

RESOLUTION NO. 218-13

BY: **LARRY NAPOLI**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KEEPING
ASIAN CARP OUT OF THE GREAT LAKES,
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence represents the largest body of surface fresh water in the world and are a vibrant, diverse ecosystem that is critically important to the economic well-being and quality of life of the Canadian and U.S. populations in the region;

WHEREAS, over 180 invasive species have entered the Great Lakes and its connecting water ways over the years and caused widespread damage and disruption to the natural balance of the system, as well as significant economic damage;

WHEREAS, one of the most serious threats ever presented by invasive species currently comes from Asian carp, including silver, bighead and black varieties;

WHEREAS, these varieties of carp were introduced to the southern United States for use in fish farms for algae control in the 1970's and escaped into the Mississippi River system;

WHEREAS, invasive species have already inflicted hundreds of millions in damage across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, and invasive carp pose a serious threat to the \$7 billion sport and commercial fishery that support the economy and help define the culture of the entire region;

WHEREAS, the invasive carp have migrated northward through the Mississippi River system as far north as Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, reducing significantly or eliminating populations of the more desirable species of fish because of their voracious food consumption and prolific reproduction;

WHEREAS, the invasive carp are threatening to enter the Great Lakes at a number of points across the region;

WHEREAS, many federal, state, provincial and local government agencies in the United States and Canada have worked diligently and expended tens of millions of dollars over the past ten (10) years on a variety of projects to keep invasive carp out of the Great Lakes;

WHEREAS, including invasive carp, there are 39 invasive species in the two basins that present a threat to cross over into the other basin in the near future;

WHEREAS, once an invasive species establishes itself in an ecosystem, it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate it, and it often inflicts serious damage on the ecosystem and imposes major costs in efforts to control it;

WHEREAS, Asian carp pose a dangerous risk of injury to recreational users on waters infested with Asian carp;

WHEREAS, Canadian and U.S. citizens across the basin have expressed serious concern about the invasive carp and other invasive species, and are demanding prompt action;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a multiyear, comprehensive study across the U.S. side of the Great Lakes basin called the “Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study” (GLMRIS) that examines 19 separate locations where invasive carp could cross from the Mississippi River Basin to the Great Lakes Basin, and considers a large number of potential ways to stop the further migration;

WHEREAS, the invasive carp in the Mississippi River system pose one of the greatest threats to the integrity and well-being of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, including the 40 million Canadians and Americans who live there;

WHEREAS, physical separation is the most effective way to keep invasive carp from entering Lake Michigan through the Chicago Area Waterway System, and such barriers would also prevent the movement of many other invasive species from one basin to the other;

WHEREAS, physical separation is feasible and can be done in a way that maintains or enhances water quality, flood control and transportation in the system;

WHEREAS, additional steps must be taken in the interim to keep invasive carp out while the long-term solution is put in place;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers efforts to keep Asian carp from invading U.S. and Canadian waterways, including the Great Lakes basin.

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a true and accurate copy of this Resolution to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, U.S. House of Representatives Jim Renacci and Marcy Kaptur.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary to prevent the invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence ecosystem, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____ PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____ APPROVED: _____
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH
THE MAYOR: _____ MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO