

RESOLUTION No. 2008-43-730

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE REAUTHORIZATION OF FLORIDA'S COMMUNITIES TRUST; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever Program and its predecessor, the Preservation 2000 Program have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation and sustainability in Florida for this and future generations, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired over one million acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates \$300 million annually to purchase environmentally sensitive and other lands, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water managements districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners and others in achieving its conservation purposes, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through its partnerships with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Districts and others, produces benefits that include clean air and water; healthy fisheries and wildlife habitat; improved water supply protection; and protected open spaces including greenway corridors, park lands, forests and water bodies, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, directing development away from coastal high hazard areas and floodplains; fostering a healthier lifestyle for Floridians; and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$3 billion tourism industry that attract more than 70 million visitors each year, and

WHEREAS, 50 Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in the past decades, and these conservation finance programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of State land conservation funding, and

WHEREAS, Florida is experiencing rapid population growth, with approximately 1,100 new residents every day and Floridians demand a high quality of life that includes green space, access to water, pastoral settings and recreational opportunities, and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever and other land conservation programs must compete in Florida's market of surging land and housing prices, and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of Florida Forever has diminished because of escalating land prices and the impacts of inflation, and

WHEREAS, the funding for the Florida Forever Program will sunset in 2010, and

WHEREAS, research by the Florida Forever Coalition has found that over \$20 billion is currently needed to purchase parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas and open space for our state's increasing population, and

WHEREAS, a 2005 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that 78% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens declares its support to the State of Florida Legislature for the creation and funding of a successor program to the Florida Forever program and requests that its legislative delegation to advocate for the creation and funding of a successor program to Florida Forever.

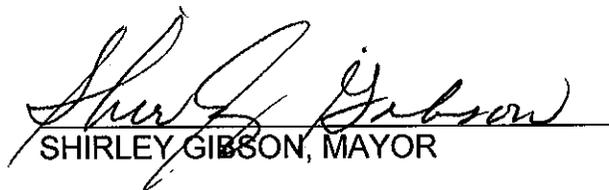
Section 3. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK: The City Clerk is hereby directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Florida Forever Program and to the Chairpersons of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 12, 2008.

ATTEST:


RONETTA TAYLOR, CMC, CITY CLERK


SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

PREPARED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.
City Attorney

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR SHIRLEY GIBSON

MOVED BY: Councilman Campbell
SECONDED BY: Councilman Bratton

VOTE: 5-1

Resolution No. 2008-43-730

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<input type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (No)
Councilman André Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Yes)	<input type="checkbox"/> (No)

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City of Miami Gardens

1515-200 NW 167th Street
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169



Mayor Shirley Gibson
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton
Councilman Aaron Campbell Jr.
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett
Councilman André Williams

Agenda Cover Page

Date: **March 12, 2008**

Fiscal Impact: No Yes

(If yes, explain in Staff Summary)

Funding Source: N/A

Contract/P.O. Requirement: Yes No

Sponsor Name/Department:

Mayor Shirley Gibson

Public hearing

Ordinance

1st Reading

Advertising requirement:

RFP/RFQ/Bid # N/A

Quasi-Judicial

Resolution

2nd Reading

Yes No

Title

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Staff Summary

The Florida Forever program is the state's land conservation grant program; it replaces the highly successful Preservation 2000 Program (P-2000), the largest program of its kind in the United States. P-2000 was responsible for the public acquisition, and protection, of 1,781,489 acres of land. The Florida Forever Program was created to extend its scope to include: restoration of damaged environmental systems, water resource development and supply, increased public access, public lands management and maintenance, and increased protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements.

The Florida Forever Program, through the Florida Communities Trust, has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources. The resource remains necessary as land conservation programs must compete in a land and housing market that has escalated dramatically in recent years.

**J-7) CONSENT AGENDA
RESOLUTION**

Florida Communities Trust

The Department of Environmental Affairs receives over \$100 million annually from the sale of Florida Forever bonds. Future funding from the sale of bonds depends on legislative action, but the Florida Forever Program is scheduled to continue to the year 2010.

The attached resolution expresses the City's support of the above referenced program and further advocates the creation of a successor program and applicable funding to the Florida Forever Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council approve the attached resolution in support to the Florida Legislature for the creation and funding of a successor program to the Florida Forever Program.