

City of Deltona

John Masiarczyk
Mayor

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Vice Mayor
District 4

Commissioners:

Mitch Honaker
District 1

Diane Smith
District 2

Heidi Herzberg
District 3

Brian Soukup
District 5

Chris Nabicht
District 6

City Manager
Jane K. Shang

October 13, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The City Commission of the City of Deltona has instructed me to inform you that it supports 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 City Commission further requests that the Governor of the State of Florida and the State Legislature intervene as may be appropriate to address the concerns stated hereinafter.

The City Commission bases its request on the following:

1. The City of Deltona and its citizen endeavor to be good stewards of the area environment and its resources, including its wildlife; and
2. 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
3. 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
4. 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
5. One of the stated purposed of the limited bear hunt is to manage the population of bears in certain areas called Bear Management Units; and
6. The City of Deltona is located in the Central Bear Management Unit; and
7. The FFWC limited bear hunt provides, among other things, that the limited hunt shall begin on October 25, 2015; that the hunt shall continue

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & COMMISSION

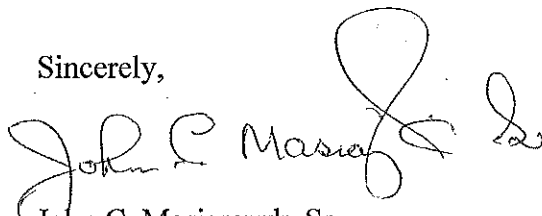
Deltona Municipal Complex 2345 Providence Blvd. Deltona FL 32725
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for a minimum of 48 hours; that unlimited hunting permits can be issued; and that 320 bears can be taken or killed during the hunt, including 100 in the Central Bear Management Unit; and

8. 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
9. It appears that the FFWC Rule has not been adequately drafted with appropriate safeguards to ensure and prevent the unnecessary killing of bears; and
10. The bear hunt will serve to thwart and undo the efforts of the FFWC and others to promote this previously endangered species; and
11. Speak Up Wekiva, Inc. has filed an action against FFWC seeking a permanent injunction and requesting the Leon County Circuit Court to stop the bear hunt.

Thank you for any actions you may take that support the position of the City of Deltona in this matter.

Sincerely,



John C. Masiarczyk, Sr.
Mayor

cc: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Speak Up Wekiva, Inc.