

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Legislative - Proposal to Eliminate the State Library of Florida

DEPARTMENT: _____ **DIVISION:** _____

Steve Lee **EXT. 5741**

AUTHORIZED BY: _____ **Contact:** Sally A. Sherman **EXT. 7224**

Agenda Date 03/11/03 **Regular** **Consent** **Work Session** **Briefing**
Public Hearing – 1:30 **Public Hearing – 7:00**

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution requesting the Governor's Office reinstate full funding of the State Library of Florida.

BACKGROUND:

Governor Bush has proposed the elimination of the State Library of Florida. The dismantling of the State Library of Florida as proposed would disperse the various collections and archives, as well as the State Museum to other state agencies and/or public or private universities.

Public Libraries

The circulating collection of the State Library of Florida will be transferred to Nova Southeastern University. This will disrupt for at least two years Seminole County Public Library System's access to the State Library of Florida Audiovisual Collection. Currently, approximately 400 requests per year for videos and films with public performance rights are borrowed from this collection for use by Seminole County community groups and individuals, as well as library programming. The Audiovisual Collection has over 12,000 videos and 5,000 films. Subjects include history, biography, children's films, and employee training from telephone skills to computers.

The State Library's Bureau of Library Development will be reorganized and be part of an entity within the newly created Department of State and Community Partnerships.

Reviewed by:	_____
Co Atty:	_____
DFS:	_____
Other:	_____
DCM:	<u>SS</u>
CM:	<u>KL</u>
File	_____
NoRCM01	_____

Historical Museum

The State Archives, currently under the State Library of Florida's Bureau of Archives and Records Management, will be transferred to the Department of Environmental Protection. The Records Management function, currently under the State Library's Bureau of Archives and Records Management, will be transferred to the Department of Management Services.

Both the historical and library communities in the State object to the dismantling of the State Library for the following reasons:

Public access to important historical and educational assets of the State will be complicated, interrupted, and in some cases, eliminated.

The synergy of library and historical operations under one state department will be lost.

The future of successful programs that combine library and historical expertise are at risk. An example of this is the Florida Memory Project, which provides images of historical photographs with complete cataloging via the Internet.

The Governor's proposal cites savings of \$3 million per year. However, Nova Southeastern University will be paid \$5 million per year to house, maintain and circulate the transferred State Library circulating collection.

RESOLUTION

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON THE 11th DAY OF MARCH, A.D., 2003.

WHEREAS, the State Library of Florida was founded in 1845 when Florida became a State; and

WHEREAS, the State Library of Florida and its collections stand as a symbol of education, literacy and learning; and

WHEREAS, Florida is one of ten states in the nation that house all their library, archive, and record-keeping functions under one agency in order that citizens may have convenient access to these valuable historical records and information; and

WHEREAS, the very existence of the State Library of Florida demonstrates the importance the citizens of Florida place on access to knowledge; and

WHEREAS, the State Library of Florida is a leader and facilitator for countywide library service in every one of Florida's 67 counties, like the children's Summer Reading Program, the family literacy and reading program "Read Across Florida" covering every area of the State; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jeb Bush's 2004 proposed budget calls for the dismantling of the State Library of Florida in order to trim \$5.4 million from State expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, requests that the Governor's Office reconsider their proposal to dismantle the State Library of Florida and reinstate full funding for this valuable library in the FY 2004 budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Jeb Bush and the Seminole County Legislative Delegation.

ADOPTED, this 11th day of March, A.D., 2003.

ATTEST:

Maryanne Morse, Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners
in and for the County of Seminole,
State of Florida

Daryl G. McLain, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Date: _____

CM
Suzzy Goldman ✓

MUSEUM OF SEMINOLE COUNTY HISTORY



February 27, 2003

Seminole County Commission
1101 East First Street
Sanford, Florida 32771

Dear Commissioner McLain,

On February 21, 2003, the Seminole County Historical Commission discussed an issue that has alarmed the historical community: The elimination of the Florida State Library and the relocation/reorganization of the Florida State Museum, the Department of Archives, and the Bureau of Historic Preservation to Nova University.

The Historic community had a summit on February 19th in Cocoa. Representatives from Seminole County attended to help stop this action. The Seminole County Historical Commission members have started a letter writing campaign to help this effort.

On behalf of this Historical Commission we would like you to take a stance on this issue. Perhaps a resolution against this misguided action would be in order.

The dispersing of the historical library and its archives to Nova University is inappropriate. To undo a collective place where we have our states most valued archives and staff is a sad state of affairs and destructive to the State of Florida's historical goals.

The Historical Commission members care for our state. Our volunteers spend considerable time working to preserve its history. We do not want to see it *damaged or worse*.

Please consider our request. This is a misguided way to cut the state budget. The Gray Building in Tallahassee where the history and the staff guard our state history will also be closed.

It makes good economic sense to save Florida History for the future generations in a central location in Tallahassee.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Batman, Chairperson
Seminole County Historical Commission

