

RESOLUTION NO. 23-R32

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 1331 AND SENATE BILL 1380 RELATING TO **MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierce, Florida has chosen to operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility for the benefit of all customers receiving electric utility services from the City of Fort Pierce/Fort Pierce Utilities Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority reinvests heavily in its utility infrastructure and prides itself in providing reliable, efficient, and affordable electric, water, waste water, and natural gas to its customers; and

WHEREAS, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority makes an annual contribution to the City's general fund in support of general governmental functions and operations of the City of Fort Pierce, including life and public safety services such as police and fire emergency services, and other health, safety, recreation, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority contribution to the City's general fund for fiscal year 2022-23 totaled \$6,758,426 in community reinvestment and supported a multitude of programs and services enjoyed by the City's residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 were introduced at the state level this legislative session and would allow the state to set cap on transfers of municipal electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater utility revenues to a municipal general fund to finance general government functions by dictating the limitation on the amount of such general fund contributions; and

WHEREAS, adoption of House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 would only serve to further hamstring a local government's ability to effectively utilize its financial resources to provide the programs and services it deems most appropriate to meet the needs of residents and visitors of its community; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the potential harm to the City of Fort Pierce and Fort Pierce Utilities Authority is sufficient that the Commission should inform the Florida Legislature that it is opposed to House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380 and urges the Florida Legislature to defeat both bills.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida hereby strongly opposes HB 1331 and SB 1380, relating to municipal utilities, and respectfully urges the Florida Legislature to reject House Bill 1331 and Senate Bill 1380.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this Resolution has been duly adopted on this 3rd day of April, 2023.

Linda Hudson, Mayor Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda W. Cox, City Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved as to Form
And Correctness:

Tanya M. Earley, Esq.
City Attorney