

RESOLUTION 2009-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE RETENTION OF EGMONT KEY STATE PARK BY THE FLORIDA PARK SERVICE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council designated natural resources of regional significance, recognizes important resources within the Tampa Bay region; and

WHEREAS, Egmont Key is designated a Natural Resource of Regional Significance in the Future of the Regional Significance in the *Future of the Region – A Strategic Regional Policy Plan of the Tampa Bay Region*, including nesting beaches for federally and state listed shore birds and sea turtles; and

WHEREAS, Egmont Key, as a natural barrier island, provides protection against storm surge for the communities around Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, the still-active Egmont light tower pre-dates (1858) the Civil War, the island was used during the Seminole Wars and housed a hospital during the Civil War, and the remaining Spanish-American War (1898) gun batteries and associated structures are three of the only remaining five such features on the west coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Park Service has been responsible for the restoration and maintenance of the historically-significant gun batteries, light tower and other structures on the island, the removal of exotic species and the management of shore bird and turtle nesting habitat since 1989; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 181,000 people visit Egmont Key State park each year to enjoy its beaches, learn about its fascinating role in regional history, and observe its wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual budget for maintaining Egmont Key State park at its current level of state involvement is about \$140,000; the calculated direct positive economic impact to the community of Egmont Key State Park is over \$7.9 million annually; and the resulting annual State sales tax revenue is over \$555,000; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Park Service proposes to close Egmont Key State park as part of an expense-reduction plan.

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of St. Pete Beach, that:

Section 1. That the City Commission of the City of St. Pete Beach highly recommends that the State retain Egmont Key State Park and maintain its management structure for the benefit of the citizens of the Tampa Bay region as well as the natural resources of the island.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Charlie Crist, the FL Department of Environmental Protection, the members of regional delegation and to the local governments of the Tampa Bay region.

Section 3. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSES AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA,
THIS 10th DAY OF February 2009.



Mayor Mike Finnerty

ATTEST:



Theresa McMaster, City Clerk