

RESOLUTION NO. 03-162

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING FTAA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MIAMI AS THE NATURAL LOCATION FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the recent history of a comprehensive Western Hemispheric free trade zone began with the Enterprise Initiative for the Americas proposed by President George Bush in 1990 and the first Summit of Americas, held in Miami during December of 1994, a 2005 target date was approved for the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); and

WHEREAS, successful negotiation and ratification of such a free trade area would mean significant reduction of trade barriers and lend impetus to the future dynamics in hemispheric commerce that would be of great benefit to Florida's economy; and

WHEREAS, during the VII American Business Forum in Quito, Ecuador, Florida FTAA Delegates explained Miami's business, infrastructure and cultural advantages to Latin American and Caribbean government representatives; and

WHEREAS, for the first time, a conceptual design of the building that would house the FTAA Permanent Secretariat has been designed and presented; and

WHEREAS, Miami is the business capital of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, South Florida is home to 2100 multinational companies, 25 Foreign Trade Offices and 40 bi-national chambers of commerce; and

WHEREAS, over half of U.S. International Trade with Latin American and the Caribbean flows through Miami; and

WHEREAS, 40 shipping lines through Miami connect 360 ports in 130 countries around the world, and Miami International Airport is the top U.S. airport for international travelers to and from Latin America; and

WHEREAS, the Florida FTAA is a non-profit corporation, which supports hemispheric free trade and efforts to bring the permanent Secretariat of the FTAA to Miami, supported by Governor Jeb Bush, top state leaders in business and government, Enterprise Florida, Inc., individual companies and associations statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Town of Miami Lakes fully supports the location of the FTAA Permanent Secretariat to Florida due to the many benefits it will bring in increased trade, business and economic development to all points in the State.

Section 2. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to Governor Jeb Bush, and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the State legislative committees over international trade, Enterprise Florida, Inc. and the Florida FTAA, Inc..

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of Spt., 2003.

Motion to adopt by Collins, second by Alonso.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

Mayor Wayne Slaton	<u>Yes</u>
Vice Mayor Roberto Alonso	<u>Yes</u>
Councilmember Mary Collins	<u>Yes</u>
Councilmember Robert Meador	<u>Yes</u>
Councilmember Michael Pizzi	<u>Absent</u>
Councilmember Nancy Simon	<u>Yes</u>
Councilmember Peter Thomson	<u>Yes</u>

Wayne Slaton
Wayne Slaton
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Beatris M. Arguelles
Beatris M. Arguelles, CMC
TOWN CLERK

Approved as to form and legality for the use and benefit of the Town of Miami Lakes only:

Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Pastoriza, Guedes
Cole & Boniske, P.A.
TOWN ATTORNEY

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