

TAB 5

RESOLUTION NO. 09-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA,
ENCOURAGING GOVERNOR CRIST AND THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO RETAIN
EGMONT KEY STATE PARK WITHIN THE STATE'S PARK SYSTEM.**

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

WHEREAS, Egmont Key is designated a Natural Resource of Regional Significance in the *Future of The Region - A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for 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 predates (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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO:

Section 1: The City of Palmetto 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: A copy of this resolution will be transmitted to Governor Charlie Crist, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the members of the Manatee County Legislative Delegation.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED, in regular session, by the City Commission of the City of Palmetto, with a quorum present and voting, this 26th day of January, 2009.

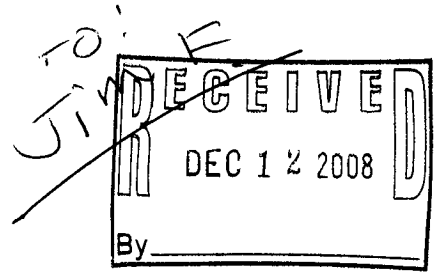
**CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, BY AND
THROUGH THE CITY COMISSION OF THE
CITY OF PALMETTO.**

By: _____
SHIRLEY GROOVER BRYANT, MAYOR

ATTEST: JAMES R. FREEMAN

By: _____
City Clerk

SCANNED



Chair
Vice-Mayor Deborah Kynes

Vice-Chair
Commissioner Bill Dodson

Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner Jack Mariano

Executive Director
Manny Pumariega

December 9, 2008

SB

Shirley Bryant
Mayor
City of Palmetto
PO Box 1209
Palmetto, FL 34220-1209

Dear Mayor Bryant:

At its meeting on December 8, 2008, the members of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council voted unanimously to approve the enclosed resolution and to transmit it to the you and the other chief elected officials of the Tampa Bay region, as well as to Governor Crist, the members of the Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation, and the FL Department of Environmental Protection.

The members of the Council feel that the Egmont Key is a very important natural and historic resource in the Tampa Bay region and that it should remain an actively-managed part of the Florida State Park System. It contributes beach nesting habitat for state- and federally-listed bird species and sea turtle species and includes three of the remaining five Spanish-American War gun batteries and associated structures on Florida's west coast. Visited by an estimated 181,000 people each year, it is an amenity that requires vigilant management to protect its ecological and historical features.

Please join the members of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in encouraging Governor Crist and the Florida Legislature to retain Egmont Key State Park within the state's park system.

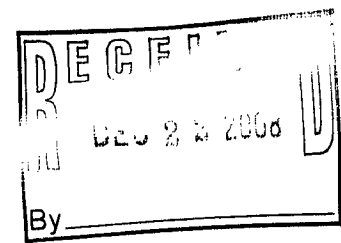
Sincerely,

Manny Pumariega, AICP
Executive Director

cc: Governor Charlie Crist
Members of the Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation
Chief Elected Officials
Secretary Michael W. Sole

Enclosure

MLP/STC



Chair
Vice-Mayor Deborah Kynes

Vice-Chair
Commissioner Bill Dodson

Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner Jack Mariano

Executive Director
Manny Pumariega

December 19, 2008

Shirley Bryant
Mayor
City of Palmetto
PO Box 1209
Palmetto, FL 34220-1209

Dear Mayor Bryant:

Re: Correction to Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Resolution 2008-6

On December 9th we mailed to you the resolution the Council adopted supporting retention of Egmont Key State Park within the State Parks system. We have discovered a mistake in one of the sections of the Resolution and wish to correct it.

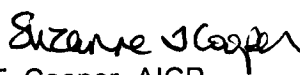
The following is the correct information, which should be included in any action that you or your governmental entity choose to take.

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;

I deeply apologize for the error.

The members of the Council feel that the Egmont Key is a very important natural and historic resource in the Tampa Bay region and that it should remain an actively-managed part of the Florida State Park System. It contributes beach nesting habitat for state- and federally-listed bird species and sea turtle species and includes three of the remaining five Spanish-American War gun batteries and associated structures on Florida's west coast. Visited by an estimated 181,000 people each year, it is an amenity that requires vigilant management to protect its ecological and historical features.

Please join the members of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council in encouraging retention of Egmont Key State Park within the State Parks system.

Sincerely,

Suzanne T. Cooper, AICP
Principal Planner

cc: Governor Charlie Crist
Members of the Tampa Bay Legislative Delegation
Chief Elected Officials of the Tampa Bay Region
Secretary Michael W. Sole