

**COUNTY OF MANATEE, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NO. R-03-76**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, BRADENTON, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE PORTION OF GOVERNOR BUSH'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004 BUDGET THAT ELIMINATES THE STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT HOUSING TRUST FUND AS DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCES, AND REDUCES BY APPROXIMATELY \$94.5 MILLION THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Manatee County has an obligation to provide for the housing needs of its current and anticipated populations and assisting lower income families is dependent upon sufficient housing assistance from federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bush has released his proposed Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget that eliminates the State Housing Trust Fund (providing the majority of the funds for programs such as the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL)) and the Local Government Housing Trust Fund (providing the majority of the funds for programs such as the State Housing Partnership Initiatives Program (SHIP)) as dedicated funding sources, and reduces by approximately \$94.5 million the funds available for these and other affordable housing programs; and

WHEREAS, appropriations for housing programs are proposed from general revenue; however, such appropriations are approximately \$94.5 million less than the amount that would be available from the dedicated revenue in the trust funds; and

WHEREAS, under the proposed budget SHIP would lose approximately \$62.7 million and the state programs (SAIL and others) would lose approximately \$31.8 million; and

WHEREAS, if the Governor's proposal is approved by the Legislature, the dedicated revenue source for affordable housing will be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act of 1992 deliberately used the documentary stamp tax as its revenue source because of its nexus with the development of affordable housing and because the source of funding needed to be a growth vehicle to keep pace with escalating land and housing costs; and

WHEREAS, without a trust fund that can rely on a dedicated revenue source, housing funding will be uncertain and will likely remain stagnant or decrease; and

WHEREAS, the trust funds should not be eliminated or reduced, because they are used to stimulate the economy and to serve first time homebuyers, working families, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the homeless; and

WHEREAS, because over 700,000 of Florida's low income families are in immediate need of affordable housing (paying over 50% of their total household income for shelter), Florida needs more affordable housing funding, not less funds from an uncertain source; and

WHEREAS, the estimated loss in SHIP funding for FY 2003-2004 to Manatee County is approximately \$2.3 million.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the foregoing clauses are ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. That the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners opposes the portion of Governor Bush's proposed Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget that eliminates the State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds as dedicated funding sources, and reduces by approximately \$94.5 million the funds available for these and other affordable housing programs.

Section 3. That the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners urges the Governor and the State Legislators to retain the State and Local Housing Trust Funds and appropriate funding at their full current levels.

Section 4. That the appropriate Manatee County Officials are authorized to do all things necessary and expedient to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

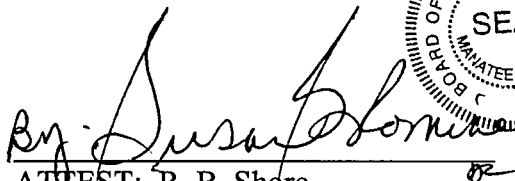
Section 5. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2003.

MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____

Jonathan R. Bruce
Chairman

By: 
ATTEST: R. B. Shore
Clerk of Circuit Court

