members of the
42 East Pointe a La Hache and West Pointe a La Hache communities, which in the past have been
43 historically disadvantaged. Access to the west bank and its commercial facilities will also benefit
44 members of the East Point a La Hache Community, which will help offset the poverty associated
45 with limited work opportunities on the east bank of Plaquemines Parish; and
46

47 WHEREAS, the Parties have reached certain general understandings that constitute expected terms
48 and conditions that will allow the PPHTD to enter into negotiations and cooperative endeavor
49 agreements, on behalf of PPG, with the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Department of
50 Transportation and/or the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in order the
51 secure RAISE grant funding; and
52

53 WHEREAS, PPHTD is not only willing, but capable, of raising the necessary matching funds for
54 the project outlined herein, and as more fully set forth below as shown by the differential between
55 projected funding and projected project cost;
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57 NOW, THEREFORE:
58

59 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE
60 GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT HARBOR AND TERMINAL
61 DISTRICT THAT it hereby authorizes the Executive Director of the Port, Charles D. Tillotson to
62 enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to evidence the understanding of the Parties hereto
63 with respect to securing and funding the access to federal RAISE grant projects and funding.
64

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE
66 GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT HARBOR AND TERMINAL
67 DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately
68 certify and release this Resolution and that Port employees and officials are authorized to carry out
69 the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines
70 Parish Council.
71

RESOLUTION NO. 25-

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Schulz who moved its adoption:

1 A Resolution terminating the Employment Contract of Charles Tillotson,
2 Executive Director of the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District, for
3 cause; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

4
5 WHEREAS, Charles Tillotson and the Plaquemines Port, Harbor, and Terminal District (Port)
6 entered into an Employment Contract that initially took effect on December 1, 2022, then was
7 extended and is set to expire on November 30, 2026; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the Employment Contract provides for the termination thereof prior to its expiration
10 “for cause”; and

11
12 WHEREAS, for years 2023 and 2024, both of which are within the term of Mr. Tillotson’s
13 contract the Port received audits that disclosed serious and material findings, including findings
14 of expenditures that violated Port policy, State law, and Federal rules; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the 2024 audit noted that several of the findings were repeat findings from the 2023
17 audit, evidencing a failure of Mr. Tillotson to correct the violations from the prior year; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the repeat findings were in the following areas:

- 20 • Special Meals
21 • Expenditure Beyond Contract Limits
22 • Grant Administration
23 • Procurement Practices, Quote Solicitations Process and Documentation

24
25 WHEREAS, the findings of the 2024 audit pertaining to expenditures of federal grant funds
26 without properly following established procurement laws, rules and policy, exposing the Port to
27 the potential federal claw back of those federal grant funds; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the findings themselves provide sufficient “cause” for termination under the
30 Employment Contract, and the repeat nature of the findings for 2024 for similar violations from
31 2023 further support the basis of termination “for cause”;

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33 NOW, THEREFORE:

34
35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE
36 GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL
37 DISTRICT THAT the Employment Contract of Charles Tillotson is hereby terminated “for
38 cause” effective November 13, 2025.

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL AS THE SOLE
41 GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF THE PLAQUEMINES PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL
42 DISTRICT THAT the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately
43 certify and release this Resolution providing a copy thereof to each member of the Council, to
44 Mr. Tillotson, and to the appropriate human resource officer of the Port to be included in Mr.
45 Tillotson’s personnel file.

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