

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2011-17

**Recognizing the Area Director, Atlanta Region
U.S. Economic Development Administration
Lola Smith**

WHEREAS, Lola Smith has provided 23 years of distinguished service as an employee of the Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration (herein referred to as U.S. EDA); and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith is a native of Florida and she has been a long-time advocate in support of North Florida's Regional Councils and their economically distressed communities; and

WHEREAS, Under Lola Smith's leadership, the U.S. EDA has made significant investments in creating jobs in Florida. From the year 2000 to date, the U.S. EDA has invested approximately one-hundred and thirty million in over two hundred projects in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Under her leadership the U.S. EDA helped create or retain an estimated twenty six thousand jobs and generated an estimated two billion in private investment; and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith also served as Division Chief, Atlanta Region, U.S. Economic Development Administration and as the Economic Development Representative for the states of Florida and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith has provided distinguished leadership as Area Director, U.S. Economic Development Administration from October 2007 to October 2011; and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith was previously employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration, serving as a loan officer, grants specialist and district director in Florida and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith is a graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics as well as a graduate of the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma and holds a Certified Master Consultant designation from Business Retention and Expansion International; and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Silver Medal Award and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce's Performance Excellence Award; and

WHEREAS, Lola Smith retired as Area Director of the Atlanta Region of the U.S. Economic Development Administration on October 31, 2011;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Northeast Florida Regional Council hereby recognizes her outstanding contributions made to the communities and citizens of North Florida by Lola Smith as a dedicated public servant.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, the sixth day of November, 2011.

Robert Sgroi
President

Brian D. Teeple
CEO