WHEREAS, upon the announcement in 1993 that the Orlando Naval Training Center would be closed, the numerous military retirees and reservists in and around Orange County joined with County Commissioner Mary I. Johnson and fought to have the operation of the Navy Exchange be continued after closure of the NTC; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy indicated in 1994 that the Exchange would continue to be operated after closure of the base; and

WHEREAS, nearly 80,000 military retirees, family members, and active duty reservists in and around Orange County use the Navy Exchange and depend on its goods and services and amenities; and

WHEREAS, large numbers of those individuals have moved to Orange County and its surroundings to live, work, and retire in reliance on the promise in 1994 that the Navy Exchange would continue to operate despite closure of the base; and

WHEREAS, the City of Orlando, Florida, appears to intend to include the Navy Exchange site in the “request for proposals” that will be distributed to private developers next year; and

WHEREAS, upon gaining control and/or ownership of the site upon which the Navy Exchange is located, a private, for-profit developer likely would demand that the Navy Exchange either close or pay lease rental in amounts that would render its continued operation unprofitable and economically infeasible; and

WHEREAS, such a turn of events would be a breach of faith between and among the United States Navy, the City of Orlando, and the tens of thousands of retirees and active duty reservists and their families; NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

1. The City of Orlando is hereby urged to remove the site upon which the Navy Exchange is located from the scope of any RFP or negotiations or transactions in which a private owner might gain ownership and/or control of the site. Instead, the City of Orlando is urged to negotiate a fair and feasible lease directly with the Navy Exchange such that the Navy Exchange will be able economically to continue its operation after closure of the base.

Alternatively, The Honorable John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy, (or his successor) is urged to delete the site upon which the Navy Exchange is located from the land which is to be conveyed to the City of Orlando and, instead, to retain Navy ownership and to grant a long-term, feasible lease directly to the Navy Exchange (as is the case with other bases).

2. Orange County staff is hereby authorized and directed to include the disposition of the Navy Exchange as an issue to be negotiated and resolved between Orange County and the City of Orlando precedent to the Board of County Commissioners considering, among other issues, delegating powers of “community redevelopment” to the City of Orlando pursuant to the provisions of Section 163.410 of Florida Statutes or otherwise acquiescing or consenting in any fashion to the exercise by the City of Orlando of “community redevelopment” powers under Part III of Chapter 163 of Florida Statutes.

RESOLVED THIS 18TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1997.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: The Board of County Commissioners

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