



PROCLAMATION

PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

OPPOSITION TO BEAR HUNTING

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

WHEREAS, in June 2015, the FWC 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 that had been in place since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the FWC approved the 2015 bear hunt without the benefit of a statewide bear count; and

WHEREAS, the first hunt in 21 years was ended early because the number of Florida black bears killed met or exceeded the quota; and

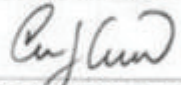
WHEREAS, the black bear is the only bear found in Florida and is estimated to have a total population of approximately 4,350 throughout the state; and


WHEREAS, the FWC should prohibit bear hunting and if bear hunting is to be allowed, any approval of future bear hunts should be based on recent population counts and scientific data;

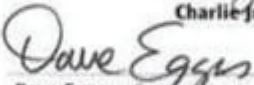
WHEREAS, if the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission insists on conducting a future bear hunt, the Central region of the state, which includes Pinellas County, should be excluded.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, that Pinellas County opposes bear hunting in the State of Florida.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have set our hands and caused the seal of Pinellas County, Florida to be affixed this 24th day of May, 2016.

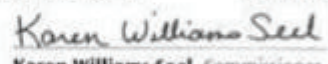

Charlie Justice, Chairman

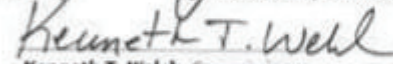

Janet C. Long, Vice Chairman


Dave Eggers, Commissioner


Pat Gerard, Commissioner


John Morroni, Commissioner


Karen Williams Seel, Commissioner


Kenneth T. Welch, Commissioner

