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RESOLUTION NO. 2020- 489

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE RETURN OF DAILY TRAIN SERVICE BY AMTRAK TO TAMPA UNION STATION AS SOON AS PRACTICAL, UNDERSCORING THE IMPORTANCE OF AMTRAK SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF TAMPA; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on July 6, 2020, Amtrak reduced the operation of the passenger train service which serves Tampa, the Silver Star, from daily to three times per week; and

**WHEREAS**, Tampa residents and visitors alike utilize this popular rail service from our historic restored train station, built in 1912 and owned by the City of Tampa; and

**WHEREAS**, during the prior Federal fiscal year, over 110,000 people, visitors and City of Tampa residents, rode the Silver Star to and from Tampa Union Station; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has stated that these cuts are temporary and due to reasons related to the national economy and diminished travel patterns due to COVID-19, but has provided no definite date for the service to resume; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tampa City Council believes residents, visitors and businesses all benefit from Amtrak service provided to and from our city, and believes daily Amtrak train service should return as soon as possible.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAMPA, FLORIDA:**

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Tampa hereby urges Amtrak management to return daily passenger train service to Tampa Union Station as soon as practical, and provide a definite start date for the resumption of such daily passenger train service.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to William J. Flynn, President and Chief Executive Officer of Amtrak.

Section 3. That the proper officers of the City of Tampa are hereby authorized to do all things necessary and proper in order to carry out and make effective the provisions of this resolution.

Section 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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