

RESOLUTION NO.2003- 31

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA FTAA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MIAMI AS THE NATURAL LOCATION FOR THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the recent history of a comprehensive Western Hemisphere free trade zone began with the Enterprise Initiative for the Americas proposed by President George Bush in 1990, and at the first Summit of the Americas, held in Miami during December of 1994, a 2005 target date was approved for the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA); and

**WHEREAS**, successful negotiation and ratification of such a free trade area would mean significant reduction of trade barriers and lend impetus to the future dynamics in hemispheric commerce that would be of great benefit to Florida's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, during the VII American Business Forum in Quito Ecuador, Florida FTAA delegates explained Miami's business, infrastructure and cultural advantages to Latin American and Caribbean government representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, for the first time, a conceptual design of the building that would house the FTAA Permanent Secretariat has been designed and presented; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami is the business capital of the Americas; and

**WHEREAS**, South Florida is home to 2100 multicultural companies, 25 Foreign Trade Offices, and 40 bi-national chambers of commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, over half of U.S. international trade with Latin America and the Caribbean flows through Miami; and

**WHEREAS**, 40 shipping lines through Miami connect 360 ports in 130 countries around the world, and Miami International Airport is the top U.S. airport for international travelers to and from Latin America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida FTAA is a non-profit corporation, which supports hemispheric free trade and efforts to bring the permanent Secretariat of the FTAA to Miami, supported by Governor Jeb Bush, top state leaders in business and government, Enterprise Florida, Inc., individual companies and associations statewide;

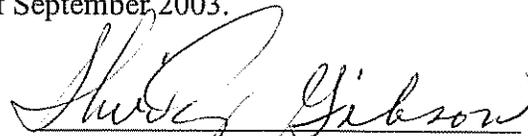
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOW:**

**Section 1. Expression of Support.** The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens fully supports the location of the FTAA Permanent Secretariat in Florida due to the many benefits it will bring in increased trade, business and economic development to all points in the state.

**Section 2. Transmittal of Resolution.** The City Manager is hereby directed to ensure that a copy of this resolution is provided to Governor Jeb Bush, and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the state legislative committees over international trade, Enterprise Florida, Inc. and the Florida FTAA, Inc.

**Section 3. Effective date.** This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

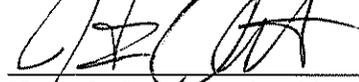
**PASSED and ADOPTED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2003.

  
Shirley Gibson, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Acting City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

  
Hans Ottinot, Interim City Attorney

Moved by: Councilman Campbell

Seconded by: Councilwoman King

**VOTE:**

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)
Vice Mayor Aaron Campbell	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)
Councilman Oscar Braynon II	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)
Councilwoman Audrey King	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)
Councilwoman Barbara Watson	<u>  x  </u> (Yes)	<u>      </u> (No)