

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(48)

Veto _____

04-24-07

Override _____

**OFFICIAL FILE COPY
CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION NO. R-469-07

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM AND URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO DOUBLE THE BONDING AUTHORITY FOR THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM FOR THE 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR AND FUND A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM THAT PRESERVES LAND THAT CONTINUES TO BUILD ON THE SUCCESS OF FLORIDA FOREVER WHEN FLORIDA FOREVER SUNSETS IN 2010

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

WHEREAS, the many important places in Miami-Dade County whose purchase and protection have benefited from Florida Forever include the Deering Estate, Jose Marti Riverfront

Park, Biscayne Coastal Wetlands, Little River Preserve, Oleta River Corridor, and Boystown-Camp Matacumbe,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Expresses its support for the Florida Forever Program.

Section 2. Urges the Florida Legislature to increase the existing Florida Forever bond authority for fiscal years 2007-2008 and 2008-09 from \$300 million to \$600 million.

Section 3. Urges the Florida Legislature to create and fund a successor program to the Florida Forever program that provides as much as \$1 billion annually for land conservation for when the Florida Forever program sunsets in 2010.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of the resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, and the chair and members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 5. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the issues identified in sections 2 and 3 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2007 and 2008 state legislative packages.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Commissioner Katy Sorenson and offered by Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis C. Moss and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	aye	
	Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	aye	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	aye	Audrey M. Edmonson	absent
Carlos A. Gimenez	aye	Sally A. Heyman	absent
Joe A. Martinez	aye	Dennis C. Moss	aye
Dorin D. Rolle	aye	Natacha Seijas	absent
Katy Sorenson	aye	Rebeca Sosa	aye
Sen. Javier D. Souto	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 24th day of April, 2007. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK



KAY SULLIVAN

Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

JMM

Jess M. McCarty

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(48)

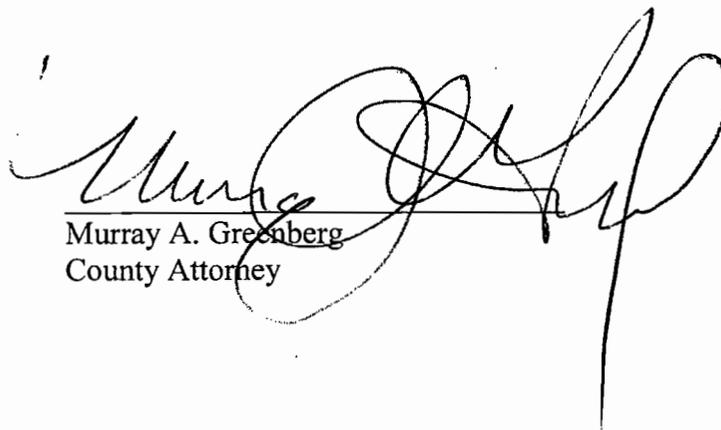
TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 24, 2007

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution expressing
support for the Florida
Forever Program

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro and Commissioner Katy Sorenson.



Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

MAG/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 24, 2007

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(48)

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised**
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing**
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing**
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget**
- Budget required**
- Statement of fiscal impact required**
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation**
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing**
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)**
- No committee review**