

MAY 13 2014 KH/BS

# RESOLUTION

*of the*

## ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*regarding*

### THE VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE CENTER AT BALDWIN PARK

#### Resolution No. 2014-M-21

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida is home to the second largest veteran population in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Central Florida is home to more than 400,000 veterans and it is anticipated that these numbers will dramatically increase in the coming decades; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) desires to ensure that military veterans, their families, and survivors living in this area receive high quality benefits and services ; and

**WHEREAS**, to provide for the future care of service men and women, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is slated to open a new medical center at Lake Nona; and

**WHEREAS**, with the scheduled opening of the Lake Nona medical center, the future of the existing Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park has become uncertain; and

**WHEREAS**, the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park is a valuable federal asset and is necessary to ensure the increasing number of veterans receive timely and appropriate health services; and

**WHEREAS**, in recent months, members of the Florida Congressional Delegation for the central Florida area, including U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, and U.S. Representatives John Mica, Daniel Webster, Corrine Brown, and Alan Grayson, have sent letters to the VA urging the VA to keep the Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open for use by Central Florida's veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Congressional Delegation has requested the Board support its efforts to keep the Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board hereby expresses its support of the efforts of the Florida Congressional Delegation to keep the Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open and in service to veterans.

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

**Section 1.** The Board hereby affirms its support for and commitment to keeping the Veterans Affairs Healthcare Center at Baldwin Park open and in service to Orange County veterans and other veterans living in the area and hereby urges the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to not close this facility.

**Section 2.** This resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

**Adopted** this \_\_\_\_ day of MAY 13 2014, 2014.

**ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Teresa Jacobs*  
Teresa Jacobs  
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller  
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: *Katie Smith*  
Deputy Clerk

