

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-R-65

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, JOINING OTHER FLORIDA MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES, AND CONSERVATION GROUPS IN OPPOSING THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE COMMISSION'S (FWC) ACTION TO PERMIT BEAR HUNTING AND URGING THE FWC TO RECONSIDER THE RESUMPTION OF BEAR HUNTING IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Black Bear is the only bear found in Florida and is estimated to have a total population of 4,350 adult bears; and

WHEREAS, the hunting of black bears was banned in 1994; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Florida Wildlife Commission ("FWC") removed the Florida Black Bear from the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species List; and

WHEREAS, in June 2015, after its 21 year ban, the FWC approved bear hunting in certain regions throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 black bear hunt was expected to last a week but was abruptly closed in just two days after a total of 304 bears were killed; and

WHEREAS, after the hunt, there were reports and accounts of lactating bears being killed during the hunt, leaving orphaned cubs living in the wild as prey; and

WHEREAS, these gruesome accounts concerning the hunt brought a negative light to the entire State of Florida and prompted an overwhelming outcry from individuals, governments, and environmental groups throughout the State and elsewhere;

WHEREAS, the City of North Miami ("City") and its residents endeavor to be good stewards of the environment and its natural resources, including its wildlife, both in the City and within the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City Council stands in solidarity with the Counties of Miami-Dade, Seminole, Clermont, Eustis, Deltona, and Hillsborough; municipalities such as the City of South Miami, the Town of Davie, the Village of Palmetto Bay, the Village of Biscayne Park and the

Town of Cutler Bay, and numerous other counties, municipalities and conservation groups throughout the State of Florida and beyond who have opposed the FWC's action in continuing to permit bear hunting and have passed resolutions to that effect; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the adoption of this Resolution is in the best interest and welfare of the residents of the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MIAMI, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. City Council Opposition. The Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, hereby oppose the FWC action to permit bear hunting in the State of Florida and urges the FWC to reconsider the resumption of bear hunting in Florida.

Section 3. Transmittal. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, Executive Director and Commissioners of the FWC, Florida Senate President, Speaker of the House and the City's State Lobbyist(s).

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a 4 - 0 vote of the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Miami, Florida, this 14th day of June, 2016.


DR. SMITH JOSEPH
MAYOR

ATTEST:



MICHAEL A. ETIENNE, ESQ.
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



JEFF P. H. CAZEAU, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY

SPONSORED BY: CITY ADMINISTRATION

Moved by: Galvin

Seconded by: Bien-Aime

Vote:

Mayor Smith Joseph, D.O., Pharm. D.
Vice Mayor Alix Desulme
Councilman Scott Galvin
Councilwoman Carol Keys, Esq.
Councilman Philippe Bien-Aime

<u> </u>	(Yes)	<u>Absent</u>	(No)
<u> X </u>	(Yes)	<u> </u>	(No)
<u> X </u>	(Yes)	<u> </u>	(No)
<u> X </u>	(Yes)	<u> </u>	(No)
<u> X </u>	(Yes)	<u> </u>	(No)