

CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION 16-062

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL, FLORIDA, STATING SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE BY THE VOTERS OF SANIBEL 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 the City of Sanibel 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 Sanibel 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 City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida:

SECTION 1. The Council of the City of Sanibel 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 Sanibel and Lee County.

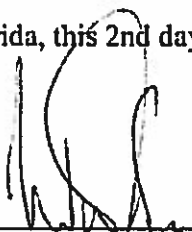
SECTION 2. The Council of the City of Sanibel supports Lee County's Conservation 20/20 program in order to enhance the quality of life throughout Lee County by preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, water resources and drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers,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

SECTION 3. The Council of the City of Sanibel desires to support this program by encouraging the City of Sanibel residents to vote affirmatively for the Conservation 20/20 referendum in the November 2016 election with a "Yes" vote. Further, the Council of the City of Sanibel 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.

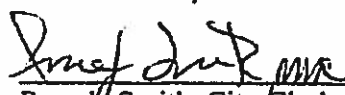
DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Sanibel,

Florida, this 2nd day of August, 2016.



Mick Denham, Vice Mayor

AUTHENTICATION:



Pamela Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 

Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney

7/21/16
Date

Vote of Council Members:

Ruane	<u>excused</u>
Denham	<u>aye</u>
Goss	<u>aye</u>
Harrity	<u>aye</u>
Jennings	<u>excused</u>

Date filed with City Clerk: August 2, 2016