

Meeting Date
9/20/2016



ADD ON AGENDA	
Section	Unfinished Business
Item No.	V.A

**AGENDA REPORT**  
*BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS*

SUBJECT:	Resolution Opposing Government Sanctioned Bear Hunts
DEPT/OFFICE:	Trudie Infantini, District 3 Commissioner

**Requested Action:**  
 It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners adopt this resolution opposing government sanctioned bear hunts.

**Summary Explanation & Background:**

In June of 2015, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission conducted the first black bear hunt in Florida since a ban on bear hunting was implemented in 1994. The goal was to harvest 320 bears; 100 in our area. The week long hunt was prematurely halted after two days with 302 bears killed and the goal for our area exceeded by 43%.

The planned 2016 bear hunt was cancelled by Florida Fish & Wildlife.

On May 26, 2016 and July 26, 2016, citizen's requests by Joan Davis of Palm Bay, Florida, came before the Board of County Commissioners requesting the Board adopt a resolution opposing black bear hunting in Florida.

Contact: Linda Mannier  
 Phone: (321) 952-6300

Clerk to the Board instruction:

Exhibits Attached:

Contract /Agreement (If attached)		Reviewed by County Attorney	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	PR	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Manager		Deputy County Manager	Department Director / Extension					
Stockton Whitten		Assistant County Manager	Commissioner Trudie Infantini, District 3					



Tammy Rowe, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001  
Fax: (321) 264-6972  
Tammy.Rowe@brevardclerk.us

September 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner Trudie Infantini, District 3 Attn: Linda Mannier

RE: Item V.A., Resolution Opposing Government Sanctioned Bear Hunts

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on September 20, 2016, tabled consideration of resolution opposing government sanctioned bear hunts to a future Board meeting.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

✓ Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

cc: County Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED BLACK BEAR HUNTS; URGING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON REDUCING CONFLICTS WITH BEARS IN SUBURBAN AREAS THROUGH DETERRENT TECHNIQUES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*WHEREAS, Brevard County has made significant commitments to protecting native species and natural habitat in our county; and*

*WHEREAS, pursuant to the State of Florida Constitution, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has regulatory and executive power over wild animal life, which includes the regulation of bear hunting; and*

*WHEREAS, to conserve the state's largest land mammal, FWC approved the Florida Black Bear Management Plan in 2012, which created seven Bear Management Units (BMU), which are geographic locations bounded by county and/or state borders, each with one of the seven Florida black bear subpopulations within it; and*

*WHEREAS, the goal of a BMU is to provide a defined area within which FWC can have a community-focused effort to effectively manage and conserve Florida black bears; and*

*WHEREAS, Brevard County is located within the Central BMU, which has established a minimum subpopulation objective of one thousand thirty (1,030) Florida black bears; and*

*WHEREAS, the Florida Black Bear Management Plan provides that the management objective is to maintain or increase the current Florida black bear population within the Central BMU; and*

*WHEREAS, in June 2015, FWC approved bear hunting in four of Florida's seven BMU's, thus reversing the statewide ban on bear hunting that had been in place since 1994; and*

*WHEREAS, the FWC authorized week-long bear hunt objective was to harvest three hundred twenty bear, with a limit of one hundred in the Central BMU; and*

*WHEREAS, the first bear hunt in twenty-one years ended after two days because the number of Florida Black Bears killed in the East Panhandle BMU was three times the established quota and the number of bears killed in the Central BMU was one hundred and forty three bear, forty percent over quota; and*

*WHEREAS, accounts of killing of lactating bears indicating the presence of cubs, cub bears, unreported killings and bears suffering a slow death were received; and*

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WHEREAS, continued hunting risks reducing the Florida black bear population in the Central BMU below the minimum target population and well below the biological carrying capacity in the Central BMU; and

WHEREAS, the black bear is the only bear found in Florida and is estimated to have a population of approximately four thousand throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, black bears tend to avoid confrontation with humans; and

WHEREAS, precautionary measures may be put in place to deter black bears from entering suburban areas in search of food; and

WHEREAS, while black bears foraging for food may lead to their unintentional presence in suburban areas, precautionary methods may help prevent their return; and

WHEREAS, according to Thomas Eason, the FWC Director of the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, black bears are "relatively naïve" to the dangers of hunters due to the fact that there haven't been any bear hunts in the last two decades; and

WHEREAS, the FWC should promote "bear-proof garbage cans" and protect palmetto berries from illegal harvest in bear habitats instead of calling for bear hunts.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA does hereby**

**OPPOSE GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED BEAR HUNTS**

**DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2016.**

BREVARD COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

\_\_\_\_\_  
JIM BARFIELD, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

As approved by Board 9/20/16

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SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

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SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK