

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A Resolution of the City of South Miami requesting that the Miami-Dade County League of Cities form a committee to investigate the possibility of the creation of South Florida as the 51<sup>st</sup> state.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of South Miami (“City”) passed a resolution on October 7, 2014, advocating the legal separation of Florida into two separate states, creating the 51st state in the Union and naming it “South Florida”; and

**WHEREAS**, the new proposed state of South Florida would have 24 counties (“which counties shall herein after be referred to as “South Florida”). These 24 counties are 35% of the total number of counties in the current state of Florida and they would comprise approximately 23,000 square miles in area. Thus, South Florida would be comprised of 39% of the area of the current state of Florida and would have a population of approximately 13,375,000 people which is 67% of the total population of the current state of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, presently, the state of Florida collects approximately 22 billion dollars in sales and documentary taxes from all of Florida, of which 69 percent, 15.25 billion dollars, is collected in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the new state of South Florida will consist of 24 counties with its northern border being Brevard, Orange, Polk, Hillsborough and Pinellas and include the other 19 counties south of those five counties; and

**WHEREAS**, South Florida Water Management District starts in Orange County and includes most of the aforementioned Counties in South Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the average elevation of the present state of Florida is approximately 100 feet above sea level. North Florida is approximately 120 feet above sea level while the average elevation of South Florida is less than 50 feet with a very large portion of South Florida averaging less than 15 feet above sea level. Many sections of South Florida are 5 feet or less above sea level, including Monroe County and the Gold Coast, consisting of Palm Beach County, Broward County and Miami-Dade County. This area also includes the Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Biscayne National Park and the Turkey Point nuclear reactors. These reactors are 42 years old and less than 5 feet above sea level with in excess of 2.5 million pounds of nuclear waste buried on the grounds of the nuclear plant.

**WHEREAS**, Lake Okeechobee, located in South Florida, is the second largest freshwater lake in the United States and the source of much of the fresh water supplied to South Florida and could be severely compromised by rising sea levels; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a scientific reality resulting in global warming and rising sea level; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that there will be a 3 to 6 foot sea level rise by the end of this century. In addition, South Florida has very porous rock and, as the level of the sea rises, the pressure will cause water to rise up through the ground and flood the inland areas; and

1       **WHEREAS**, South Florida's situation is very precarious and in need of immediate attention.  
2 Many of the issues facing South Florida are not political, but are now significant safety issues; and  
3

4       **WHEREAS**, presently, in order to address the concerns of South Florida, it is necessary to  
5 travel to Tallahassee in North Florida. Often South Florida issues do not receive the support of  
6 Tallahassee. This is despite the fact that South Florida generates more than 69% of the state's  
7 revenue and contains 67% of the state's population; and  
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9       **WHEREAS**, the creation of the 51st state, South Florida, is a necessity for the very survival  
10 of the entire southern region of the current state of Florida and this cannot be accomplished by one  
11 municipality alone; and  
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13       **WHEREAS**, the formation of a committee will enable broader range of ideas to be put forth,  
14 allow for people who represent a variety of groups to be involved, and spread the workload among  
15 the municipalities.  
16

17       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY**  
18 **COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH MIAMI, FLORIDA, THAT:**  
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20       **Section 1.** The City of South Miami hereby requests that the Miami-Dade County  
21 League of Cities form a committee to investigate the possibility of the creation of South Florida as  
22 the 51st state.  
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24       **Section 2.** The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the Miami-  
25 Dade County League of Cities, and to the Clerk of all the municipalities in Miami-Dade County for  
26 transmission to their elected officials.  
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28       **Section 3.** **Severability.** If any section clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution is for  
29 any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the holding shall not  
30 affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.  
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32       **Section 4.** **Effective Date.** This resolution shall become effective immediately upon  
33 adoption by vote of the City Commission.  
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35 PASSED AND ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.  
36

37 ATTEST:  
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APPROVED:  
40  
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42 \_\_\_\_\_  
43 CITY CLERK  
44

\_\_\_\_\_   
MAYOR  
45

46 READ AND APPROVED AS TO FORM,  
47 LANGUAGE, LEGALITY AND  
48 EXECUTION THEREOF  
49

\_\_\_\_\_   
CITY ATTORNEY

COMMISSION VOTE:  
Mayor Stoddard:  
Vice Mayor Harris:  
Commissioner Edmond:  
Commissioner Liebman:  
Commissioner Welsh: