

CITY OF NEWPORT, OREGON  
"COAST GUARD CITY, USA"

RESOLUTION NO. 3692

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PRESERVATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AIR FACILITY  
AT NEWPORT, OREGON

WHEREAS, The City of Newport, Oregon is located on the Yaquina Bay and has been home to various United States Coast Guard facilities since the late 1800's including lighthouses, the Yaquina Bay Coast Guard Station, and the Newport Air Facility located at the Newport Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, A collaborative effort was led by the Newport Fishermen's Wives, supported by other commercial and recreational maritime interests, to address the significant safety risks that have led to much loss of life of commercial fisherman and recreational boaters off the central coast of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, In response to these efforts, the United States Coast Guard stationed a helicopter in Newport in 1987 and with the donation of land by the City of Newport on September 10, 1991, constructed a permanent air station facility at the Newport Municipal Airport; and

WHEREAS, Yaquina Bay and the central Oregon coast is home to a very large and active commercial fishing fleet, with 130 million pounds of seafood being offloaded at the Port of Newport in 2013; and hosts a significant number of recreational boaters. In addition, heavily visited beaches stretch along the coast which from time to time require quick and timely responses for individuals who can get caught in the surf; and

WHEREAS, The Newport Air Facility has participated in numerous marine emergency responses involving the commercial fishing industry, recreational boaters, near shore beach rescues, and other responses where the shorter response time for the central Oregon coast can make the difference between conducting a rescue or a recovery; and

WHEREAS, The City of Newport has enjoyed a collaborative relationship with the United States Coast Guard that was recognized on March 28, 2005 through designating Newport, Oregon as one of 16 local governments with the title, "Coast Guard City, USA;" and

WHEREAS, Without any discussions with local officials or stakeholders, the United States Coast Guard announced in a letter dated October 2, 2014, that the Air Facility in Newport would be closed on November 30, 2014;

WHEREAS, The mission statement of the United States Coast Guard is to provide for "the well-being, general safety, security, and interests of the citizens of the United States;" and

WHEREAS, The pronouncement by the United States Coast Guard that it will close the Newport Air Facility effective November 30, 2014, jeopardizes the security of the fishing community, recreational boaters, and all the residents of,

and visitors to, the City of Newport, and runs contrary to the United States Coast Guard's own mission statement;

THE CITY OF NEWPORT RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The City Council of the City of Newport expresses its grave concern over the safety impacts to a wide range of maritime activities that will occur after the closure of the United States Coast Guard Air Facility in Newport, Oregon, and the City Council formally asks the United States Coast Guard to reverse its decision of October 2, 2014 to close this facility, and that the City Council also requests assistance from U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, and U.S. Senator Ron Wyden to assure that timely emergency maritime response will remain available for the central Oregon coast through continued operation of the Newport Air Facility.

Adopted by the Newport City Council on October 6, 2014.

  
Sandra N. Roumagoux, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Margaret M. Hawker, City Recorder