

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT 13 TO PHASE OUT THE CRUELTY OF COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND RACING BY DECEMBER 2020 AND DECOUPLE LIVE RACING FROM OTHER FORMS OF GAMBLING IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, commercial greyhound racing is a dying industry in the United States and Florida hosts eleven of the remaining seventeen American dog tracks; and

WHEREAS, public opposition to commercial greyhound racing is increasing due to both humane and economic concerns; and

WHEREAS, 70% of Florida voters will support Amendment 13 to end commercial greyhound racing on November 6 according to a 2018 statewide survey by McLaughlin and Associates; and

WHEREAS, state records show that a greyhound dies on average every three days at a Florida racetrack; and

WHEREAS, in the one Florida jurisdiction that requires public disclosure, Seminole County, 73 injuries have been reported, including 55 broken bones and four deaths; and

WHEREAS, the state Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering reports more than 400 greyhound drug positives, including 68 cocaine-positive since 2008; and

WHEREAS, at Florida tracks, thousands of greyhounds are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in small cages barely large enough for the dogs to stand up or turn around; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 13 specifies a twenty-six-month phase-out to allow for the safe transition of racing greyhounds into loving homes; and

WHEREAS, a report commissioned by the Florida Legislature in 2013 documented that the state loses up to \$3.3 million a year on live greyhound racing because the cost of regulation exceeds tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the economic decline of greyhound racing is expected to continue; and

WHEREAS, the state's mandate for live racing as a platform for other, more profitable forms of gambling is contrary to free market principles and costs Florida dog tracks \$34 million each year combined; and

WHEREAS, ending commercial greyhound racing will not lead to the expansion of gambling in any way.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA, as follows:

SECTION 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are adopted herein.

SECTION 2. That the City of Venice hereby declares support of proposed constitutional Amendment 13 to phase-out the cruelty of commercial greyhound racing, repeal the statutory live racing mandate, and which will have no impact on other forms of gambling.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE VENICE CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH DAY OF AUGUST 2018.

John W. Holic, Mayor

ATTEST

Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

I, **LORI STELZER**, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Venice, Florida, a municipal corporation in Sarasota County, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and complete, true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the City Council of said city at a meeting thereof duly convened and held on the 28th day of August 2018, a quorum being present.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said City this 28th day of August 2018.

(SEAL)

Lori Stelzer, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Kelly Fernandez, City Attorney