

RESOLUTION
NO. 18-04

A RESOLUTION
TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, RELATING TO CARPENTER'S CREEK, RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY LAURIE MURPHY AND THE EMERALD COASTKEEPERS, INC. AND DECLARING APRIL 28TH AS CARPENTER'S CREEK APPRECIATION DAY IN THE CITY OF PENSACOLA.

WHEREAS, Carpenter's Creek is a five mile creek that meanders through the north east portion of the City of Pensacola, is part of the Pensacola watershed and drains into Bayou Texar; and

WHEREAS, over the past sixty years Carpenter's Creek watershed has become greatly impaired with the destruction of the watershed's riparian zone, clear cutting of pine forest, the removal of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, the pollution of the creek's water from residential, commercial and industrial development activity, and the accumulation of urban trash, garbage and debris; and

WHEREAS, Carpenter's Creek restoration is vital to the health of Bayou Texar and Pensacola Bay and in an effort to restore Carpenter's Creek, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners selected a Carpenter's Creek restoration project to receive RESTORE funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Emerald Coastkeepers, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to protect and restore the waterways, watershed and riparian areas of the gulf coast region, including the City of Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, Laurie Murphy, Executive Director of Emerald Coastkeepers, Inc. has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to addressing the environmental demise of Carpenter's Creek by:

- a. Organizing eight clean up events and recruiting over 100 volunteers to clean up Carpenter's Creek from 12th Avenue to just west of Davis Highway;
- b. Networking and coordinating with residents, other government entities and private businesses to assist volunteers in their efforts to remove over 26,000 pounds of trash, tires, shopping carts, and debris from the creek and its banks;
- c. Assisting in organizing five Carpenter's Creek town hall meetings, including distribution of fliers, encouraging residents and citizens to become involved in the restoration process and participating in numerous media events to promote and raise public awareness of the plight of Carpenter's Creek;
- d. Negotiating the purchase of the 8.5 acre headwaters of Carpenter's Creek on Olive Road. On April 28, 2017, Escambia County closed on the purchase of the headwaters which is an absolute vital element in the overall restoration of Carpenter's Creek. On December 9, 2017, Laurie Murphy began a clean-up operation of the headwaters which is slated to become a site for recreational and environmental events.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Pensacola does hereby recognize and commend

**LAURIE MURPHY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
EMERALD COASTKEEPERS, INC.**

for her exemplary activism and volunteerism to protect and restore Carpenter's Creek and the city's vital natural resources and environment.

Section 2. That the City Council further declares April 28th of each year as Carpenter's Creek appreciation day and encourages the public to participate in activities related to the enjoyment, restoration and protection of Carpenter's Creek.

Section 3. This Resolution shall become effective on the fifth business day after adoption, unless otherwise provided pursuant to Section 4.03(d) of the City Charter of the City of Pensacola.

Adopted: _____

Approved: _____
President of City Council

Attest:

City Clerk