

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 16-17**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA, STATING SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE BY THE VOTERS OF FORT MYERS BEACH AND LEE COUNTY OF THE REFERENDUM ITEM FOR CONSERVATION 20/20 WITH A “YES” VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 2016 GENERAL ELECTION AND ENCOURAGING SIMILAR SUPPORT OF CONSERVATION 20/20 BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Lee County’s successful Conservation 20/20 program is a willing-seller environmental land acquisition and stewardship program dedicated to preserving ecosystems for their natural resource value and providing environmentally compatible recreation opportunities for current and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conservation 20/20 land acquisition and stewardship program has acquired 24,930 acres in the past 20 years, since the program began in 1996; and

**WHEREAS**, conservation lands provide quality of life and environmental and economic benefits – such as protecting water resources, drinking water supplies and wildlife habitat- in addition to offering ecotourism and nature recreational opportunities for residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, outdoor recreation and tourism are two of Lee County’s most significant industries; with tourism having a 2.99 billion dollar economic impact in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, a “clean, unspoiled environment” is considered one of the top five reasons tourists choose to visit Lee County; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the current and future citizens of Fort Myers Beach and Lee County that Conservation 20/20 continue in order to protect the natural resources of Lee County by continuing to acquire, improve, restore and manage environmentally significant lands; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lee County and Fort Myers Beach have benefited from land conservation, management, and restoration programs funded through the Conservation 20/20 program; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued acquisition, management, and restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands should be a priority for Lee County; and

**WHEREAS**, Lee County has put the continuation of the Conservation 20/20 program to a referendum vote in the November 2016 general election asking for either “Yes-For” or “No-Against” votes; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Conservation 20/20 Non-Binding Referendum” ballot language reads as follows:

**DO YOU APPROVE OF LEE COUNTY CONTINUING TO USE GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS TO ACQUIRE, RESTORE, IMPROVE, AND MANAGE LAND FOR CONSERVATION, SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT, WATER QUALITY, WATER RECHARGE AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, WILDLIFE HABITAT, PASSIVE PUBLIC RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES,**

**PURSUANT TO LEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 15-08 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION 20/20 LAND PROGRAM)?**

**Now, therefore,** be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Lee County, Florida:

**Section 1.** The Council of Fort Myers Beach recognizes that lands in Lee County that have greenspace and environmentally important features are critical to the quality of life, general welfare and environmental and economic sustainability of the Village and County.

**Section 2.** The Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach supports Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program in order to enhance the quality of life throughout Lee County by preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, water resources and drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams.

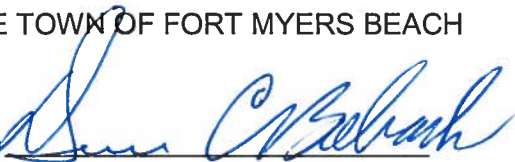
**Section 3.** The Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach desires to support this program by encouraging Town of Fort Myers Beach residents to vote affirmatively for the Conservation 20/20 referendum in the November 2016 election with a "Yes" vote. Further, the Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach encourages similar support of the Conservation 20/20 program by other voters of Lee County and other civic organizations.

**Section 4.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Town Council upon a motion by Council Member Cereceda and seconded by Vice Mayor Stockton, and upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

Dennis C. Boback, Mayor	aye	Summer Stockton, Vice Mayor	aye
Anita Cereceda, Council Member	aye	Rexann Hosafros, Council Member	aye
Tracey Gore, Council Member	aye		


DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June, 2016 BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

BY:   
Dennis C. Boback, Mayor

Approved as to legal form:

ATTEST:

  
Dawn Perry-Lehnert  
Town Attorney

  
Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk