



City of North Port

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R-57

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, RELATING TO SENATE BILL 378 AND HOUSE BILL 207 DESIGNATING THE FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY AS THE OFFICIAL STATE BIRD; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Chapter 15 of the Florida Statutes does not include a designation of an official state bird for Florida; and

WHEREAS, four other states have the Northern Mockingbird as their state bird – Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scrub-Jay is the only bird that is endemic to Florida, found nowhere else on the planet, which no other state can claim; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scrub-Jay has been present in Florida for at least 2 million years; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Port is home to a significant number of Florida Scrub-Jays and the City has taken measures to protect the Florida Scrub-Jay's local habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scrub-Jay was officially listed as a threatened state species by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in 1975 and as a threatened federal species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1987; and

WHEREAS, populations of the Florida Scrub-Jay have declined 90% over the last century, and that decline has accelerated over the last decade; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scrub-Jay's specific scrub or scrub-like habitat is declining rapidly due to development that is fragmenting their habitat and needs our additional efforts in bringing attention to the species; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scrub-Jay can be considered an "umbrella" species, and protecting them serves to protect many other unique animal and plant species that live in their scrub and scrub-like habitat, some of which is found only in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scrub-Jay is representational of Florida’s unique environment and varied ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Florida wildlife viewing activities are popular among residents and nonresidents alike and provide significant economic benefits for many individuals and businesses composed of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, and support services grounded in our communities and contributing approximately \$5.8 billion to Florida’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to join other agencies across the state in their support of naming the Florida Scrub-Jay as Florida’s Official state bird.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1 – INCORPORATION OF RECITALS

1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this resolution by reference.

SECTION 2 – RESOLUTION

2.01 The City Commission hereby affirms the issues in this resolution and expresses its support in naming the Florida Scrub-Jay as Florida’s official state bird.

SECTION 3 – CONFLICTS

3.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this resolution and any other resolution, in whole or in part, the provisions of this resolution will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 4 – SEVERABILITY

4.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this resolution is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the resolution.

SECTION 5 – EFFECTIVE DATE

5.01 This resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public session on January 11, 2022.

CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

PETE EMRICH
MAYOR

ATTEST

HEATHER TAYLOR, MMC
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

AMBER L. SLAYTON
CITY ATTORNEY