

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$50,000 TO OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF TOLLS ON THE DOWNTOWN AND MIDTOWN TUNNELS AND ON THE MARTIN LUTHER KING CONNECTOR.**

**WHEREAS**, the proposed tolling of the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels and the Martin Luther King Connector will have significantly detrimental social and economic effects on Portsmouth's residents, business operators, and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed tolls will restrict travel between Portsmouth and the cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach, causing existing Portsmouth businesses to be deprived of non-Portsmouth customers and new businesses to be discouraged from locating in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the onerous method of collecting tolls will penalize infrequent business and private visitors to the City, tourists, and economically disadvantaged residents of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection and promotion of the City's economic interests are the primary mission of the Economic Development Authority and is authorized in Section 15.2-4905 of the Code of Virginia.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Economic Development Authority of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia that it hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$50,000 to oppose the imposition of tolls on the Downtown and Midtown Tunnels and on the Martin Luther King Connector.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such funds be expended in support of the pending lawsuit, Meeks, et al. v. VDOT, et al., in the Circuit Court for the City of Portsmouth and in a manner consistent with prudent fiscal practices and the best interests of the City and the Authority.

**ADOPTED** by the Economic Development Authority of the City of Portsmouth, Virginia at a meeting held on March 19, 2013.