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DATE: JANUARY 25, 2021

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 21-01 / SB 62 REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS
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Attached for your consideration is Draft Resolution 21-01 opposing elimination of statutory authorization for regional planning councils in Florida as proposed by Senate Bill 62, introduced by Senator Jennifer Bradley.

Recommendation: Ratify Resolution 21-01

RESOLUTION #21-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF MIAMI-DADE, BROWARD, AND MONROE COUNTIES, FLORIDA; OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION FOR REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCILS IN FLORIDA AS PROPOSED IN SENATE BILL 62 OR SIMILAR PROPOSED LEGISLATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the South Florida Regional Planning Council is a regional public policy and planning agency representing the geographic area of Miami-Dade, Broward, and Monroe counties; municipalities contained therein, and more than 4.8 million residents; and

WHEREAS, the Council Board consists of county and municipal elected officials, gubernatorial appointees, and ex-officio representatives representing the South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Transportation, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and

WHEREAS, the Council is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibilities in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, energy, regional health, natural resources, urban planning, and regional transportation; and

WHEREAS, for more than five decades Regional Planning Councils have served the public as Florida's only multipurpose regional entities that coordinate intergovernmental solutions to multijurisdictional issues identified by their member local governments; and

WHEREAS, the 67 counties in the state are divided into 10 Regional Planning Councils which perform functions in Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, Regional Convening, Brownfields Assessment and Remediation, Coral Reef Restoration, and Resilience to the extent and as directed by their member counties, cities, and gubernatorial appointees; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Councils compete for and bring to Florida millions of dollars in federal funds for Economic Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, and Resiliency initiatives that would otherwise go to other states; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Councils receive no regular general appropriation for operation from the State and, instead, are supported by Federal grant funds, local dues, local contracts, and State contracts for specific programs implemented on behalf of the State; and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Councils no longer have any regulatory authority and are no longer involved in Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs); and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Councils serve a critical role in hazardous material response coordination and training through the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) operated by each Council; and

WHEREAS, Regional Planning Councils regularly assist state agencies in implementing their statutory duties and legislative directives, along with coordinating these duties and directives with local input, at no charge to the State; and

WHEREAS, proposed Senate Bill 62 will remove authorization and all references to Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes, depriving the people of the State of the important work the councils perform and the federal funds they bring into Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL THAT:

Section 1. The Legislature is urged not to pass Senate Bill 62 unless it is modified to no longer remove Regional Planning Councils from the Florida Statutes; and

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

DULY ADOPTED by the South Florida Regional Planning Council this 25th day of January 2021.

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Steve Geller, Chair   Isabel Cosio Carballo, MPA
Mayor, Broward County   Executive Director