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3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2016-36**  
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5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COMMISSION**  
6 **OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA;**  
7 **SUPPORTING ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THE LOW**  
8 **INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**  
9 **(LIHEAP); PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**  
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12 WHEREAS, The Village of Biscayne Park recognizes basic energy services to be a  
13 vital key to the health, safety and well-being of Florida households and families; and,

14 WHEREAS, poverty, unemployment and the slow economic recovery remain persistent  
15 national problems for many, and most especially, low-income households; *and*

16 WHEREAS, low-income families in Florida must disproportionately spend about three  
17 times more of their income on basic energy services than middle-income families do; *and*

18 WHEREAS, homes in low-income and minority communities severely lack energy  
19 efficiency features that can reduce energy consumption; *and*

20 WHEREAS, LIHEAP can provide vital heating, cooling and efficiency assistance to  
21 low-income households, including working-poor families, senior citizens, persons with  
22 disabilities and veterans; *and*

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24 WHEREAS, the severe constraints on state and local budgets and the increased strain  
25 on the nation's support system provided by nonprofit, faith-based and charitable community  
26 organizations have reduced other resources available for energy assistance; *and*

27 WHEREAS, the primary Federal program providing assistance to low-income  
28 households to support their heating and cooling needs is the Low Income Home Energy  
29 Assistance Program (LIHEAP); *and*

30 WHEREAS, LIHEAP is not an entitlement, but rather a limited block grant program  
31 which provides flexible Federal-State partnerships to prevent service terminations during cold  
32 and hot weather emergencies; to make the transition from public assistance to economic self-  
33 reliance; to help low-income households remain economically self-sufficient; *and*

34 WHEREAS, federal LIHEAP funding has declined from \$5.1 billion in 2010 and is  
35 currently \$3.4 billion in 2016; *and*

36 WHEREAS, due to this limited funding, less than 125,000 Florida households received  
37 LIHEAP assistance in 2014, or less than ten percent of the State's eligible households; *and*

38 WHEREAS, due to this limited funding, the National Energy Assistance Directors  
39 Association has reported that many low-income families "will have few choices but to cut back  
40 on essential necessities, such as medicine, food, and clothing"; *and*

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2 WHEREAS, The National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) and  
3 other concerned national organizations support restoring LIHEAP funding to at least \$4.7  
4 billion in federal fiscal year 2017; *and*

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6 WHEREAS, another impactful solution to increase Florida's share of funding, without  
7 increasing the overall federal LIHEAP budget, is for Congressional Appropriators to simply  
8 "follow LIHEAP's enabling law" – the precise allocation formula actually prescribed by  
9 Congress. Florida and many other states in great need would see a meaningful increase in their  
10 share of LIHEAP funds, as the Program's enabling law calibrates for the dangers of both  
11 extreme heat and cold. It also adjusts funding for changing energy costs, demographics and  
12 poverty. In fact, the Congressional Research Service's latest (June 25, 2015) estimate  
13 confirmed that Florida would receive an additional \$38.5 million in LIHEAP funding - a 55  
14 percent improvement - if appropriations were to simply adhere to LIHEAP's lawfully-enacted  
15 enabling law, even if the Program were simply to be level funded;

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17 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that *the ENTITY NAME* urges the Appropriations  
18 Committee of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to both fully follow  
19 LIHEAP's enabling law when determining all future appropriations, and to restore LIHEAP  
20 funding to its historic levels.

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to all members of  
23 Congress, seeking their support for continued and fair funding for this life-saving Program.

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26 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF**  
27 **THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA:**

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30 **Section 1.** The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as  
31 being true and correct and hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

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33 **Section 2.** The Village Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park urges the  
34 Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate and House of Representatives to both  
35 fully follow LIHEAP's enabling law when determining all future appropriations, and to restore  
36 LIHEAP funding to its historic levels.

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38 **Section 3.** The Village Clerk is directed to submit a copy of this resolution to all  
39 members of Congress, seeking their support for continued and fair funding for this life-saving  
40 Program.

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42 **Section 4.** This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.  
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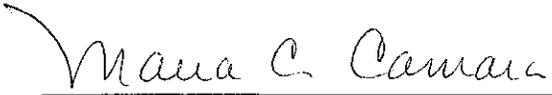
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45 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2016.

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

Mayor Coviello: Yes  
Vice Mayor Ross: Yes  
Commissioner Anderson: Yes  
Commissioner Jonas: Yes  
Commissioner Watts: Yes

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6 David Coviello, Mayor  
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9 Attest:

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12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk  
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16 Approved as to form:

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20 John J. Hearn, Village Attorney  
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