



V I L L A G E O F K E Y B I S C A Y N E

Office of the Village Manager

Village Council

Robert L. Vernon, *Mayor*
Michael Davey, *Vice Mayor*
Enrique Garcia
Robert Gusman
Michael E. Kelly
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Thomas Thornton

February 19, 2009

MEMORANDUM

Village Manager

Genaro "Chip" Iglesias

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Village Council

FROM: Genaro "Chip" Iglesias, Village Manager 

RE: Resolution adopting "Earth Hour Day" on March 28th, 2009

BACKGROUND

The Village of Key Biscayne would like to endorse efforts by World Wildlife Fund through Earth Hour occurring on March 28th, 2009 at 8:30 pm to raise awareness about global climate change and energy efficiency. For your review, attached please find a letter submitted by Monica Larriva, Residents' Green Committee and Henny Groschel-Becker, Village Goes Green Initiative Coordinator, requesting the Village to participate in this endeavor.

RECOMMENDATION

I respectfully recommend Council's adoption of the attached proposed resolution, in order to encourage the Village and all city employees to turn off all non-essential lighting in city government buildings and public schools to raise awareness about global climate change as part of the city-wide energy conservation event. Upon your approval, the Village of Key Biscayne will declare March 28th, 2009 to be "Earth Hour Day".

Genaro "Chip" Iglesias
Village Manager, Village of Key Biscayne
Village Hall, Suite 210
88 West McIntyre Street
Key Biscayne, FL 33149

February 19, 2009

Dear Chip:

We are writing to let you know about Earth Hour, a World Wildlife Fund event occurring on March 28, 2009. We hope the Village will support this opportunity to engage our citizens on the issue of the climate change.

From melting glaciers to increasingly intense weather patterns, climate change is already impacting life on Earth. On March 28, 2009, at 8:30 p.m., tens of millions of people around the world will show their concern about the future of the planet by doing something simple yet remarkable. They will turn out their lights for one hour. Earth Hour is designed to remind us that, working together, we all play a role in solving one of the most critical issues of our time. It sends a message that America cares about being part of the solution to climate change.

Our community cares about the environment and we urge the Village of Key Biscayne to take part in Earth Hour 2009. By agreeing to turn off all non-essential lighting controlled by the Village during the event, and encouraging the participation of our residents and businesses, you will help WWF focus the global spotlight on the need for urgent action on climate change. Earth Hour also provides an excellent forum for all citizens, including parents and teachers, to hold meaningful conversations about the ways that all of us can act to be part of the solution.

During Earth Hour 2008, lights dimmed at Sydney's Opera House, Rome's Coliseum, New York's Empire State Building, and San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. Even Google's homepage went black. In Israel, President Shimon Peres personally turned off lights in Tel Aviv, joining the more than 50 million people who participated in Earth Hour last year.

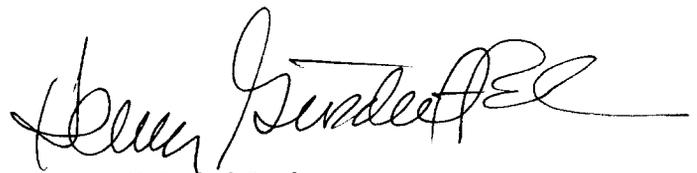
Earth Hour 2009 will be even bigger, as 250 cities, including Bangkok, Chicago, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Manila, Mexico City, Miami, Nashville, Singapore, Sydney, and Toronto, join WWF in turning off lights.

There is no cost to participate. WWF's Earth Hour website for participants in the United States, www.EarthHourUS.org/toolkits/city, contains all the tools necessary to make Earth Hour a success in Key Biscayne. We want the US to turn out more lights than any other country in the world during this historic event. We very much hope that the Village will participate and help make that happen.

Sincerely,



Monica Larriva
Residents' Green Committee



Henny Gröschel-Becker
Village Goes Green Initiative Coordinator

RESOLUTION NO. 2009- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT EXTINGUISHING ALL NON-ESSENTIAL LIGHTING IN ALL VILLAGE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LANDMARKS FOR THE HOURS BETWEEN 8:30 PM AND 9:30 PM ON MARCH 28, 2009 TO RAISE AWARENESS OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AS PART OF THE WORLDWIDE CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT: EARTH HOUR, AND ESTABLISHING MARCH 28, 2009 AS EARTH HOUR DAY IN THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, our community is deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change and the future health and well-being of our planet and believes energy efficiency, natural resource conservation, and a demand by the voting public for action by elected officials are important element to combating climate change; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour is both an international and local symbolic event organized by World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change issues, to encourage businesses, individuals and government to take actions to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on the environment in their daily lives and operations; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial establishments to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour beginning at 8:30 pm on March 28, 2009 and to encourage citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and conserve energy; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour will be used as a tool to inform local residents and businesses about existing information and tools already available within the community to assist them in increasing energy efficiency and decreasing emissions and use of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, extinguishing non-essential lights in all Village government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for one hour and urging all businesses and citizens to do the same will send a clear message that the people of the Village of Key Biscayne in the State of Florida in the United States of America are concerned about climate change, stand with the rest of the world in seeking solutions and are encouraging elected leaders to act immediately to take measures that will help fight global climate change, including the passage of legislation and good-faith participation in global climate treaty negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009; and

WHEREAS, turning non-essential lights off in all Village government buildings, public schools and public landmarks will serve as an important rallying point for the city-wide energy conservation event Earth Hour.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals Adopted.** That each of the recitals stated above is hereby adopted and confirmed.

Section 2. **Endorsement.** That the Village of Key Biscayne endorses efforts by World Wildlife Fund through Earth Hour to raise awareness around global climate change and energy efficiency.

Section 3. **Lighting.** That the Village of Key Biscayne encourages all Village employees to turn off all non-essential lighting in city government buildings, public schools and public landmarks for the hour between 8:30 and 9:30 PM on March 28, 2009 to conserve energy

and raise awareness about global climate change as part of the Village-wide energy conservation event: Earth Hour Village of Key Biscayne.

Section 4. **Declaration.** That the Village Council of the Village of Key Biscayne declares March 28, 2009 to be “Earth Hour Day” in the Village of Key Biscayne.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** That this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2009.

ROBERT VERNON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CONCHITA H. ALVAREZ, CMC

VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

VILLAGE ATTORNEY