

City of Sanibel

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The Gopher Tortoise Council adopted April 10th as Gopher Tortoise Day in Florida to increase awareness and appreciation for this protected species. The gopher tortoise is a keystone species and an essential indicator of ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS: Gopher tortoise burrows provide shelter and protection to more than 350 species. Due to problems such as habitat loss, disease, and poaching, gopher tortoise populations have declined, and the gopher tortoise is listed as a threatened species that is protected by the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS: The island's gopher tortoises, their burrows, and their habitats are slow to recover from the impacts of severe tropical weather since 2022; and

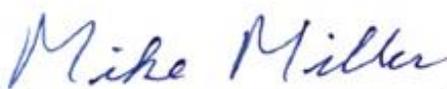
WHEREAS: The recovery of gopher tortoise populations and their habitats on Sanibel will require continued commitment by the citizens of Sanibel to the protection measures set forth in City and State laws; and

WHEREAS: You can show your appreciation and help to ensure the survival and long-term recovery of gopher tortoises on Sanibel by creating a "tortoise friendly landscape" including a variety of native grasses and wildflowers and keeping a watchful eye for gopher tortoises while driving and walking around Sanibel.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the City Council of the City of Sanibel, on behalf of the citizens and visitors of Sanibel, do hereby declare April 10, 2026, as Gopher Tortoise Day on Sanibel Island, and urge all citizens to celebrate the Gopher Tortoise and to help protect a keystone species of this island.

WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the City of Sanibel to be affixed hereto.

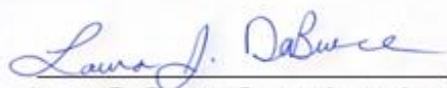
This 31st day of March 2026



Mike Miller, Mayor



Holly D. Smith, Vice Mayor



Laura DeBruce, Councilmember



John Henshaw, Councilmember


Richard Johnson, Councilmember