

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE LEE COUNTY REFERENDUM ON CONTINUING THE CONSERVATION 20/20 PROGRAM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS: The Lee County Conservation 20/20 program has been successful in environmental land acquisition and stewardship dedicated to preserving ecosystems for their natural resource value and providing environmentally compatible recreation opportunities for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS: Through the Conservation 20/20 land acquisition and stewardship program 24,930 acres, more or less, has been acquired 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 the most significant industries in Lee County, with tourism having a 2.99 billion dollar economic impact in 2015; and

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

WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of the current and future citizens of the City of Fort Myers 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

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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 CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT MYERS, FLORIDA, that:

1. The City Council recognizes that lands in Lee County that have green space and environmentally important features are critical to the quality of life, general welfare, and environmental and economic sustainability of the City of Fort Myers.

2. The City Council supports Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program 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.

3. The City Council desires to support this program by encouraging the electors of the City of Fort Myers to vote affirmatively for the Conservation 20/20 referendum in the November 2016 election with a "Yes" vote.

4. The City Council encourages similar support of the Conservation 20/20 program by other voters of Lee County and other civic organizations.

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5. The City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Board of County Commissioners.

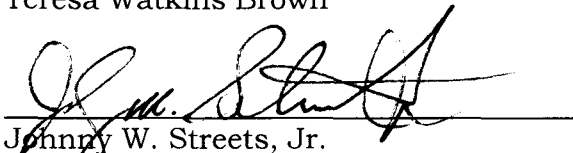
6. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

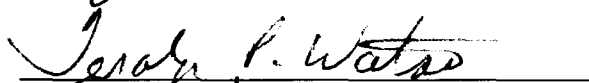
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PASSED IN PUBLIC SESSION of the City Council of the City of Fort

Myers, Florida, this 19th day of September, A.D., 2016.

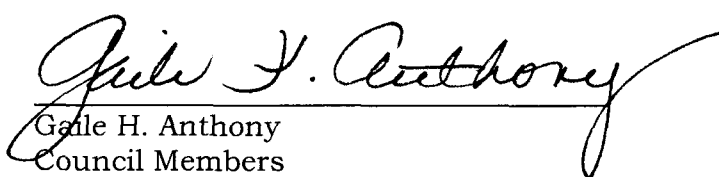
Aye 
Teresa Watkins Brown

Aye 
Johnny W. Streets, Jr.

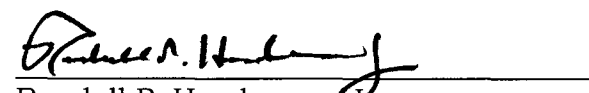
Aye 
Terolyn P. Watson

Aye 
Michael Flanders

Aye 
Forrest Banks

Aye 
Gale H. Anthony
Council Members

APPROVED this 19th day of September, A.D., 2016, at
5:35 o'clock p.m.

Aye 
Randall P. Henderson, Jr.
Mayor

FILED in the Office of the City Clerk this 19th day of September,
A.D., 2016.


Marie Adams, MMC
City Clerk