

RESOLUTION NO. R-2008- 1683

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING ITS SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ACQUIRE LAND SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S EVERGLADES AND FLORIDA'S COASTAL ESTUARIES, AND SUPPORTING THE INLAND PORT IN PALM BEACH COUNTY THAT DOES NOT IMPACT UPON THE RESTORATION OF THE EVERGLADES.**

**WHEREAS**, America's Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem is a unique expanse of habitats, whose environmental health is critical to the economy and quality of life of South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist unveiled a strategy to bring about the largest environmental land acquisition in Florida's history to help restore America's Everglades; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor announced that the South Florida Water Management District will negotiate an agreement with United States Sugar Corporation to purchase nearly 300 square miles of land spanning four counties in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the land obtained in the U.S. Sugar purchase would provide the "missing link" needed to better protect the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and estuaries, and revive, restore and preserve one of America's greatest natural treasures – the Everglades; and

**WHEREAS**, through successful negotiations and strategic land swaps, vast tracts would be used to reestablish a part of the historic connection between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades through a managed system of storage and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, benefits from the land acquisition include huge increases in the availability of water storage, significantly reducing the potential for harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee to Florida's coastal rivers and estuaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee and South Bay located in Palm Beach County are rural agriculture areas, recognized as a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern; and

**WHEREAS**, the State will help to coordinate an economic transition plan with United States Sugar Corporation, local governments, area businesses, state agencies and the South Florida Water Management District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inland Port in Palm Beach County that would not impact upon the restoration of the Everglades could potentially offset the economic loss in the Glades communities resulting from the U.S. Sugar acquisition; and

**WHEREAS**, saving the Everglades and protecting Florida's coastal estuaries is an environmental priority for Palm Beach County and its residents.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:**

1. The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners supports the landmark efforts of the State and the South Florida Water Management District to negotiate the acquisition of significant lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area for the purposes of restoring and protecting the northern and southern Everglades and Florida's coastal estuaries.
2. As the South Florida Water Management District pursues the purchase of United States Sugar Corporation's assets that all of the affected parties and governments are part of the process and kept informed as to the issues surrounding this purchase and the subsequent economic development strategies.
3. The Inland Port in Palm Beach County strategically located to not impact upon the restoration efforts of the Everglades would help to provide a viable economic transition strategy for the Glades communities.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner Marcus who moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Aaronson, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

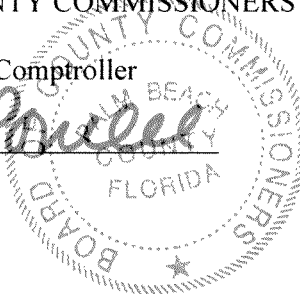
Commissioner Addie L. Greene, Chairperson	-	Aye
Commissioner John F. Koons, Vice-Chair	-	Aye
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus	-	Aye
Commissioner Robert J. Kanjian	-	Aye
Commissioner Mary McCarty	-	Abstained
Commissioner Burt Aaronson	-	Aye
Commissioner Jess R. Santamaria	-	Aye

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 23rd day of September 2008.

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sharon R. Bock, Clerk and Comptroller

By *Marcy Powell*  
Deputy Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By *[Signature]*  
County Attorney

**RESOLUTION NO. 2008-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TRI-CITIES, OF BELLE GLADE, PAHOKEE AND SOUTH BAY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHING OF A MULTI-MODAL LOGISTICS COMPLEX (INLAND PORT) IN THE GLADES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Port of Palm Beach has proposed developing a Multi-Modal Logistics Complex (Inland Port) in the Glades region; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Florida Water Management District has publicly announced its initiative to purchase all assets of the US Sugar Corporation and the acquisition of these assets as proposed will have a devastating effect on the future economy and well-being of the Tri-Cities area; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact will include the closure of a major industry in the Glades and the loss of 1,700 direct jobs and upwards of 2,000 service related jobs in the Glades area; additionally, residential and commercial property values in the Glades and the related revenue base within the Tri-Cities will be greatly reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic impact of an Multi-Modal Logistics Complex (Inland Port) would be a major asset to the Glades region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Multi-Modal Logistics Complex (Inland Port) would lead to the creation of much needed jobs; and

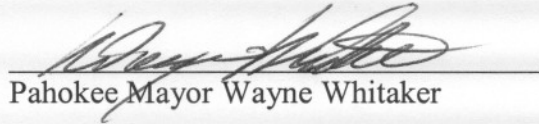
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRI-CITIES OF BELLE GLADE, PAHOKEE AND SOUTH BAY FLORIDA THAT:**

1. The Tri-Cities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, and South Bay support the establishment of a Multi-Modal Logistics Complex (Inland Port) in the Glades region.

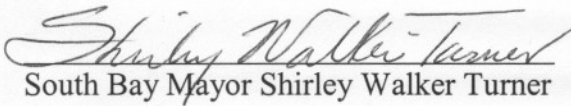
DONE AND RESOLVED at Regular Session of the Tri-Cities of the Glades, Florida,  
this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2008.



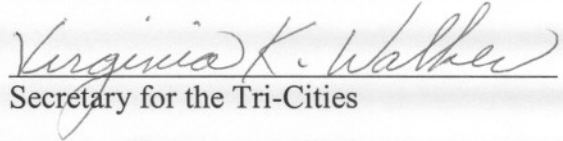
Belle Glade Mayor Steven B. Wilson



Pahokee Mayor Wayne Whitaker

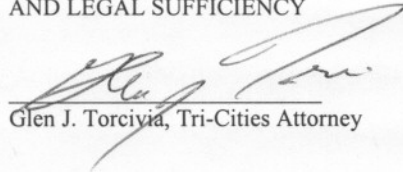


South Bay Mayor Shirley Walker Turner



Secretary for the Tri-Cities

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY



Glen J. Torcivia, Tri-Cities Attorney

**RESOLUTION NO. 2619**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING AND SUPPORTING THE OKEELANTA SITE FOR INLAND PORT DEVELOPMENT; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO VARIOUS ENTITIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of Belle Glade, Florida, from time to time makes recommendations in the best interest of the city and its residents and businesses and formalizes same in the form of resolutions; and

**WHEREAS**, we are pleased with the advancement, through the Inland Port Task Force, of the inland port concept; and

**WHEREAS**, we look forward to continuing to play an integral role in this exciting project; and

**WHEREAS**, the inland port will bring a renewed vibrancy to Belle Glade and the entire Tri-Cities while creating a vital inland hub for transportation, as well as manufacturing and distribution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tri-Cities area of western Palm Beach County, having been identified as an economically disadvantaged area, is looking to the inland port as a stimulus for much-needed growth in sustained, good-paying jobs and related economic benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tri-Cities area affords a naturally advantageous location for the inland port, offering abundant developable land proximate to road and rail corridors that provide access to points throughout all of Florida and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, Cambridge Systematics is currently proceeding with the next phase study of the inland port on behalf of the Florida Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple specific sites are under consideration for inland port development; and

**WHEREAS**, the success of the inland port, both in terms of serving as an inland hub for statewide inter-modal transportation and providing favorable economic impact upon Belle Glade and the entire Tri-Cities is largely dependent upon its placement in a most appropriate and beneficial location; and

**WHEREAS**, the Okeelanta site, along U.S. 27 near South Bay, presents an ideal location consistent with both state and local objectives.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA THAT:**

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct, and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

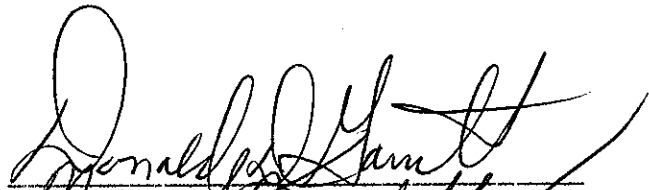
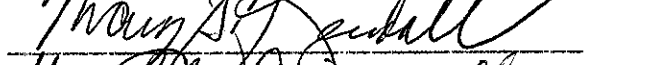



Section 2. The City of Belle Glade formally recommends and supports the Okeelanta site for inland port development.

Section 3. The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to The Honorable Charlie Christ, Governor of the State of Florida, The Honorable Jeff Kottkamp, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Florida, The Honorable Bill McCollum, Attorney General, The Honorable Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer, The Honorable Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, The Honorable Ken Pruitt, President of the Florida Senate, The Honorable Marco Rubio, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, The Honorable Members of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, the Florida Ports Council, the Port of Palm Beach, the Port of Port Everglades, and the Port of Miami-Dade.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.


**DONE AND RESOLVED** at Regular session of the City Commission of the City of Belle Glade, Florida, held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2007.

**CITY OF BELLE GLADE, FLORIDA**

	AYE	NAY	
Mayor Garrett	✓		
Vice Mayor Kendall	✓		
Commissioner Asia-Williams	✓		
Commissioner Miller	✓		
Commissioner Sanchez	✓		

[MUNICIPAL SEAL]

ATTEST:

  
Debra R. Buff, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM and  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

  
Glen J. Torcivia, City Attorney

**RESOLUTION 2009 - 44**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE LOCATION OF AN INLAND PORT WITHIN PALM BEACH COUNTY AT THE OKEELANTA SITE.**

**WHEREAS**, projects like the Intermodal logistics distribution center (also known as an "Inland Port") proposed for the South Florida region which includes Palm Beach County comes around once in a generation; and

**WHEREAS**, similar developments in other parts of the country have led to hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity and the creation of thousands of jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, Inc., recently commissioned a competitiveness report by Market Street Services, Inc., which found that logistics is one of the fastest growing, most stable national industries with jobs that are essentially "outsource proof"; and,

**WHEREAS**, projections for the South Florida Inland Port are that 10,000-20,000 jobs could potentially be created if the project reaches full build-out; and,

**WHEREAS**, these jobs with competitive wages could draw thousands of adults displaced from other industries back into the local workforce; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that a public-private partnership within Palm Beach County be developed to support this project; and,

**WHEREAS**, clearly the most geographically central location to the entire region and therefore the most logical location is in the Okeelanta location in the Glades area of Palm Beach County and convenient to the three Glades cities of Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay; and

WHEREAS, the site selection is of a competitive nature and as much business and community support as possible for a Palm Beach County location will benefit any and all proposals for a Palm Beach County site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA that the City of Pahokee reiterates its support for the location of an Inland Port within Palm Beach County at the Okeelanta site.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

ATTESTED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Felner, CITY CLERK


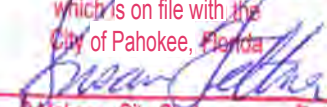
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Whitaker, MAYOR

Mayor Whitaker \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Mayor Crawford \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Babb lgs \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Biggs \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Walker \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM AND SUFFICIENCY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary M. Brandenburg, CITY ATTORNEY

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an original document which is on file with the City of Pahokee, Florida

  6/12-09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Felner, City Clerk Date



**Port of Miami**  
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www.miamidade.gov/portofmiami

miamidade.gov

July 3, 2007

Ms. Stephanie Kopelousos  
Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwanee Street – MS68  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Dear Ms. Kopelousos:

First, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as State Transportation Secretary. We appreciate all that you and District Six do for our community; and, in particular, for the Port of Miami. I look forward to a future opportunity to meet you, and want to offer the services of our Port to you if we can be of assistance.

The purpose of my letter is to clarify the Port's position on the South Florida Inland Port project. While we are not in a position to say definitively that we would support this project, we have not taken a position to oppose. From a regional standpoint, we are in favor of any project that adds to the overall cargo and freight handling capacity of the State of Florida.

At present, five locations are being considered for the inland port. Of those, the South Bay Area site appears to offer the best benefit for the Port of Miami. That location sits astride U.S. highway 27, which runs to the southeast toward Broward and Miami-Dade counties. In our opinion, the other four sites do not provide for easy rail or highway access to our Port.

If the South Bay site is selected, we would be interested in participating throughout the project's planning stages to maximize the facility's benefit for all of the southeast Florida ports. In closing, the Port of Miami supports the continuation of the Inland Port Study and will continue to be engaged and provide assistance as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Johnson".

Bill Johnson  
Port Director

c: Meredith Dahlrose, Florida Department of Transportation