

RESOLUTION TO THE BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Public & Comment

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Commission has engaged in a multi-year dispute with the residents of Rockledge Drive seeking to protect the legacy canopy trees along this scenic drive; and

WHEREAS, the residents have disputed Brevard County's authority to destroy their property and negatively impact their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, County Manager Frank Abbate committed in 2021 to the residents to never cut the trees; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2024 Brevard County Commissioners took a vote to update the county road maintenance maps, and where Chairman Steele asked of Public Works Director Marc Bernath just prior to the vote, *"We're not going to go out there and start cutting down trees?"* and

WHEREAS, less than one month later on April 9th, the public works department and Commissioner Goodson's District 2 initiated an agenda item clearing the way for public works maintenance that included "Severe Tree Trimming" of numerous Canopy Oak Trees that are over 100 years old; and

WHEREAS, residents were notified by email-only of the tree cutting on April 5th, just 2 business days prior to the item being presented, and without adequate notice to prepare for the agenda item, and where no commission vote was taken following the heavily-orchestrated "hearing"; and

WHEREAS, starting on May 13th the county began these "Severe Tree Trimming" efforts, and which have mutilated and destroyed numerous canopy trees; and

WHEREAS, leading the way on the current 2024 destructive initiative have been Brevard County Attorney Morris Richardson, Public Works Director Marc Bernath & Commissioner Tom Goodson, also owner of Goodson Paving; and

WHEREAS, the county actions have negatively impacted our environment, our community, state, and country's beautiful Scenic America byway, now destroyed with the support of all (5) of the commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NUMEROUS RESIDENTS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA do hereby proclaim the (5) Brevard County Commissioners Goodson, Pritchett, Tobia, Feltner and Steele, and county staff members Morris Richardson, and Marc Bernath the

  **2024 TREE BUTCHERS OF BREVARD COUNTY**  

And we hereby encourage all citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of the workings of the county commission that led to the destructive and unnecessary war against the residents of Brevard County and deploying numerous methods of weaponization of the public business.

It is requested that this resolution be included in the official records for the May 21, 2024 county commission meeting.