

## RESOLUTION NO. 17-R40

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, **SUPPORTING HOME RULE POWERS** AND REQUESTING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE ANY LEGISLATION WHICH WILL IMPEDE MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIZENS OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT; HOME RULE POWERS, BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL, ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT STATE INTERFERENCE; DIRECTING CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, it is the expressed will of the voters of Florida to have the right to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule powers; and

**WHEREAS**, Floridians have possessed this constitutional right of local self-government for nearly 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, as the only form of voluntary government, Florida's municipalities are the embodiment of the Florida Constitution's right of local self-government; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal Home Rule powers include all governmental, corporate and proprietary powers necessary to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services for the unique benefit of the people who live and work within a municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, Floridians exercise their Home Rule powers by voting to incorporate and be governed under a municipal form of government for a variety of reasons, including increased services, a unique business and residential environment, and greater voice in how their government is run; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal citizens further exercise their Home Rule powers by voting on a charter that specifies the desired form, functions and powers of their municipal government; and

**WHEREAS**, Floridians' constitutional right to govern themselves locally, under municipal Home Rule powers and pursuant to their adopted municipal charters, is being increasingly eroded and limited by actions of the Florida Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, these actions of the Florida Legislature take power away from Florida citizens to ensure their chosen municipal government provides their desired level of services, offers their desired quality of life and otherwise meets their needs in a timely and effective manner; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities are authorized by the Florida Constitution and by general law to levy ad valorem and other forms of local taxation, and are further authorized by general law and their Home Rule powers to impose special assessments and fees; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal residents and local businesses pay local taxes, assessments and fees for the specific purpose of obtaining and enhancing their desired level of municipal services and amenities; and

**WHEREAS**, intrusion from the Florida Legislature into municipal finances prohibits elected municipal leaders from meeting the expectations of their residents and local businesses that local revenues will be used as intended; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida League of Cities has included the protection of local self-government under municipal Home Rule powers as one of its 2018 Legislative Priorities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1.** The above "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

**Section 2.** The Mayor and Commission of the City of Fort Pierce urge all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that limits Floridians' constitutional right to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule Powers.

**Section 3.** The Mayor and Commission of the City of Fort Pierce urge all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that would interfere with or intrude into municipal finances.

**Section 4.** The City Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Florida League of Cities, the St. Lucie County Legislative Delegation and any other interested parties.

**Section 5.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, this Resolution has been duly adopted this 20th day of November, 2017.

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LINDA HUDSON, MAYOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

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LINDA W. COX, CITY CLERK

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND CORRECTNESS:

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JAMES MESSER, CITY ATTORNEY