

ALACHUA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION 2016-64**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING; URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO INTERVENE; PROHIBITING BLACK BEAR HUNTING ON COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY; SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE ALACHUA CONSERVATION TRUST TO OPPOSE BLACK BEAR HUNTING; NOTIFYING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF ALACHUA COUNTY'S OPPOSITION TO THE BEAR HUNT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Alachua County and its citizens endeavor to be good stewards of the environment and its resources, including its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ("FWC") maintains Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List, which, prior to 2012, included the Florida black bear; and

WHEREAS, due to the conservation efforts of the FWC, 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 2012, the FWC adopted a Bear Management Plan, which included the consideration of a limited bear hunt for the purposes of controlling the number of black bears in certain portions of the State; and

WHEREAS, one of the stated purposes of the limited bear hunt is to manage the

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Resolution Opposing Black Bear Hunts in Florida

1 population of bears in certain areas called Bear Management Units; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2015, FWC authorized a limited hunt of the Florida black bear; and

3 WHEREAS, the decision to allow a black bear hunt created an overwhelming outcry  
4 from many groups throughout Florida, including environmental groups; and

5 WHEREAS, the black bear hunt has the potential to adversely impact the health and  
6 ongoing recovery of the black bear population in Florida due to inadequate protections of  
7 lactating mother bears and juvenile bears; and

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

10 WHEREAS, Alachua County would like to recognize FWC Commissioner Ron Bergeron  
11 for his stance in opposing the black bear hunt in Florida.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
13 COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA:

14 1. That the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners supports the efforts of  
15 Alachua Conservation Trust to prohibit bear hunting on their property.

16 2. That the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners opposes the hunting of  
17 black bears and requests that the Governor of the State of Florida and the State Legislature  
18 intervene to address the concerns stated herein.

19 3. That the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, where not  
20 inconsistent with applicable State statutes, prohibits the recreational hunting of Florida black  
21 bears on Alachua County-owned property, to take immediate effect.

22 4. That the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners will send certified  
23 copies of this Resolution to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Chairman Brian

1 S. Yablonski, Governor Rick Scott, the President of the Florida Senate, and Speaker of the  
2 Florida House.

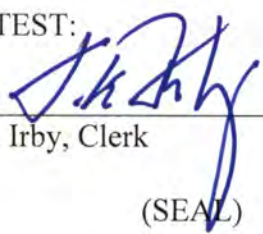
3 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.  
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5 DULY ADOPTED in regular session, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016.

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7 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
8 ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
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11 By:   
12 Robert Hutchinson, Chair  
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16 ATTEST:

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18 J.K. Irby, Clerk  
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(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM

  
Alachua County Attorney's Office