

## RESOLUTION NO. 2022-\_\_\_\_\_

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR RESTORING FUNDING FOR FLORIDA FOREVER TO ITS HISTORICAL LEVELS

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

**WHEREAS**, Florida Forever, and its predecessor Preservation 2000, historically allocated \$300 million annually to purchase and restore environmentally sensitive and outdoor recreation lands and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water-management districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others in achieving its conservation purposes, and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Forever was the vehicle to deliver funding for land conservation by various state agencies, including the Florida Communities Trust (FCT). The FCT has been a successful local-government assistance program under the Florida Forever umbrella. It has assisted Florida's cities and counties in protecting their cultural and historical resources, meeting the challenges of growth management, and providing recreational outdoor experiences in both urban and rural settings, and

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-\_\_\_\_\_**

**WHEREAS**, over thirty local Florida governments, including Indian River County, have enacted land-acquisition financing programs in past decades, and those conservation programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of State land-conservation funding, and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of Indian River County have benefited greatly from the FCT program by receiving matching funds that helped fund twenty-one different acquisition projects while receiving over \$25,000,000.00 from the program, and

**WHEREAS**, after years of neglect by the Florida Legislature, the citizens of Florida voted overwhelmingly in 2014 to support the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment (“Amendment 1”) to restore funding to Florida Forever, and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida State Legislature has continued to underfund Florida Forever specifically, and land conservation generally, despite the passage of Amendment 1 with approval by over 75% of voters, and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida experienced the second largest population growth in the country from July 2019-July 2020, adding over 240,000 new residents, and again experienced the second largest population growth in the country from July 2020-June 2021, adding another 211,196 residents, which accelerated the pressures of development on environmentally significant lands, and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of County Commissioners for Indian River County has directed staff to present at a future board meeting a resolution approving the placement of a new land conservation bond referendum on the general election ballot in 2022. If passed, this new bond will provide a source of funds for Indian River County to purchase environmentally significant lands. As with the previous bonds, the overall

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-\_\_\_\_\_**

success of the program will be significantly enhanced with matching State funds from the Florida Forever program.

**WHEREAS**, Indian River County desires to direct their local legislative delegation to make land conservation a priority again.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that:

1. The Board encourages the Florida Legislature to fund the Florida Forever program at its historical levels.

2. The Board declares its support to have Florida Forever completely funded so that programs under the act, such as the FCT program, which has been vital to our residents by providing financial assistance to acquire parks and other conservation lands, are funded fully.

3. The Chairman is authorized to send this resolution to the Legislative Delegation and the Governor relaying its support for funding Florida Forever.

4. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

The resolution was moved for adoption by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

- Chairman Peter D. O'Bryan \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice Chairman Joe Earman \_\_\_\_\_
- Commissioner Susan Adams \_\_\_\_\_
- Commissioner Joseph E. Flescher \_\_\_\_\_
- Commissioner Laura Moss \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-\_\_\_\_\_**

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted  
this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter D. O'Bryan, Chairman

ATTEST: Jeffrey R. Smith  
Clerk of Court

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk