

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING; URGING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER THE RESUMPTION OF BEAR HUNTING IN FLORIDA; URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO INTERVENE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Safety Harbor and its citizens endeavor to be good stewards of the environment and its resources, including its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) removed the Florida black bear from Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species List; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the FWC adopted a Bear Management Plan Rule that included a bear hunt; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 FWC 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. Additionally, the state taxed hunters for more permits than the bears that they were allowed to kill; and

WHEREAS, the FWC's decision to allow bear hunting was based on outdated (13 year old) data; and

WHEREAS, this decision created overwhelming opposition from citizens and environmental groups throughout the State; and

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

WHEREAS, during the 2015 hunt, actual kill rates far exceeded approved quotas in two of the four Bear Management Units (BMUs); and

WHEREAS, future bear hunts will serve to thwart and undo the past efforts of the FWC and others to promote this previously endangered or threatened species; and

WHEREAS, the City of Safety Harbor would like to recognize FWC Commissioner 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 CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA, IN SESSION DULY AND REGULARLY ASSEMBLED THAT:

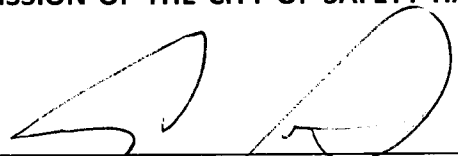
Section 1. The City of Safety Harbor does hereby urge the FWC to refrain from approving future bear hunts.

Section 2. The City Commission further urges 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 City Commission does further direct the City Clerk to send copies of this Resolution to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Governor Rick Scott, Florida Senate President Andy Gardiner, and Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Steve Crisafulli.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA, THIS 21st DAY OF MARCH, 2016.

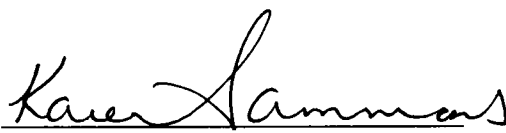


Mayor-Commissioner

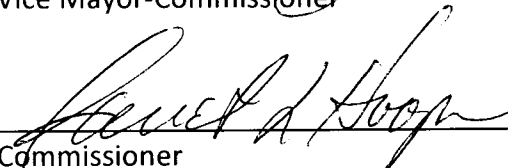


Vice Mayor-Commissioner

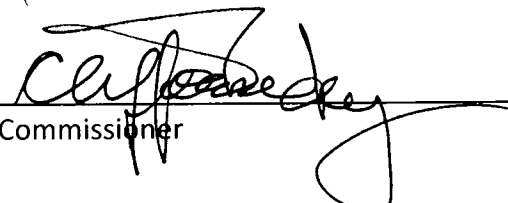
ATTEST:



City Clerk



Commissioner



Commissioner

ABSENT

Commissioner