

Resolution 2009-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF ST LEO FLORIDA SUPPORTING RETENTION OF
EGMONT KEY STATE PARK BY THE FLORIDA PARK SERVICE

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council designates natural resources of regional significance, recognizing important resources within the Tampa Bay region; and

WHEREAS, Egmont Key is designated a Natural Resource of Regional Significance in the Future of the Region – A Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Tampa Bay Region, including nesting beaches for federally – and state-listed shore birds and sea turtles;

WHEREAS, Egmont Key, as a natural barrier island, provides protection against storm surges for the communities around Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, The still-active Egmont light tower pre-dates (1858) the Civil War, the island was used during the Seminole Wars and housed a hospital during the Civil War, and the remaining Spanish- American War (1898) gun batteries and associated structures are three of the only remaining five such features on the west coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS the Florida Park Service has been responsible for the restoration and maintenance of the historically-significant gun batteries, light tower and other structures on the island, the removal of exotic species and the management of shore bird and turtle nesting habitat since 1989; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual budget for maintaining Egmont Key State Park at its current level of state involvement is about \$140,000; the calculated direct positive economic impact to the community of Egmont Key State Park is over \$7.9 million annually; and the resulting annual State sales tax revenue is over \$555,000;

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Park Service proposes to close Egmont Key State park as part of an expense-reduction plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council highly recommends that the State retain Egmont Key State Park and maintain its management structure for the benefit of the citizens of the Tampa Bay region as well as the natural resources of the island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Charlie Crist, the FL Department of Environmental Protection, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.


James Hallett, O.S.B. – Mayor


Joan Miller, C.M.C. – Town Clerk

The above resolution was approved by the majority vote of the
Town Commission on this 12th day of January, 2009

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CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

STATE OF FLORIDA

Office of the Governor

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

www.flgov.com
850-488-7146
850-487-0801 fax

January 26, 2009

The Honorable James Hallett
Town of St. Leo
P. O. Box 2479
St. Leo, FL 33574

Dear Mayor Hallett:

Thank you for writing Governor Charlie Crist regarding the Town of St. Leo's recent draft resolution supporting retention of Egmont Key State Park by the Florida Park Service. The Governor appreciated receiving resolution No.2009-04 and asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Governor realizes how vital it is that state and local leaders, like you and your colleagues, continue to put the best interests of their citizens forward. Your continued efforts and dedication to Florida are greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write to Governor Crist. Your thoughts are very important to him.

Sincerely,

Aundra Bryant
Office of Policy and Budget
Executive Office of the Governor