



# GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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RESORTQUEST

## A Resolution of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce requesting that the City of Valparaiso withdraw their lawsuit against the United States Air Force

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) including the Military Affairs Committee (MAC) of the organization believes a constructive relationship between the United States Military and its surrounding communities is absolutely essential to the military and to the communities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber and the MAC have a long tradition of avoiding local government politics, preferring instead to allow individual businesses and citizens to express individual opinions and concerns to the municipalities individually;

The Chamber and the MAC would register an opinion regarding a local political issue only if its members were unanimous about a matter of great public importance, and

The Chamber and the MAC considers the lawsuit by the City of Valparaiso against the United States Air Force to be ill-advised, counterproductive, and of such public importance as to demand a response by this group, and

**WHEREAS**, every local government and community has a long record of efforts to pursue the military, the Congress, and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), that our military presence and their missions should be maintained and strengthened, and

The lawsuit filed by the City of Valparaiso could delay or significantly weaken the military presence at Eglin Air Force Base, and cause negative economic impact to our communities, and

**WHEREAS**, the Chamber and the MAC believe there are alternate, more constructive ways to achieve a long-term beneficial relationship without the lawsuit presently authorized to be filed;

We believe alternate efforts, including mitigation, if made in good faith outside a courtroom, have a higher probability of success than lawsuits, without risking the benefits we receive from the military and,



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Alternative approaches working with the United States Air Force will accomplish one of the Broad Strategic Goals that the Valparaiso City Commission unanimously approved as part of their most recent Strategic Plan;

### NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED:

The Chamber and the MAC repeat our previous endorsement and support of our neighbor, Eglin Air Force Base, and its present plans to expand and accommodate the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program.

We now unanimously express our disapproval and request withdrawal of the lawsuit authorized to be filed by the City of Valparaiso against the United States Air Force regarding their Record of Decision and plans for bed down of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter force at Eglin Air Force Base, and

We urge the Commissioners of the City of Valparaiso to reconsider their authorization to file lawsuits that the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and Military Affairs Committee unanimously believe in the strongest terms, is unnecessary and destructive for our communities.

**Adopted this 1st day of March, 2009**

Alan Gieseman, Chair of the Board  
CEO, White-Wilson Medical Center

Kathy Houchins, Military Affairs Committee Chair

**ATTEST:**

Ted Corcoran, President / CEO