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3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2014-11**  
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5 RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE  
6 COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF  
7 BISCAVNE PARK URGING MEMBERS OF THE  
8 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT AND  
9 OPPOSE CERTAIN ISSUES DURING THE 2014  
10 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; PROVIDING FOR  
11 SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN  
12 EFFECTIVE DATE  
13

14 WHEREAS, a majority of Florida's municipalities are challenged to meet the  
15 increasing infrastructure, affordable housing, transportation, service demands and water quality  
16 needs of their citizens; and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Florida municipalities are dependent on other governmental entities for  
19 financial stability; and, municipal self-determination and local self-determination are often  
20 under challenge from a variety of public and private interests; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, the role and function of municipal government is continually evolving in  
23 part due to new demands from its citizens and businesses; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities is a champion of municipal home rule and  
26 local self-government in Florida, to ensure that government stays close to the people that it  
27 serves; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, in pursuit of its mission and in concert with 410 member municipalities,  
30 the Florida League of Cities each year compiles a list of legislative priorities, starting with  
31 general opposition to unfunded mandates;<sup>1</sup>  
32

33 WHEREAS, the Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park supports the legislative  
34 priorities promulgated by the Florida League of Cities for the 2014 legislative as summarized  
35 below.  
36

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF  
38 THE VILLAGE OF BISCAVNE PARK, FLORIDA, THAT:  
39

40 **Section 1:** The Village Commission urges members of the Florida Legislature to act on  
41 the following issues during the current legislative session:  
42

- 43 a. SUPPORT legislation that protects municipalities' home rule powers to set and  
44 fund municipal employee benefit levels and specifically provides comprehensive  
45 pension reform, disability presumption reform and a mechanism for municipalities  
46 to revoke their election to participate in the Florida Retirement System. The  
47 League also supports legislation that provides municipalities with the flexibility in

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<sup>1</sup> An unfunded mandate is defined as "when one government forces another level of government to take some action that spends or reduces revenue, without providing any resources to offset the impact."

1 the use of insurance premium taxes, as currently interpreted by the Florida  
2 Department of Management Services.

- 3
- 4 b. SUPPORT legislation that protects general revenues collected from the  
5 communications services tax and the local business tax. These revenues are used to  
6 provide essential municipal services, such as public safety and constructing and  
7 maintaining roads, bridges, public parks and open spaces. Maintaining a diversified  
8 revenue base strengthens the fiscal stability of local governments and improves  
9 their ability to serve citizens and businesses.
- 10
- 11 c. SUPPORT legislation addressing water quality and quantity issues that affect the  
12 economies of local communities. Specifically, the League supports efforts to  
13 revitalize and protect Florida's springs, aquifers, surface waters and estuaries.
- 14
- 15 d. Recognizing that 89 percent of all businesses in Florida have 12 or fewer  
16 employees, SUPPORT legislation that dedicates state economic development  
17 resources to small businesses, with an emphasis on technical assistance, access to  
18 capital, public infrastructure and urban infill.
- 19
- 20 e. SUPPORT legislation that requires state housing trust fund monies be used  
21 exclusively for funding local government affordable housing initiatives. The  
22 League also supports improving the Community Development Block Grant  
23 program to maintain current funding categories with adequate verification  
24 safeguards to ensure grants will primarily benefit low and moderate income  
25 families, and supports maintenance of the CDBG advisory committee.
- 26
- 27 f. SUPPORT legislation that preserves local control of transportation planning and  
28 provides opportunities for additional revenue options to fund municipal  
29 transportation infrastructure projects.
- 30
- 31 g. SUPPORT legislation that provides for a judicious code of ethics for public  
32 officials to protect and preserve the public trust; provides a reasoned and balanced  
33 manner by which public officials may identify, disclose and resolve (or otherwise  
34 avoid) conflicts between public duty and private interests; and recognizes the home  
35 rule authority of each municipality to independently adopt more stringent standards  
36 for its own public officials.
- 37
- 38 h. SUPPORT legislation that defines and establishes statewide minimum regulatory  
39 standards for properties used for "sober home"<sup>2</sup> purposes and allows for more  
40 stringent local regulation of such properties.
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- 42

43 **Section 2:** The Village Clerk is directed to transmit this resolution to the Senate  
44 President, Speaker of the House, the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation and the  
45 Florida League of Cities.  
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<sup>2</sup> "Sober homes" or "halfway houses" provide transitional housing opportunities for individuals with drug or alcohol problems and who are progressing through treatment for substance abuse problems.

1            **Section 3:** Village administration and elected officials shall advocate for the issues  
2 identified in Section 1 above.

3  
4            **Section 4:** Should any section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, clause or other part of any  
5 provision of this Resolution be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid,  
6 unlawful, or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of this Resolution as a  
7 whole or any part thereof and to that extent, the terms of this Resolution are hereby declared to  
8 be severable.

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10           **Section 5:** This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by majority  
11 vote of the Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park, Florida.

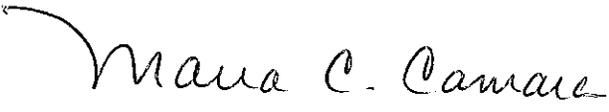
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14 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014

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17            **The foregoing resolution upon being  
18 put to a vote, the vote was as follows:**

19              
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 David Coviello, Mayor

22 Mayor Coviello: Yes  
23 Vice Mayor Watts: Yes  
24 Commissioner Anderson: Yes  
25 Commissioner Jonas: Yes  
26 Commissioner Ross: Yes

27 Attest:

28  
29              
30 \_\_\_\_\_  
31 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk

32 Approved as to form:

33  
34              
35 \_\_\_\_\_  
36 Village Attorney