

9/18/07

RESOLUTION NO. 14-2007 (REVISED)

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VINCENNES, INDIANA IN SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN ACTION OF THE FEDERAL STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AND WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

Reflecting the need to assert a deserved historical position for the region of Vincennes, the Vincennes Common Council wishes to express strong support for the pending Federal Act (S 798 IS) creating a national Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. This expression of support includes the authorization and creation of a local Bicentennial Commission to both co-operate with and provide a regional leadership role for the Federal Commission in performance of its services.

The region around and now occupied by the city of Vincennes played a pivotal role in the development of the western frontier of the United States. The Common Council recognizes that the importance of this pivotal role does not presently enjoy a deserved position in traditional historical accounts of the development and expansion of the United States. For example, in 1810 and 1811, critically important conferences took place in Vincennes between Indiana Territory Governor William Henry Harrison and noted Indian leader Tecumseh, the latter seeking to forge a continent-wide confederation of tribes, not unlike the political structure of the United States.

The conferences, which attempted to settle major land disputes between American settlers and various Indian tribes, were unsuccessful. This failure was a contributing factor to the War of 1812. Famous historian Edwin C. Bearss refers to this conflict as *The Second War of Independence*.

The Battle of Tippecanoe, was a critical event and decisive factor that resulted from these failed conferences. It is the intent of this local commission to provide relevant information in a timely manner to correctly reflect the role these conferences played.

The legislation currently pending in Congress seeks to produce a new study that thoroughly documents the events and remaining historical elements surrounding the War of 1812, including such elements within the state of Indiana. The pending Act suggests that appropriate development heritage-related tourism and economic benefits can result.

The membership of the Commission is selected in the manner described in the proposed Act while encouraging participation of named states (including Indiana) and the subdivision of those states. Indiana state government officials have established a committee with State and local members and the Common Council seeks to proactively assist with the process of the Hoosier state being appropriately recognized for its critical role in the events leading up to the War of 1812.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VINCENNES, INDIANA THAT:

Resolved, this council affirms support for a local commission made up of residents of Vincennes and Knox County who represent all points of view related to the War of 1812 time period and to be selected by Mayor Mooney to:

1. Co-operate with and provide a leadership role as appropriate with the proposal Federal Commission in performance of its duties, and
2. Appropriately and proactively emphasize national attention to the critical history of the Vincennes region, and
3. Engage with local, state and national authorities to secure and preserve appropriate recognition of the role of the Vincennes region in both the War of 1812 and the westward expansion of the United States, and
4. Take appropriate steps to fully investigate and secure the possible economic benefits of development the heritage-based tourism opportunities that will appeal to the broadest possible audience, and
5. Identify and secure existing heritage resources that can benefit this development for both the short- and long-term, and
6. Engage with the Federal Commission and any subsequent Indiana state authorities to “encourage civic, patriotic, historical, educational, religious, economic, tourism, and other organizations throughout the United States to organize and participate in the

commemoration to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the War of 1812” as mandated by the proposed Federal Act, and
7. Support the Federal Commission to “ensure that War of 1812 commemorations provide a lasting legacy and long-term public benefit leading to protection of the natural and cultural resources associated with the War of 1812” as mandated by the proposed Act.

PASSED by the common council this ___ day of _____, 2007 by a vote of ___ to ___ with ___ abstaining.

Terry Mooney
President Officer
ATTEST:

Beverly Marsh
City Clerk-Treasurer

Presented to me to the Mayor of the City of Vincennes, Indiana on the ___ day of _____, 2007, at the hour of _____:_____ m.

Beverly Marsh, City Clerk-Treasurer

This resolution approved and signed by me on the ___ day of _____, 2007 at the hour of ___:___ .m.

Terry Mooney, Presiding Officer

Attested:

Beverly Marsh, City-Clerk Treasurer
