

Resolution 2008-12 A

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FLORIDA FOREVER AND A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Florida Forever program and its predecessor 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 this 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

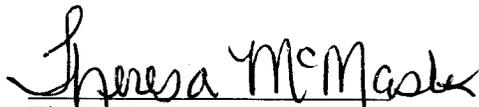
WHEREAS, a 2005 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that 78% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of St. Pete Beach Commission 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 its legislative delegation to advocate for the creation and funding of a successor program to Florida Forever.



Mayor Michael Finnerty

ATTEST:



Theresa McMaster, City Clerk

Adopted 4-22-08