

RESOLUTION 140 - 16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL STATING SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE BY THE VOTERS OF CAPE CORAL 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 MUNICIPALITIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND VOTERS; PROVIDING AN 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 the City of Cape Coral 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 the City of Cape Coral 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 CITY OF CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Cape Coral 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 City of Cape Coral and Lee County.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of Cape Coral 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 City Council of the City of Cape Coral desires to support this program by encouraging Cape Coral residents to vote affirmatively for the Conservation 20/20 referendum in the November 2016 election with a "Yes" vote. Further, the City Council encourages similar support of the Conservation 20/20 program by other municipalities, civic organizations, and voters of Lee County.

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

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAPE CORAL AT ITS REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION THIS 8th DAY OF August, 2016.


MARNI L. RETZER, MAYOR


VOTE OF MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS:

RETZER	<u>aye</u>	LEON	<u>aye</u>
BURCH	<u>aye</u>	ERBRICK	<u>aye</u>
CARIOSCIA	<u>aye</u>	WILLIAMS	<u>aye</u>
STOUT	<u>aye</u>	COSDEN	<u>aye</u>

ATTESTED TO AND FILED IN MY OFFICE THIS 16th DAY OF August, 2016.


REBECCA VAN DEUTEKOM,
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


DOLORES D. MENENDEZ
CITY ATTORNEY

res/Support Conservation 20/20 Referendum Item
7/26/16