

RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-245

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF DAVIE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING, URGING THE COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER ITS ADOPTED RULE AND THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO INTERVENE; AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF SPEAK UP WEKIVA, INC. CHALLENGING THE ACTION OF THE COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

WHEREAS, in 2012 by Rule the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FFWC) adopted Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule which included the Florida black bear; and

WHEREAS, due to the conservation efforts of the FFWC, 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 2015 the FFWC adopted a Bear Management Plan Rule which includes a limited bear hunt for the purposes of controlling the number of bears in certain portions of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, one of the stated purposes of the limited bear hunt is to manage the population of bears in certain areas called Bear Management Units; and

WHEREAS, 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. 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WHEREAS, the FFWC's decision was based on outdated (13 yr. old) data; and WHEREAS, this decision created an overwhelming outcry from environmental groups throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, lactating female bears have been killed leaving orphaned cubs living in the wild as prey; and

WHEREAS, Juveniles were killed for trophy and it is evident that the FFWC Rule was inadequately drafted with no appropriate safeguards to ensure and prevent the unnecessary killing of bears; and

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

WHEREAS, the Town of Davie would like to recognize FFWC Commissioner Alligator 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 TOWN OF DAVIE, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Town Council does hereby support the efforts of Speak Up Wekiva, Inc. to overturn the action of the FFWC and to enjoin any future bear hunts and urges the FFWC to reverse its previous action.

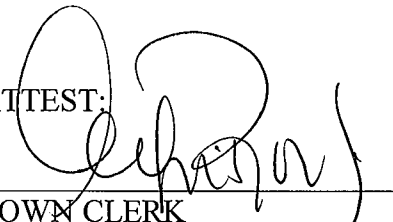
SECTION 2. The Town Council further resolves and requests that the Governor of the State of Florida and the State Legislature intervene as may be appropriate to address the concerns stated herein.


SECTION 3. The Town Council does further direct the Town Clerk to send certified copies of this Resolution to Brian S. Yablonski; Chairman, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Speak Up Wekiva, Inc., Governor Rick Scott, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Florida Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November, 2015.

ATTEST:

  
TOWN CLERK

  
MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBER

APPROVED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November, 2015.