

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ALLOW REPLENISHMENT AND REPLANTING OF NEW GROWTH AUSTRALIAN PINES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE SHADE CANOPY AT FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR HISTORIC PARK; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, Fort Zachary Taylor State Park is a national historic landmark shaded for over 50 years by Australian pines that provide a cathedral of shade for those who come to enjoy this beautiful setting. In the park service's own words, "The beach is shaded by several acres of Australian pine trees so it is always a bit cooler than the rest of the island;" and

WHEREAS, maintaining the Australian pines preserves the historical character of the park and prevents beach erosion, which serves as a buffer protecting the fort, itself; and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Deputy Secretary for Land & Recreation Department of Environmental Protection and then State Representative, Ron Saunders, the DEP will remove existing Australian pines only if they have died, are toppled by windstorms, or constitute a public safety hazard; and

WHEREAS, allowing new growth of Australian pines mature enough to replace those lost to attrition or storm damage poses no greater threat to the environment than the trees they are replacing; and

WHEREAS, allowing new growth to replace old growth on the dredged landfill upon which the park is situated is environmentally sound because they are salt tolerant, and do not require special soil or watering; and

WHEREAS, the Australian pines create an appealing environment that generates much needed revenue for the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, "The Pines today are not a problem, since they can be so easily controlled in this specific environment." C. Way Hoyt, Consulting Arborist; and

WHEREAS, by providing the shade and majestic canopy these trees should be replenished so future generations will be able to enjoy the natural beauty that Fort Zachery Taylor, National Historic Landmark, provides to tourists and locals alike.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF  
THE CITY OF KEY WEST, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the State of Florida is hereby urged  
to endorse the replenishment and replanting of new growth of  
Australian pines at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic Park. The  
purpose of the planting of new growth is to replace any trees  
fallen by age or and other natural cause.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is authorized to  
transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the Florida  
Department of Environmental Protection.

Section 3: That this Resolution shall go into effect  
immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication  
by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of  
the Commission. Passed and adopted by the City Commission  
at a meeting held this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the  
Commission on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Filed with the Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

Mayor Craig Cates \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Sam Kaufman \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Richard Payne \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Margaret Romero \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Billy Wardlow \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK