

Sponsored by: Hernstadt

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2011-18**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, URGING THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM; UNDERSCORING THE SUCCESS OF THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT OF A SECURE CLIMATE FOR THE SUSTENANCE OF THE STATE'S ROBUST AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, CREATION OF BROAD RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, AND PROTECTION OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE AND THREATENED HABITATS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Marathon, Florida is committed to protecting lands critical to the future of Florida's drinking water, economy, recreation, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Forever Program ("Florida Forever") and its predecessor Preservation 2000 Program have immeasurably contributed to the environmental health, quality of life, recreation, and sustainability in Marathon and the State of Florida for this and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Forever has acquired over 1.3 million acres of environmentally and recreationally important land throughout Florida since 2000, and has done so through numerous successful partnerships with cities, counties, state agencies, water management districts, nonprofit organizations, private landowners, and others; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida Forever, through its partnerships with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 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, bodies of water, and preserved working landscapes that sustain the state's \$87 billion agricultural industry and help preserve Florida's rural way of life; 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 \$65 billion tourism industry that attracts more than 80 million visitors each year, and specifically drives the state's \$8.1 billion fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing industry; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 50 Florida local governments have enacted land acquisition financing programs in past decades, and these conservation finance programs serve to leverage Florida Forever funding and increase the impact of state land conservation funding; and

**WHEREAS**, regular and consistent funding is required insure the continuity of Florida Forever and to preserve parks and recreational facilities, wildlife and wilderness areas, and open space for future generations of Floridians; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous opportunities exist today to protect properties that have long been identified as conservation and recreation priorities by the state, cities, and counties, because of the current reductions in real estate values across Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, the Florida Legislature reauthorized Florida Forever for an additional ten years; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2009 public opinion survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 67% of Florida's voters support continued legislative funding for Florida Forever.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

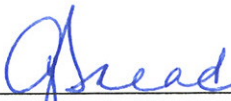
**Section 2.** The City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida urges the 2011 Florida Legislature to fund the Florida Forever program and to make Florida Forever a conservation success long into the future.

**Section 3.** The City Manager is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, Senate President Mike Haridopolos, and Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives Dean Cannon and the members of the Monroe County legislative delegation.

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

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 8th DAY OF MARCH, 2011.**

**THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ginger Snead, Mayor**

**AYES:** Cinque, Keating, Ramsay, Worthington, Snead

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY FOR THE USE  
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney