

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-40**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF EUSTIS, FLORIDA; URGING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO REINSTATE THE PROHIBITION ON BEAR HUNTING THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON REMOVING CONFLICTS BETWEEN BEARS AND SUBURBAN AREAS THROUGH DETERRENT TECHNIQUES.**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State Constitution, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (the "Commission") has regulatory and executive powers over wild animal life, which includes the regulation of bear hunting; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2015, the Commission approved bear hunting in certain regions throughout the State of Florida, including the East Panhandle, North, Central and South regions, reversing the statewide ban on bear hunting in place since 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission approved bear hunting without the benefit of a statewide bear count that was slated for completion in 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the killing of a total of 304 bears in just the first two days of a planned week-long hunt was documented during the 2015 season; and

**WHEREAS**, the first hunt in 21 years was ended early because the number of Florida black bears in the East Panhandle was three times the established quota and the number of bears killed in Central Florida exceeded the limit by nearly 40 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, accounts of unreported killings of bears, bears suffering a slow death, and the killing of lactating bears, which was forbidden, likely increased the death toll; and

**WHEREAS**, the black bear is the only bear found in Florida and is estimated to have a total population of approximately 3,000 throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the bear population is not sufficient to sustain hunting throughout the state, having been listed as a threatened species until 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, black bears tend to avoid confrontation with humans; and

**WHEREAS**, although the bears foraging for food may lead to their unintentional presence in suburban areas, precautionary methods may help prevent their return; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission Director of Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Thomas Eason, noted that the more than two decades of no bear hunting has made Florida black bears "relatively naive" to the danger of hunters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission should prohibit bear hunting statewide and focus on providing "bear-proof garbage cans";

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Florida, as follows:

Section 1: The City Commission, on behalf of the City of Eustis and its citizens, urges the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to reinstate the prohibition on bear hunting throughout the State of Florida and focus more attention on removing conflicts between bears and suburban areas through deterrent techniques.

Section 2: The City Commission directs the City Clerk to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Commissioners and Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**DONE AND RESOLVED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, in regular session of the City Commission of the City of Eustis, Florida.

**CITY COMMISSION OF THE  
CITY OF EUSTIS, FLORIDA**



Michael L. Holland  
Mayor/Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Mary C. Montez, City Clerk

**CITY OF EUSTIS CERTIFICATION**

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF LAKE**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016, by Michael L. Holland, Mayor, and Mary C. Montez, City Clerk, who are personally known to me.



Serita Hill

Notary Public - State of Florida  
My Commission Expires: Aug 20, 2016  
Notary Serial No: EE 219006

**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

This document is approved as to form and legal content, but I have not performed an independent Title examination as to the accuracy of the Legal Descriptions.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney's Office

5/5/2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

The foregoing Resolution No. 16-40 is hereby approved, and I certify that I published the same by posting one copy hereof at City Hall, one copy hereof at the Eustis Memorial Library, and one copy hereof at the Eustis Service Center, all within the corporate limits of the City of Eustis, Lake County, Florida.

Mary C. Montez  
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Mary C. Montez, City Clerk