

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO DESIGNATE THE CANOPY OF AUSTRALIAN PINES IN FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR PARK AS AN EXCEPTION TO ANY EXOTIC AND INVASIVE REMOVAL PROGRAMS AND TO INITIATE MAINTENANCE AND CONTROLLED GROWTH REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, Ft. Zachary Taylor State Park is a National Historic Landmark in Key West that has a towering canopy of old Australian Pine trees; and

WHEREAS, the Australian Pines are a cherished part of the park's natural landscape, providing shade to beach visitors and a feeling of spaciousness in a simple and elegant manner. The pines offer immeasurable social, community, environmental and economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the pines are first growth on submerged land that was filled in the 1960s and, therefore, have never been a threat to native vegetation; and

WHEREAS, this canopy is drought-tolerant, salt-tolerant, low maintenance, energy efficient and provides a beautiful unique vista; and

WHEREAS, the pines provide a filtering protection from the damaging rays of the sun; and

WHEREAS, the Park management has previously agreed that the existing Australian Pines will remain unless a hazard to life and property; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 380.0552 (1) directs the state "To enhance natural scenic resources, promote the aesthetic benefits of the natural environment, and ensure that development is compatible with the unique historic character of the Florida Keys;" and

WHEREAS, the City Commission, understanding that this governing statute provides exemption, wishes to lend its voice to the many local citizens, snowbirds, tourists and the community of artists and environmentalists who have objected to the loss of the Australians Pines; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the Australian pines in Fort Zachary Taylor State Park preserves the historic character of the park and provides beauty and shade for visitors, and the City has supported preservation of the Australian Pines in Resolution 20-066, 18-101 and other Resolutions and Proclamations through the years; and

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 urged to designate the canopy of Australian Pines at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park as an exception to any and all exotic and invasive removal programs.

Section 2: That the State of Florida is urged to initiate a professional maintenance program to nurture and protect the pines and to institute a policy of "Controlled Growth" for replacement of any pines lost to natural disaster or man, so that Fort Zachary Taylor will always have a canopy of Australian Pines.

Section 3: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit copies of this resolution to:

Secretary Shawn Hamilton  
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Director Eric Draper  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
FL Dept. of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Senator Ana Maria Rodriquez, District 39  
318 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Representative Jim Mooney, District 120  
1102 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Section 4: 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Filed with the Clerk on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Mayor Teri Johnston	_____
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Gregory Davila	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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