

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-047**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT (FPL) TO STRENGTHEN THE POWER GRID IN SOUTHWEST RANCHES BY REPLACING OVERHEAD POWER LINES WITH UNDERGROUND LINES AND HARDENING THOSE POWERLINES THAT REMAIN TO IMPROVE RESILIENCY DURING HURRICANES AND SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS; DIRECTING THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MANAGER FOR FPL AND THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Southwest Ranches is one of the most heavily forested and one of the least populated municipalities in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, while the vegetation and tree canopy add to the natural beauty of our community it also poses a danger to the power grid during severe weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes, and tornadoes which can cause frequent service interruptions; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Power & Light Company ("FPL") analyzes reliability data from previously named storms, vegetation-related outages and other reliability metrics to identify areas that would most benefit from having power lines placed underground; and

**WHEREAS**, historically this combination of heavy vegetation and low population has not made areas of the Town a high priority for electrical service restoration in the case of area wide outages as a result of storm related events; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Power & Light (FPL) has embarked on an ambitious plan to strengthen the power grid throughout the State of Florida through its Lateral Hardening Program which will replace neighborhood overhead power lines with stronger and more storm resilient lines, and in most cases underground power lines, converting overhead transformers to pad mounted transformers, and has already successfully and safety completed projects in the Town of Southwest Ranches; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches fully supports the efforts of Florida Power & Light's Lateral Hardening Program which will improve the Town's electric grid resiliency from weather related electrical service interruptions and encourages our residents to do the same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

**Section 1:** The above referenced recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2:** The Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches hereby fully supports the efforts of Florida Power & Light's Lateral Hardening Program which will improve the Town's resiliency from weather related electrical service interruptions and will allow for quicker service restoration should power outages be experienced.

**Section 3:** The Town Clerk is hereby directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the External Affairs Manager for FPL and the Florida Public Service Commission.

**Section 4:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023, on a motion by Council Member Kuczenski and seconded by Council Member Hartmann.

Breitkreuz	<u>Absent</u>	Ayes	<u>4</u>
Allbritton	<u>Yes</u>	Nays	<u>    </u>
Hartmann	<u>Yes</u>	Absent	<u>1</u>
Jablonski	<u>Yes</u>		
Kuczenski	<u>Yes</u>		

For James Allbritton  
Steve Breitkreuz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Russell Muñiz  
Russell Muñiz, Assistant Town Administrator/Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:

Keith Poliakoff  
Keith Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney  
1001.2326.01