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4 **RESOLUTION NO. 2012-63**  
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6 **RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE**  
7 **COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF**  
8 **BISCAYNE PARK URGING THE GOVERNOR**  
9 **AND ALL LEGISLATORS OF FLORIDA TO**  
10 **RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN**  
11 **FLORIDA'S ELECTION LAWS AND VOTING**  
12 **PRACTICES; PROVIDING FOR AN**  
13 **EFFECTIVE DATE**  
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15 WHEREAS, "government by the people" and the right to vote are cornerstones of United  
16 States democracy; and,  
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18 WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in  
19 1965, is landmark legislation that outlaws discriminatory voting practices and establishes federal  
20 oversight in jurisdictions with a history of discriminatory voting practices (referred to as "Sec. 5  
21 Preclearance"); and,  
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23 WHEREAS, it is reported by the press that due to voting irregularities, several Florida  
24 counties are already subject to Sec. 5 Preclearance, pursuant to Voting Rights Act of 1965; and,  
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26 WHEREAS, Florida's elections laws were amended in 2011 (the "2011 Amendments"),  
27 in several respects, including burdensome qualifying requirements, limitations on early voting,  
28 and discretionary standards set for each of the 67 county Supervisors of Elections throughout the  
29 State; and,  
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31 WHEREAS, efforts to limit voter registration, the purging of voter rolls, and restrictions  
32 on early voting historically result in a negative impact, suppressing the votes of disenfranchised  
33 groups, including working individuals who cannot take time off from work or whose schedules  
34 lack flexibility, the elderly, students, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals, many  
35 of who do not have easy transportation to polls; and,  
36

37 WHEREAS voting limitations enacted with the 2011 Amendments, compounded with an  
38 extraordinarily complex and lengthy ballot due in part of the eleven (11) constitutional  
39 amendments proposed by the Legislature in full text, posed a predicable arduous process for  
40 voters during the general election cycle of November 6, 2012; and,  
41

42 WHEREAS the additional disproportionate deployment of voting resources for early  
43 voting and on Election Day, repeating past experience, showing a decline in voter participation  
44 with only 71.15% of registered voters casting ballots, compared to 75% in 2008 and compared to  
45 74% in 2004.<sup>1</sup>  
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<sup>1</sup> Over one-half of the ballots cast in Florida were via early and absentee votes. All data obtained from Miami-Dade County Department of Elections and Florida Department of State Division of Elections.

1           WHEREAS, these repeated irregularities in our electoral process discourage voters, are  
2 injurious to confidence in election outcomes, and reflect badly on the State of Florida in ways  
3 that impact our socio and economic health; and  
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5           WHEREAS, elected officials at every level of representation are responsible for  
6 promoting increased voter participation, confidence in the process and in the results of fair and  
7 transparent elections; and,  
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9           WHEREAS, the Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park (“Village”) advocates for  
10 the right to vote as a fundamental right of citizenship, supports access to voting and encourages  
11 its citizenry so that all persons wishing to vote may be afforded every meaningful opportunity to  
12 do so; and,  
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14           WHEREAS, early and advance voting options, which include allowing for additional  
15 days during which voters may go to the polls at designated locations in advance of Election Day  
16 accommodate an increased number of potential voters and benefit all, especially individuals with  
17 inflexible family, employment and life obligations.  
18

19           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF THE  
20 VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA:  
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22           **Section 1:** That the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this  
23 reference.  
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25           **Section 2:** The Village supports early and advance voting, as a measure of protecting the  
26 fundamental right of all voters from diminishment and unwarranted restrictions to voting.  
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28           **Section 3:** The Village urges the Governor and all Legislators of Florida to restore public  
29 confidence in Florida’s election laws and voting practices by working together to supporting  
30 legislation that:

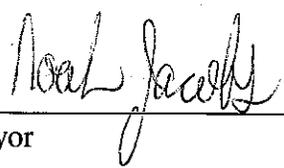
- 31           a) authorizes the full fourteen (14) days of early voting affording the maximum
- 32           number of and accessible locations to promote increased voter participation;
- 33           b) establishes an adequate baseline number of polling locations, voting
- 34           equipment and personnel per 65,000 voters in each county;
- 35           c) allocates sufficient resources for each county supervisor of election to
- 36           responsibly conduct the duties of office.  
37

38           **Section 4:** That the Village Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the  
39 Office of the Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House, Florida Secretary of State, and  
40 other agencies as deemed appropriate.  
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42           **Section 5:** That this resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption by majority  
43 vote of the Commission of the Village of Biscayne Park, Florida.  
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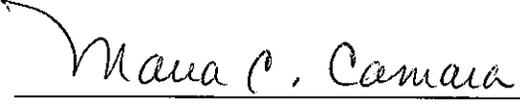
45           PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.  
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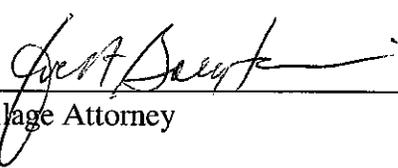
\_\_\_\_\_  
Noah Jacobs, Mayor

Attest:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk

Approved as to form:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Village Attorney

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

Mayor Jacobs: Yes  
Vice Mayor Cooper: Absent  
Commissioner Anderson: Yes  
Commissioner Ross: Yes  
Commissioner Watts: Yes