

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING AN END TO THE EMERGENCY DROUGHT CONDITIONS REQUIRING A COUNTYWIDE BURN BAN; REPEALING THE BURN BAN PREVIOUSLY IMPLEMENTED BY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-021 IN ALL UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR REPEAL

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida (“Board”), adopted Ordinance No. 2025-02, setting forth the procedures to be followed in the event a drought emergency is declared; and

WHEREAS, due to prolonged drought conditions, an extreme shortage of rainfall, and a spike in brushfires throughout Hernando County (“County”), and after consulting with several fire departments within the State of Florida, the Fire Chief determined that a drought emergency existed in the unincorporated areas of the County and, pursuant to Ordinance 2025-02, declared a countywide temporary burn ban effective January 8, 2026; and

WHEREAS, to prevent brushfires and wildfire, open burning was prohibited except as specifically authorized by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry; and

WHEREAS, the Board ratified the Fire Chief’s declaration and adopted Resolution No. 2026-021, *nunc pro tunc* to January 8, 2026, implementing a ban on open burning in response to the heightened fire risk, as woodlands and vegetation throughout the County had become highly susceptible to fire hazards; and

WHEREAS, in recent weeks, the County has received much needed rainfall, substantially reducing fire hazards; and

WHEREAS, the State Division of Forestry and local fire officials have advised that continued enforcement of the burn ban is no longer necessary; and

WHEREAS, because conditions have improved, it is appropriate at this time for the Board to repeal the burn ban.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Incorporated Whereas Clauses. The foregoing Whereas clauses are true and correct and are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Findings. The Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, finds and determines that the emergency drought conditions requiring implementation of a burn ban pursuant to Resolution No. 2026-021 no longer exist.

Section 3. Repeal. This Resolution shall supersede and repeal Resolution No. 2026-021, which implemented a burn ban, in accordance with the provisions set forth herein.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect at 12:00 a.m., on the _____ day of February 2026.

ADOPTED IN REGULAR SESSION THE _____ DAY OF _____ 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Attest: _____
Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

By: _____
Jerry Campbell
Chairman

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By: Natasha López Perez
County Attorney's Office