

R16-066

RESOLUTION

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RESOLUTION NO. R16-066

**A RESOLUTION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; OPPOSING THE HUNTING OF THE
FLORIDA BLACK BEAR IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Upon motion by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Beckner, the following Resolution was adopted on this 2nd day of June, 2016, by a vote of 6 to 0, Commissioner _____ voting "No."

WHEREAS, hunting is a popular pastime in the State of Florida with deer, turkey, and feral hogs being commonly hunted species; and

WHEREAS, each of the above mentioned species have sustainable population counts with habitats that are actively managed for purposes of maintaining a sustainable hunting resource. In fact, because feral hogs are an invasive species, the hunting of them provides for a benefit to our native ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, even the American alligator, which was once listed on both the Federal and State endangered species lists, now has a Florida population totaling over one million, which provides for a sustainable hunting resource; and

WHEREAS, certain migratory birds and multiple other species serve as sustainable hunting resources for sportsmen across the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners supports hunting, in so long as it is done legally and sustainably; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners does not support hunting activity that is illegal or involves unsustainable resources; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners supports the conservation of native Florida ecosystems and wildlife, so that they may be enjoyed by

generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Florida black bear has a state population of only approximately 4,500, which are generally confined to fragmented ecosystems. In fact, the Florida black bear was a State-listed threatened species as recently as the year 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Florida black bear hunt seems to place the needs of particular interest groups above those of a vulnerable species that does not currently constitute a sustainable hunting resource; and

WHEREAS, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners questions both the rationale and supporting data used by the State to advocate for a black bear hunt in Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners opposes an open hunting season on Florida black bear at this time given the current population count, current fragmented habitat conditions, concerns regarding conservation efforts, and concerns regarding the methodology, and supporting data, used to justify the hunt.

Section 2. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE, 2016.

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, Pat Frank, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Ex Officio Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County, Florida, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board at its regular meeting of June 2, 2016, as the same appears of record in Minute Book 481 of the Public Records of Hillsborough County, Florida.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 3rd day of June, 2016.

ATTEST PAT FRANK
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Diana M. Leon
Deputy Clerk



Approved as to form and legal sufficiency
Mary Helen Fawcett
General Counsel