A Resolution of Support Opposing Additional Gambling in Florida by Supporting "No (More) Casinos in Florida"

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* is committed to building on Central Florida's rich history in agriculture, hospitality, tourism and conventions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* supports the diversity and richness of our region today with the addition of centers of excellence in healthcare, entrepreneurship, aerospace, and modeling, simulation & training; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* fashions its ongoing work around thoughtful consideration of the challenges faced by individuals, families and businesses during the current economic downturn and skyrocketing unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* advocacy and support of specific strategic Regional Priorities will help advance our journey to economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* understands that Florida voters have, on three separate occasions, rejected the legalization of high-stakes casino gambling in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* understands that multiple studies reveal that, when introduced into developed tourism economies, casino gambling has devastating effects on established local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* understands this fact was proven in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where 40 percent of local restaurants and one third of the local retail establishment closed following the introduction of casino gambling; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* understands that high-stakes casino gambling is demonstrably linked to higher social costs, including the cost of regulation, the cost of crime, the cost of additional law enforcement, and the cost of treatment for addicted gamblers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* understands that Florida's history with gambling demonstrates its natural tendency to expand to new areas once introduced; and

Continued . . .

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* understands that the Florida Legislature will soon consider legislation to expand gambling in Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* supports the efforts of "No (More) Casinos in Florida," by opposing the expansion of gambling in Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* supports the efforts of "No (More) Casinos in Florida," by opposing legislation that would legalize so-called "Destination Casinos" in Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* supports the efforts of "No (More) Casinos in Florida," by supporting legislative efforts to close the loophole allowing "Internet Gambling Cafés" to exist throughout Florida.

APROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the *Central Florida Partnership* this 19th day of October 2011.

Signed this 19th day of October 2011.

Jeffery Q. Jonasen 2011-2012 Chair

Central Florida Partnership

Jacob V. Stuart

Central Florida Partnership