

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE ACTION BY THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING; REQUESTING THE INTERVENTION OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS: The City of Fort Myers 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; and

WHEREAS: 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; and

WHEREAS: 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WHEREAS: The FFWC's decision to allow bear hunting was based on outdated 13 year old data; and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 bear hunt, lactating female bears were killed, leaving orphaned cubs living in the wild as prey; and

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12

WHEREAS: During the 2015 bear hunt, actual kill rates far exceeded approved quotas in two of the four Bear Management Units; 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 City of Fort Myers and its citizens would like to recognize FFWC Commissioner Ron Bergeron for his stance in opposing the bear hunt in Florida and speaking out against the ruling.

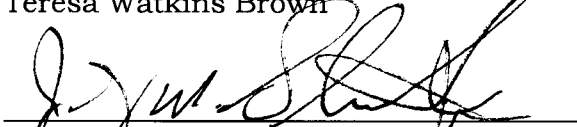
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA, that:

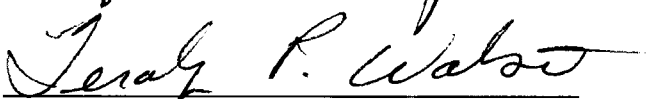
1. The City of Fort Myers does hereby urge the FFWC to refrain from approving future bear hunts.
2. The City Council requests that the Governor of the State of Florida and the State Legislature intervene as may be appropriate to address the concerns stated herein.
3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Governor Rick Scott, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Florida Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli.
4. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

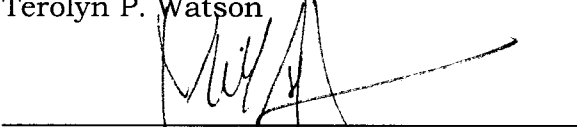
RESOLUTION NO. 2016-12

PASSED IN PUBLIC SESSION of the City Council of the City of
Fort Myers, Florida, this 16th day of May, A.D., 2016.


Aye 
Teresa Watkins Brown

Aye 
Johnny W. Streets, Jr.

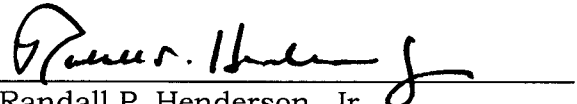
Aye 
Terolyn P. Watson

Aye 
Michael Flanders

Forrest Banks

Aye 
Gaile H. Anthony
Council Members

APPROVED this 16th day of May, A.D., 2016, at
7:18 o'clock p.m.

Aye 
Randall P. Henderson, Jr.
Mayor

FILED in the Office of the City Clerk this 16th day of May, A.D.,
2016.


Marie Adams, MMC
City Clerk