

RESOLUTION NO. 16-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING; URGING THE COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER THE RESUMPTION OF BEAR HUNTING IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) removed the Florida Black Bear from the Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species list; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Cutler Bay Town Council (the "Town") and its residents endeavor to be good stewards of the environment and its natural resources, including its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2015, the FWC opened four (4) out of seven (7) Bear Management Units (BMUs) in Florida to allow black bear hunting, with a plan to "stabilize Florida's large, resilient and growing bear populations" and was expected to allow for a week long bear hunting season with the objective of killing up to 320 black bears; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 bear hunting season, lactating female bears were killed, leaving orphaned cubs living in the wild as prey; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 bear hunting season, 304 black bears were killed in less than one week and the FWC reported that the actual kill rates were exceeded in two (2) of the four (4) BMUs; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2015, the Mayor and Council of our neighboring municipality, Village of Palmetto Bay, adopted Village Resolution No. 2015-105, opposing the FWC's action to permit bear hunting and urging the FWC to reconsider the resumption of bear hunting in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council stands in solidarity with the Village of Palmetto Bay, other concerned municipalities and conservation groups throughout the State of Florida in opposing the FWC's action to permit bear hunting; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the adoption of this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Town Council Opposes. The Town Council opposes the FWC action to permit bear hunting in the State of Florida and urges the FWC to reconsider the resumption of bear hunting in Florida.

Section 3. Transmittal. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the State of Florida Governor Rick Scott, FWC Members, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Speaker of the House Steve Crisafulli.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 20th day of January, 2016.

Attest:

Jacqueline N. Wilson
JACQUELINE N. WILSON
Town Clerk

Peggy R. Bell
PEGGY R. BELL
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE SOLE
USE OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY:

Weiss Serota Helfman
WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
COLE & BIERMAN, P.L.
Town Attorney

Moved by: Council Member Coriat
Second by: Council Member Mixon

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION:

Mayor Peggy R. Bell	YES
Vice Mayor Ernest N. Sochin	YES
Council Member Roger Coriat	YES
Council Member Sue Ellen Loyzelle	YES
Council Member Mary Ann Mixon	YES