

## RESOLUTION NO. 2012-02

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE CITY.

**WHEREAS**, St. Augustine is the oldest, continuously occupied European settlement in the United States, having been established in 1565; and

**WHEREAS**, the heritage of the City of St. Augustine extends not only to the European occupation but also for 10,000 years into the prehistoric era when indigenous Native American groups used and eventually settled the region; and

**WHEREAS**, both the prehistoric and historical heritage of St. Augustine are irreplaceable national resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Augustine has enacted various ordinances and regulations ensuring that the City maintains its heritage for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the ordinances passed by the St. Augustine City Commission is the Archaeological Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 6, City Code, enacted in 1986 and amended in 1990, which requires evaluation of all public and private properties within the City limits for adverse impacts to archaeological resources prior to ground-penetrating construction activities; and

**WHEREAS**, those projects which occur in designated archaeological zones and which exceed construction thresholds established by the City Code require an archaeological response by the City prior to or during ground-penetrating

construction to ensure the evaluation and documentation of archaeological resources present on a property; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Augustine evidences the importance of documenting its archeological heritage by engaging in a Code of Conduct and the emphasizing Standards for Research Performance as sanctioned by the Registry of Professional Archaeologists for archaeological digging prior to or during construction activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of St. Augustine realizes that its archaeological heritage consists not only of artifacts but also the soil deposits in which those artifacts are buried, which together form the context for understanding the archaeological record; and

**WHEREAS**, proper excavation and documentation can preserve St. Augustine's archaeological heritage for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. The City of St. Augustine encourages its residents to serve as stewards of the City's archaeological heritage by not willfully digging for artifacts on their real property.

Section 2. While the City recognizes that digging on one's property for various endeavors not involving or requiring construction permits by the City of St. Augustine, such as that associated with planting trees and gardens, may reveal important artifacts and that the disposition of these items lies within the legal authority of the property owner, the City encourages those owners to donate the artifacts to the City as part of the City's archaeological collections and to make these artifacts available to future scientists interested in researching the history of St. Augustine.

Section 3. Through protection of its archaeological heritage, either through proper documentation using procedures sanctioned by the Register of Professional Archaeologists or by not willfully digging for artifacts, the citizens of St. Augustine can preserve those resources which make this City unique in the United States.

**ADOPTED** in Regular Session of the City Commission for the City of St. Augustine, Florida, this 23rd day of January, 2012.

ATTEST:

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Joe Boles, Jr., Mayor-Commissioner

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Alison Ratkovic, City Clerk

(SEAL)