

1 **VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA**

2
3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 14**

4
5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE**
6 **VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA, STATING SUPPORT FOR**
7 **PASSAGE BY THE VOTERS OF ESTERO AND LEE COUNTY**
8 **OF THE REFERENDUM ITEM FOR CONSERVATION 20/20**
9 **WITH A “YES” VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 2016 GENERAL**
10 **ELECTION AND ENCOURAGING SIMILAR SUPPORT OF**
11 **CONSERVATION 20/20 BY OTHER MUNICIPALITIES,**
12 **ORGANIZATIONS, AND VOTERS; AND PROVIDING AN**
13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

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

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

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

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

33
34 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the current and future citizens of the Village
35 of Estero and Lee County that Conservation 20/20 continue in order to protect the natural
36 resources of Lee County by continuing to acquire, improve, restore and manage
37 environmentally significant lands; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, Lee County and the Village of Estero have benefited from land
40 conservation, management, and restoration programs funded through the Conservation 20/20
41 program; and

42
43 **WHEREAS**, the continued acquisition, management, and restoration of natural
44 systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands
45 should be a priority for Lee County; and

46 WHEREAS, Lee County has put the continuation of the Conservation 20/20 program
47 to a referendum vote in the November 2016 general election asking for either “Yes-For” or
48 “No-Against” votes; and
49

50 WHEREAS, the “Conservation 20/20 Non-Binding Referendum” ballot language reads as
51 follows:
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53 **DO YOU APPROVE OF LEE COUNTY CONTINUING TO USE GENERAL**
54 **REVENUE FUNDS TO ACQUIRE, RESTORE, IMPROVE, AND MANAGE LAND**
55 **FOR CONSERVATION, SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT, WATER QUALITY,**
56 **WATER RECHARGE AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, WILDLIFE HABITAT,**
57 **PASSIVE PUBLIC RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES, PURSUANT TO**
58 **LEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 15-08 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE LEE COUNTY**
59 **CONSERVATION 20/20 LAND PROGRAM)?**
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61 **NOW, THEREFORE,** be it resolved by the Village Council of the Village of Estero,
62 Florida:
63

64 **Section 1.** The Council of the Village of Estero recognizes that lands in Lee County
65 that have greenspace and environmentally important features are critical to the quality of life,
66 general welfare and environmental and economic sustainability of the Village of Estero and
67 Lee County.
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69 **Section 2.** The Council of the Village of Estero supports Lee County’s
70 Conservation 20/20 program in order to enhance the quality of life throughout Lee County by
71 preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, water resources and
72 drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams.
73

74 **Section 3.** The Council of the Village of Estero desires to support this program by
75 encouraging the Village of Estero residents to vote affirmatively for the Conservation 20/20
76 referendum in the November 2016 election with a “Yes” vote. Further, the Council of the
77 Village of Estero encourages similar support of the Conservation 20/20 program by other
78 municipalities, civic organizations, and voters of Lee County.
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80 **Section 4.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.
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82 **ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL** of the Village of Estero, Florida this
83 22nd day of June, 2016.
84

85 Attest:

VILLAGE OF ESTERO, FLORIDA

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87
88 By: Kathy Hall
89 Kathy Hall, MMC, Village Clerk
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By: Nicholas Batos
Nicholas Batos, Mayor

91 Reviewed for legal sufficiency:

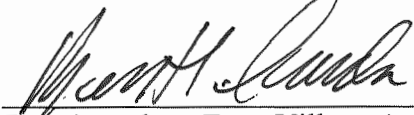
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By:



Burt Saunders, Esq., Village Attorney