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RESOLUTION NO. 2015-105

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING, URGING THE COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER THE RESUMPTION OF BEAR HUNTING IN FLORIDA AND THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO INTERVENE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (Sponsored by Mayor Eugene Flinn)

WHEREAS, the Village of Palmetto Bay and its citizens endeavor to be good stewards of the environment and its resources, including its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC) removed the Florida black bear from Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the FFWC adopted a Bear Management Plan Rule that included a bear hunt; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 FFWC Rule, by its very nature in granting unlimited permits, created a mechanism that allowed the killing of more than the stated limitation of bears. Realistic monitoring measures were not in place to ensure that the thousands of anticipated hunters would cease their efforts when reaching the Bear Management Unit limits. Additionally, the State taxed hunters for more permits than the bears that they were allowed to kill; and

WHEREAS, the FFWC's decision to allow bear hunting was based on outdated (13 year old) data; and

WHEREAS, this decision created overwhelming opposition from citizens and environmental groups throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 hunt, lactating female bears were killed, leaving orphaned cubs living in the wild as prey; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 hunt, actual kill rates far exceeded approved quotas in two of the four Bear Management Units (BMUs); and

WHEREAS, future bear hunts will serve to thwart and undo the past efforts of the FFWC and others to promote this previously endangered or threatened species; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Palmetto Bay would like to recognize FFWC Commissioner Ron Bergeron for his stance in opposing the bear hunt in Florida and speaking out against the ruling.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE OF
2 PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA, THAT:

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4 Section 1. The Village of Palmetto Bay does hereby urge the FFWC to refrain
5 from approving future bear hunts.
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7 Section 2. The Village Council further resolves and requests that the Governor of
8 the State of Florida and the State Legislature intervene as may be appropriate to address the
9 concerns stated herein.
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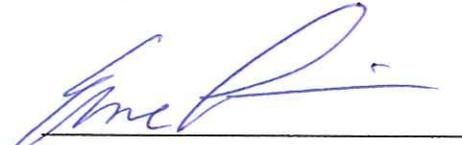
11 Section 3. The Village Council does further direct the Village Clerk to send copies
12 of this Resolution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Governor Rick Scott, Florida
13 Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Florida Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli.
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15 Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and
16 adoption.
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18 **PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this 7th day of December, 2015.
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22 Attest:


23 Meighan J. Alexander
24 Village Clerk
25
26


27 Eugene Flinn
28 Mayor
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30 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE AND
31 RELIANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF PALMETTO BAY, FLORIDA ONLY:
32


33 Dexter W. Lehtinen
34 Village Attorney
35

36 FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:
37

38 Council Member Karyn Cunningham YES
39
40 Council Member Tim Schaffer NO
41
42 Council Member Larissa Siegel Lara YES
43
44 Vice-Mayor John DuBois YES
45
46 Mayor Eugene Flinn YES