

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- g. **RESOLUTION 08-049 OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL
URGING THE 2008 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
ENACT LEGISLATION TO CREATE AND FUND A
SUCCESSOR PROGRAM TO THE FLORIDA
FOREVER PROGRAM AND TO IMMEDIATELY
DOUBLE FUNDING FOR FLORIDA FOREVER DUE
TO THE ENORMOUS NEED FOR LAND
CONSERVATION FUNDING IN OUR STATE; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION NO. 08-049

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL URGING THE 2008 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO CREATE AND FUND A SUCCESSOR PROGRAM TO THE FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAM AND TO IMMEDIATELY DOUBLE FUNDING FOR FLORIDA FOREVER DUE TO THE ENORMOUS NEED FOR LAND CONSERVATION FUNDING IN OUR STATE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Sanibel is committed to protecting lands critical to the future of Florida's drinking water, economy, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sanibel represents thousands of Florida residents; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has helped to save many of Florida's beaches, rivers, bays, forests, coral reefs and estuaries that provide the foundation for our \$3 billion tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Florida Forever has acquired more than 600,000 acres throughout Florida since 2000 and allocates \$300 million annually to purchase environmentally sensitive and other lands; and

WHEREAS, land prices have decreased over the last 18 months, providing a unique opportunity to acquire land resources at prices far below recent market values; and

WHEREAS, virtually all of the funding for the Florida Forever program through the Fiscal Year 2009–2010 is already obligated to or anticipated for planned land purchases, leaving practically no funding for new conservation projects for the next two years; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 survey conducted by members of the Florida Forever Coalition found that more than 70% of Florida's voters approve of the Florida Forever program; and

WHEREAS, there is no second chance to protect Florida's great resources, and the costs of Florida's most special places will only increase in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida that:

SECTION 1. The City of Sanibel urges the 2008 Florida Legislature to enact legislation to create and fund a successor program to the Florida Forever program and to immediately double funding for Florida Forever due to the enormous need for land conservation funding in our State.

SECTION 2. Effective date.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida this 1st day of April, 2008.

AUTHENTICATION:

Mick Denham, Mayor

Pamela Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: *Kenneth B. Cuyler* *3/24/08*
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney Date

Vote of Council members:

Denham _____
Johnston _____
Jennings _____
Pappas _____
Ruane _____

Date filed with City Clerk: _____