

RESOLUTION NO. 18-R15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS INTENTION TO PLACE A REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018 TO ALLOW THE ELECTORS OF THE COUNTY TO CONSIDER THE **LEVY OF A ONE-HALF CENT INFRASTRUCTURE SURTAX FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS**; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the establishment and maintenance of infrastructure is a core function of local government; and

WHEREAS, Section 212.055(2), Florida Statutes authorizes local governments to impose an infrastructure surtax upon most taxable transactions occurring within the County; and

WHEREAS, funds generated by the local government infrastructure surtax authorized by Section 212.055{2}, Florida Statutes (2017), could be utilized by the City of Fort Pierce (the "City") to finance, construct, reconstruct, maintain, repair and improve public infrastructure including long term capital maintenance and useful life extension of public infrastructure projects such as new and improved sidewalks near schools, roadway improvements including expansion and major resurfacing, reducing traffic congestion, local flood control and improving water quality and such other similar uses authorized under Florida law for the use and benefit of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, a sales tax is levied on all sales to non-residents and residents alike within St. Lucie County and, a significant portion of the infrastructure surtax will be paid by non-permanent residents such as short term and seasonal visitors ("Non-Permanent Residents"). It is estimated that 15-20% of all surtax revenue in St. Lucie County is paid by Non-Permanent Residents; and

WHEREAS, this is fair and equitable as Non-Permanent Residents contribute to road congestion and wear and tear on roadways and other public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, since such infrastructure projects have a long useful life and funding would be costly to the current citizens of the City; it is fair and equitable that the current and future Non-Permanent Residents who will also benefit from such infrastructure improvements share in the cost of these projects; and

WHEREAS, the revenue generated by the infrastructure surtax will be allocated pursuant to State law guaranteeing the City with a specified share of the revenue generated by this tax; and

WHEREAS, the revenue generated by the infrastructure surtax can be used for matching state and federal funds to generate significantly more funding for infrastructure projects in the City; and

WHEREAS, adequate public infrastructure facilities of the types hereinabove described promote the safe, efficient, and uninterrupted provision of numerous general and essential public services provided by the City including but limited to roadways, flood control, pedestrian safety and water quality; and

WHEREAS, the City recommends that a citizens' oversight committee should be established by the City Commission to routinely review projects funded by the infrastructure surtax that will issue reports to the City to insure transparency and to provide the citizens of the City with the assurance that funds are being spent in the manner approved by the voters; and

WHEREAS, Florida Law requires voter approval in a county wide referendum election prior to imposition of the local government infrastructure surtax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida hereby supports continued efforts to place a one-half cent sales tax referendum on the November 6, 2018 general election ballot for voter approval.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Resolution has been duly adopted this 19th day of March, 2018.

LINDA HUDSON, MAYOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

LINDA W. COX, CITY CLERK

(CITY SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

JAMES MESSER, CITY ATTORNEY