

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 - 054

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, ENCOURAGING SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM OR A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM THAT SUPPORTS FLORIDA COMMUNITIES TRUST; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE TOWN CLERK; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The Florida Forever program and its predecessor, Preservation 2000, have immeasurably contributed to environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability of green space in Florida for this and future generations; 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 attracts more than 70 million visitors each year; 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 uncertain market of 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, the benefits of Florida Forever have included over \$7,754,370.00 million in acquisition funding for various parks within the Town of Southwest Ranches, including Southwest Meadows Sanctuary, Calusa Corners, Country Estates Fishing Hole, and Frontier Trails; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council feels that it is in the best interest of its residents and the State of Florida to support the continuance of the Florida Forever program, or a successor program that supports Florida Communities Trust.

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, Florida, hereby declares its support to the State of Florida Legislature for the continued funding of the Florida Forever program, or the creation and funding of a successor program, and requests its legislative delegation to advocate for the continued funding of the Florida Forever program, or the creation and funding of a successor program.

Section 3: The Town Clerk is hereby directed to provide true copies of this Resolution to Ken Pruitt, President of the Florida Senate; Marco Rubio, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives; the Broward Legislative Delegation; and each of the several cities, towns, and villages of Broward County.

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

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON this 3rd day of April, 2008 on a motion made by Vice Mayor Jeff Nelson and seconded by Council Member Don Maines.

Fink	<u>Y</u>	Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nelson	<u>Y</u>	Nays	<u>0</u>
Breitkreuz	<u>Y</u>	Absent	<u>0</u>
Knight	<u>Y</u>	Abstaining	<u>0</u>
Maines	<u>Y</u>		

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

Mecca Fink
Mecca Fink, Mayor

ATTEST:

Susan A. Owens
Susan A. Owens, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:

Gary A. Poliakoff
Gary A. Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney

FTL_DB: 1106822_1



Certification

I certify this to be a true and correct copy of the record. WITNESSETH my hand and official seal of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida this 15th day of MAY 2008 Town Clerk

Susan A. Owens