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RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT A CONSULTATIVE APPROACH TO LAND ACQUISITION WITHIN MUNICIPAL PLANNING AREAS

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WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County has the statutory authority to acquire, restore, protect, and preserve lands for the purpose of education, pleasure, and recreation of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, with over 68,000 acres in land holdings, is the largest forest preserve district in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park is surrounded by over 5,000 acres of Forest Preserve District holdings; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park is a supporter of the vast existing holdings of the Forest Preserve District, and is furthermore a supporter of open lands, as evidenced by the Village's own Open Lands Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Orland Park is the corporate authority for the nearly 60,000 residents living in Orland Park and charged with paying taxes to the various taxing bodies serving Village residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Village is charged with purposeful, responsible development that expands the tax base within Village corporate boundaries, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District recently published its 2012 Land Acquisition Plan that calls for additional acquisitions throughout Cook County, including "focus areas" within Orland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Preserve District recently acquired "Grasslands South" without any consultation with the affected taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, said acquisition will cost the affected taxing jurisdictions over \$60 million in present value tax revenues that could help expand the jurisdictions' tax bases; and

WHEREAS, additional land purchases outlined in the Land Acquisition Plan could have a devastating impact on taxing jurisdictions throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the level of Forest Preserve holdings in Cook County are reaching a saturation point at which acquiring additional holdings may negatively impact the quality of life of the community by permanently removing developable land from the future tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, said removal of land from future tax rolls may place additional tax burdens on the business and residential taxpayers of Cook County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees urges the Cook County Board of Commissioners to develop a systematic and consultative approach with municipalities and other local governments prior to acquiring additional land holdings that may impact a municipal or local governmental interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said consultative approach include a fiscal note that is provided with the request from FPDCC staff for authorization to purchase land, and that said fiscal note includes a present value estimate of lost revenues in accordance with the planning jurisdiction's approved zoning use of targeted property, if applicable, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk will transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Cook County Board of Commissioners, the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Cook County's legislative delegation to the Illinois General Assembly.