

**CITY OF CLERMONT
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-35**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLERMONT, LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING, URGING THE COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER ITS ADOPTED RULE AND THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO INTERVENE; AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF SPEAK UP WEKIVA, INC. CHALLENGING THE ACTION OF THE COMMISSION AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Clermont and its citizens endeavor to be good stewards of the area environment and its resources, including its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 by Rule the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC) adopted Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule which included the Florida black bear; and

WHEREAS, due to the conservation efforts of the FFWC, wildlife preservation groups and the general public, the Florida black bear population has grown and the black bear was removed from the list of endangered or threatened species; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the FFWC adopted by a 3 to 2 vote a Bear Management Plan Rule which includes a limited bear hunt for the purposes of controlling the number of bears in certain portions of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, one of the stated purposes of the limited bear hunt is to manage the population of bears in certain areas called Bear Management Units; and

WHEREAS, the City of Clermont is located in the Central Bear Management Unit; and

WHEREAS, the FFWC limited bear hunt provides, among other things, that the limited hunt shall begin on October 24, 2015; that the hunt shall continue for a minimum of 48 hours; that unlimited hunting permits can be issued; and that 320 bears can be taken or killed during the hunt, including 100 in the Central Bear Management Unit; and

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WHEREAS, the FFWC Rule by its very nature in granting unlimited permits and allowing for a minimum period for the hunt, creates a mechanism where it is likely that more than the stated limitation of bears will be killed as realistic monitoring measures are not in place to ensure that the thousands of anticipated hunters will cease their efforts when the limit has been reached in each Bear Management Unit; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the FFWC Rule has not been adequately drafted with appropriate safeguards to ensure and prevent the unnecessary killing of bears; and

WHEREAS, the bear hunt will serve to thwart and undo the efforts of the FFWC and others to promote this previously endangered species; and

WHEREAS, Speak Up Wekiva, Inc. has filed an action against FFWC seeking a permanent injunction and requesting the Leon County Circuit Court stop the bear hunt.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Clermont, Lake County, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1.

The above-referenced Whereas Clauses are adopted and made a part of the body of this Resolution as if restated herein.

SECTION 2.

The City Council does hereby support the efforts of Speak Up Wekiva, Inc. to overturn the action of the FFWC and to enjoin the pending bear hunt and urges the FFWC to reverse its previous action. The Council further resolves and requests that the Governor of the State of Florida and the State Legislature intervene as may be appropriate to address the concerns stated herein.

SECTION 3.

The City Council does further direct the City Clerk to send certified copies of this Resolution to Brian S. Yablonski; Chairman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Speak Up Wekiva, Inc., Governor Rick Scott, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Florida Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli.

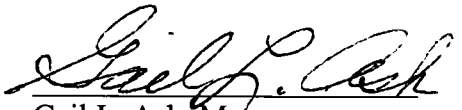
**CITY OF CLERMONT
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SECTION 3.

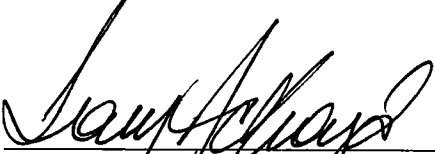
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Clermont, Lake County, Florida, on this 24th day of September, 2015.

CITY OF CLERMONT


Gail L. Ash, Mayor

ATTEST:


Tracy Ackroyd, City Clerk





TRACY ACKROYD, MMC
City Clerk

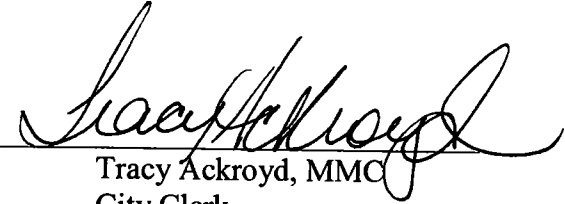
352-241-7330
Tackroyd@clermontfl.org

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STEVE CRISAFULLI, SPEAKER
FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
402 SOUTH MONROE STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-1300

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LAKE

I, the undersigned duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Clermont, Florida, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of RESOLUTION 2015-35, reviewed and approved by the Clermont City Council on September 24, 2015, as shown in the records of the City on file in the office of the City Clerk.

WITNESS my hand and official seal of the City of Clermont, Florida, on this 25th day of September, 2015.


Tracy Ackroyd, MMC
City Clerk



TRACY ACKROYD, MMC
City Clerk

352-241-7330
Tackroyd@clermontfl.org

FLORIDA SENATE
PRESIDENT ANDY GARDINER
404 S. MONROE STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-1100

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LAKE

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WITNESS my hand and official seal of the City of Clermont, Florida, on this 25th day of September, 2015.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tracy Ackroyd", written over a horizontal line.

Tracy Ackroyd, MMC
City Clerk



TRACY ACKROYD, MMC
City Clerk

352-241-7330
Tackroyd@clermontfl.org

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT
STATE OF FLORIDA
THE CAPITOL
400 S. MONROE ST.
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399-0001

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LAKE

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Tracy Ackroyd, MMC
City Clerk



TRACY ACKROYD, MMC
City Clerk

352-241-7330
Tackroyd@clermontfl.org

SPEAK UP WEKIVA, INC.
P.O. BOX 6196
LONGWOOD, FL 32791-6196

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LAKE

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Tracy Ackroyd, MMC
City Clerk



TRACY ACKROYD, MMC
City Clerk

352-241-7330
Tackroyd@clermontfl.org

BRIAN S. YABLONSKI, CHAIRMAN
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FARRIS BRYANT BUILDING
620 S. MERIDIAN ST.
TALLAHASSEE, FL

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LAKE

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Tracy Ackroyd, MMC
City Clerk