

**Minutes**  
**Florida League of Cities, Inc. Annual Conference**  
**August 15-17, 2019**  
**World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida**

The Florida League of Cities' 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference was held at the World Center Marriott in Orlando, Florida, on August 15-17, 2019. There was an attendance of more than 1,000 delegates and guests, representing approximately 200 city governments.

Principal speakers included City Manager of Panama City and recently retired Major General Mark McQueen, National League of Cities President Karen Freeman-Wilson, and bestselling author and professional Jazz guitarist Josh Linkner.

On Thursday, August 15, 2019, delegates began arriving for various workshops and events of the annual conference. In the morning, a "Continuing Education in Ethics: Have You Completed Your Hours?" workshop was held. That afternoon, the League's legislative policy committees and the Federal Action Strike Team (FAST) conducted meetings, and an orientation session was available for first-time conference attendees. Three pre-conference workshops, "Cities 101", "REAL Action: Getting Started with Building Racial Equity in Your City" and "Local Government Websites and ADA Compliance," were also held. That evening, the President's Welcome Reception was held for all conference delegates to attend.

Friday morning began with the first round of concurrent sessions featuring "Amending the Community Redevelopment Act: What the 2019 Legislative Changes Mean to Your City CRA" and "Water Reimagined: Unleashing Your Government Workforce to Innovate." Round two topics were: "2020 Census: What Your City Needs to Know to Get an Accurate Count" and "Smart Cities: What's Your Strategy?" which were followed by the Opening General Session presided by Leo E. Longworth, FLC President, Commissioner, Bartow. The session welcome address was given by Patricia J. Bates, Mayor, Altamonte Springs, FLC Past President, President Tri-County League of Cities. President Longworth introduced Florida Governor Ron DeSantis. The Governor discussed his first months in office and the future of the State of Florida. Senator Marco Rubio addressed attendees with a video message. Mike Sittig, FLC Executive Director, presented the Raymond C. Sittig Distinguished Public Service Award to Harry "Chip" Morrison, Of Counsel, Florida League of Cities. Mayor Matthew Surrency of Hawthorne was announced as the winner of the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award. Major General (retired) and City Manager of Panama City Mark T. McQueen was the keynote speaker.

That afternoon, three additional rounds of concurrent sessions were held. Round three topics were: "Getting the Most from Your City's Contract Lobbyist," "Update on Telecommunications Legislation and Litigation," and "Social Media: Leveraging Your Social Status in the Sunshine." Round four topics were: "Ransomware: Protect Your Cities with These Best Practices," "You Can Weather the Storm: How a Successful Disaster Recovery Plan and Partner Can Get You Through It," and "Building Upon We

Live Local: Stronger Connections in Florida's Hometowns." Round five topics were: "Emerging Transportation Trends in Florida," "Improving Your Local Economy: Opportunity Zones and DBE Programs," and "City Commitments to Clean Energy."

Also, that day, the Resolutions Committee, Legislative Committee, Advocacy Committee and Nominating Committee met, and the Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials held a breakfast meeting. The Board of Directors met Friday afternoon, and in the evening a Florida League of Cities Membership Networking Event was held.

On Saturday, several local/regional leagues held breakfast meetings and a session for Youth Councils was held.

At 9:00 a.m. that morning, President Leo E. Longworth, Commissioner, Bartow, called the Business Session to order and announced that a quorum of delegates was present. Voting delegates were requested to be seated in the designated area. President Longworth advised delegates that if it were necessary for a Division of the House to be called, an explanation of the system of casting weighted votes would be provided in advance.

The meeting was conducted in accordance with the League's By-Laws and *Robert's Rule of Order*. Each voting delegate was properly registered and received voting credentials and ballots identifying the delegate's weighted vote. Members were also advised they could split their vote; however, a single voting delegate must cast the total of each city's vote. Kraig Conn, the League's general counsel, served as parliamentarian.

The first order of business was a motion duly made and seconded to approve the 2018 conference minutes as posted on the League's website. The motion was adopted.

President Longworth then recognized the chairs of the League's five legislative policy committees and thanked them and committee members for their service.

He also recognized the chairs of the Federal Action Strike Team and the Advocacy Committee thanking them for their service. He then announced there was no unfinished business to come before the membership of the Florida League of Cities.

President Longworth called for a report of the Resolutions Committee. Chairman Isaac Slaver, League First Vice President and Councilman of Bay Harbor Islands, introduced each resolution and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded, and each resolution was adopted.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO BARTOW, FLORIDA, FOR ITS  
SUPPORT OF LEO E. LONGWORTH AS PRESIDENT OF THE  
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, Leo E. Longworth, commissioner of Bartow, Florida, served as president of the Florida League of Cities from 2018 through 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens, mayor, commissioners and staff of Bartow were most understanding of the demands placed upon Commissioner Longworth in his role as president of the League; and

**WHEREAS**, during his presidency, Commissioner Longworth focused on engaging and educating Florida residents about local self-government with the “We Live Local” initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership and staff of the League recognize that the commitment of the City of Bartow to Commissioner Longworth’s presidency ensured his active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League and permitted him to successfully promote the programs, projects and philosophy of the League during the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership and staff of the League also wish to recognize and personally thank all of the dedicated Bartow city staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Longworth and the FLC staff in coordinating his duties with the city and with the League and all city staff went above and beyond the call of duty, and their outstanding contributions to this effort are applauded and greatly appreciated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., membership and staff do officially and personally appreciate the commitment Bartow’s citizens, commissioners and staff made to Commissioner Longworth’s presidency.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Bartow.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 21-27, 2019, AS  
“FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK” AND ENCOURAGING  
ALL FLORIDA CITY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THIS  
CELEBRATION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE “MY CITY: I’M  
PART OF IT, I’M PROUD OF IT!” ACTIVITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, city government is the government closest to the people and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents, making their city their home; and

**WHEREAS**, city government is administered for and by its citizens and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along the understanding of the services provided by cities and their benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the significant role played by city government in our lives and to spread the word to all Floridians that they can shape and influence this level of government, which is closest to the people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages all city officials, city employees, school officials and citizens to participate in events that recognize and celebrate Florida City Government Week.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports and encourages all city governments to promote, sponsor and participate in My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It!

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution be provided to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Cabinet, the Florida School Boards Association and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR AND A PARTNERSHIP WITH  
STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS TO ENSURE AN ACCURATE  
2020 CENSUS.**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census Bureau is required by the U.S. Constitution to conduct a count of the population; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Florida League of Cities are committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

**WHEREAS**, a successful census program integrates federal, state and local resources within each level of government so that a true intergovernmental partnership is achieved for a timely and accurate count; and

**WHEREAS**, more than \$675 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities based upon population, and said funding supports public health care, community development, housing, education, transportation, social services, employment and more; and

**WHEREAS**, census data collected in 2020 will also factor into how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the redistricting of state legislatures and many county and some city voting districts; and

**WHEREAS**, each Census Bureau employee takes a lifetime oath to protect confidentiality and ensure that data identifying respondents, or their household will not be released or shared; and

**WHEREAS**, a united voice from businesses, government, community-based and faith-based organizations, educators, media and others will allow the 2020 census message to reach a broader audience, providing trusted advocates who can spark positive conversations about the 2020 census.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., unanimously supports the goals and ideals for the 2020 census.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., will be a resource throughout the census process and also encourages cities to disseminate 2020 census information to maximize participation and ask all Floridians to partner together to achieve an accurate and complete count.

**Section 3.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages members to participate in events and initiatives that will raise awareness of the 2020 census and increase participation among all populations.

**Section 4.** A copy of this resolution be provided to the southeast office of the U.S. Census and also shared with the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., OPPOSING THE “RIGHT TO COMPETITIVE ENERGY MARKET FOR CUSTOMERS OF INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES; ALLOWING ENERGY CHOICE” INITIATIVE, WHICH PROPOSES AN AMENDMENT TO FLORIDA’S CONSTITUTION THAT, IF ADOPTED, WILL CRIPPLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUES, DIMINISH HOME RULE POWER AND IMPAIR EXISTING CONTRACTS.**

**WHEREAS**, a special interest group called Citizens for Energy Choice is gathering signatures in support of an initiative petition to amend Florida’s Constitution titled “Right to Competitive Energy Market for Customers of Investor-Owned Utilities; Allowing Energy Choice” initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, this initiative would generally grant customers of investor-owned electric utilities the right to choose their electricity provider and to generate and sell electricity, require the Legislature to adopt laws providing wholesale and retail markets for electricity generation and supply, and limit investor-owned utilities to construction, operation and repair of electrical transmission and distribution systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the initiative is currently under review by the Florida Supreme Court to determine whether the initiative’s Ballot Title and Summary meets the requirements of law for placement on the 2020 general election ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police Benevolent Association, Audubon Florida, The Nature Conservancy, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida attorney general and many others have challenged the sufficiency of the Ballot Title and Summary of the initiative, contending the language violates the single-subject requirement of the Florida Constitution, and that it is vague and misleading to voters and, therefore, should be stricken from the ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Supreme Court's decision on the Ballot Title and Summary may not be rendered for several months and the outcome of that decision cannot be predicted; and

**WHEREAS**, initiative sponsors continue campaigning statewide to elicit support for the proposal and to gather sufficient signatures for the initiative to be placed on the 2020 general election ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, initiative sponsors fail to adequately inform Florida's citizens of the true impact it will have on Florida, especially on Florida's local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the initiative would materially and adversely impact local government electric utility franchise fees, public service taxes and ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the initiative would strip local governments of their Home Rule powers to determine who provides electric utility service within their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the initiative would abolish the basis for exclusive franchises for the generation and sale of electricity, which are contractual in nature and largely created by legislative acts of local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the loss of these franchise agreements could result in the loss of over \$700 million in local government annual revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the initiative would cause Florida's local governments to incur significant revenue losses from a diminution in public service tax revenues levied on the purchase of electricity within their jurisdictions and in ad valorem revenues from the divestiture of investor-owned utility assets; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the initiative would impair the contractual arrangements that numerous local governments have with investor-owned utilities to purchase and sell electricity to their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, drastic changes to Florida's energy regulatory policy should be done legislatively, not through a constitutional amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Choice Initiative is the wrong choice for Florida, as similar "deregulation" efforts have demonstrated in nearly every state that has tried it.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges Floridians to be aware that the Energy Choice Initiative is deceptive and misleading.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Florida's residents to not sign any petitions to support the Energy Choice Initiative.

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution be provided to the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc., and other interested parties.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CLARIFY  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL WEBSITES TO BE IN  
COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES  
ACT.**

**WHEREAS**, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990 and requires public entities to make their programs, services and activities accessible to individuals with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to provide increased transparency and resources for their residents, cities are providing more information on their municipal websites; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last two years, there has been a steady increase in legal claims challenging business and public entity websites as not being in compliance with the ADA; and

**WHEREAS**, because of these legal claims, cities are faced with a difficult decision of scaling back information posted on their websites or face liability exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice initiated and then halted rulemaking to clarify website accessibility standards, which contributed to the rising ADA legal claims.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges President Donald Trump and Congress to direct the Department of Justice to establish a clear standard to make government websites ADA compliant and decrease the costly litigation cities and other stakeholders are facing.



**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the U.S. attorney general, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL  
FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, floods are the most common and destructive natural disaster in the United States and Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable flood insurance available to homeowners, renters and business owners in exchange for using FEMA generated Flood Insurance Rate Maps for floodplain management by participating communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Flood Disaster Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any form of federal or federal-related financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes with respect to the insurance of buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best practices and techniques; and

**WHEREAS**, these mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures, thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and their elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both coastal and inland; and

**WHEREAS**, this issue is a critical concern for our state, as Florida has the largest number of participants in the NFIP with more than 1.7 million policies in force; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP is set to expire on September 30, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, a lack of long-term reauthorization causes uncertainty for beneficiaries and providers; and

**WHEREAS**, there is still no viable private market for homeowners and businesses to acquire sufficient flood insurance coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, accurate mapping is fundamental for local governments to assess and communicate risk to their communities and property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the current mapping process often results in local governments having to fight inaccurate maps that do not take into account locally built flood protection features and communities building off of outdated mapping, which results in artificially inflated risk. Further, many areas of the country are not mapped or mapped accurately, which results in communities not being aware that they are at risk of flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon all of us to have a long-term, sustainable and viable NFIP with rates that are affordable.

**WHEREAS**, bi-partisan legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate titled the National Flood Insurance Program Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2019 (NFIP-RE), H.R. 3872 and S. 2187, which would reauthorize the NFIP program for five years; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation includes provisions to cap annual rate increases to 9 percent, fund resiliency and mitigation programs and modernize mapping.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports H.R. 3872 and S. 2187 and urges Congress to reauthorize the NFIP and to keep flood insurance rates affordable for primary, non-primary and business properties while balancing the fiscal solvency of the program. The Florida League of Cities, Inc. also expresses appreciation to Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Representatives Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D-26-FL), Charlie Crist (D-13-FL) and Stephanie Murphy (D-7-FL) for co-sponsoring this legislation.

**Section 2.** In order for local governments to help their communities and property owners to adequately prepare for risk, Congress should provide additional resources to FEMA to utilize the best technology and methods available to improve the mapping process, including seeking the input from local government officials prior to approving any flood map that could impact local zoning rules.

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS TO RECOGNIZE AND WORK TO ACHIEVE  
BROADBAND ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY; SUPPORTING  
INCLUSION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN FEDERAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS; AND AFFIRMING SUPPORT  
FOR LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE  
SITING.**

**WHEREAS**, broadband infrastructure has become an economic necessity for Florida cities, driving education, health care, public safety, economic growth and operating efficiency in a 21st century economy; and

**WHEREAS**, sufficient broadband infrastructure has become increasingly necessary to support all forms of infrastructure, from smart-meter electrical grids and connected traffic management networks to sensor-enabled water and sewer systems; and

**WHEREAS**, robust broadband is needed to support the deployment of advances in smart city technologies, as well as autonomous vehicles and unmanned aerial systems (drones); and

**WHEREAS**, a competitive and sustainable broadband industry is driving innovations, community and economic development, educations, health care and government services; and

**WHEREAS**, access to broadband can increase residential property values, increase commercial business activity and spur viable employment options in isolated communities; and

**WHEREAS**, universal access to affordable broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes to economic health and survival of communities across Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability and adoption of quality broadband service can vary dramatically from one neighborhood to another, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor and rural communities have limited internet access, and where broadband access is limited, citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence; and

**WHEREAS**, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services not offered by the private sector by banding together to provide those services at a reasonable and competitive cost; and

**WHEREAS**, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments should not be preempted by the federal or state government from being able to offer broadband services, high-speed internet and other communications services that could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that substantially limit the traditionally held authority of local governments over the placement of wireless infrastructure and local governments' ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of public property, subsidizing wireless carriers' development while undermining local efforts to expand broadband access; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to connect their communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the federal government to recognize and work to provide affordable and competitively priced broadband access; provide appropriate standards for broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that allow Floridians to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver robust services more economically and universally.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress and the FCC to protect traditionally held authority of local governments over the placement of wireless infrastructure.

**Section 3.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support policies that promote municipal broadband, preserve the authority of local governments to act in the interest of their citizens by offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and preempt states from barring local governments from offering such services in their communities.

**Section 4.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to include and incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal to strengthen the nation’s infrastructure network while promoting economic development in our municipalities.

**Section 5.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband access.

**Section 6.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS,** the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted and signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

**WHEREAS,** the CDBG program has as its primary objective “the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income”; and

**WHEREAS,** the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow municipalities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

**WHEREAS,** the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and other state and local government-sector associations are unanimous in their support of the CDBG and the need to keep this program intact; and

**WHEREAS,** according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the CDBG is most commonly used to support activities that improve the quality of life in communities; to promote energy conservation and renewable energy resources; for construction of and improvements to public infrastructure such as streets,

sidewalks, and water and sewer facilities; and for small business assistance to spur economic development and job creation/retention; and

**WHEREAS**, last year Congress increased funding for CDBG for the first time since 2010 from \$3 billion to \$3.3 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, for every dollar of CDBG funding invested in a project, another \$4.09 is leveraged from other sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has created or retained more than 421,000 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., appreciates Congress increasing funding for CDBG and urges Congress to continue providing at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS AND THE ADMINISTRATION TO WORK  
WITH CITIES TO REBUILD AND STRENGTHEN AMERICA'S  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO ENACT A NATIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN THAT CREATES JOBS, INCLUDES A  
LOCAL VOICE IN PLANNING AND PROJECT SELECTION,  
AND CHOOSES THE BEST MIX OF TRANSPORTATION  
OPTIONS TO FIT THE NEEDS OF EACH REGION.**

**WHEREAS**, the Highway Trust Fund (Trust Fund) was created to provide dedicated, consistent federal funding for the highway and mass transit accounts, which together fund the majority of federal surface transportation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary method of revenue generation for the Trust Fund is the federal fuel tax of 18.4 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel fuel, and has not been changed since 1993; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congressional Budget Office projects that without Congressional action, the Trust Fund's expenses will exceed revenues by 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress has relied on non-transportation related funding patches and bailouts from the general fund, which will total more than \$100 billion by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of investment in Florida's transportation system continues to impact our economy and cities, which are the economic engines of our state; and

**WHEREAS**, continued federal funding of a successor program to the Fixing Americas Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2016 and the need to provide flexibility to local governments to address local transportation needs are critical to Florida and its urban, suburban and rural communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., strongly urges Congress to create a federal surface transportation program that provides adequate funding for federal transportation programs to support bridges, roads, highways and mass transit, and provides funding directly to local governments for transportation programs.

**Section 2.** Congress ensure an increased role of local governments in statewide and regional planning as the nation's transportation system becomes more multimodal and integrated.

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution be provided to the Florida Congressional Delegation, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, the secretaries of the U.S. and Florida Departments of Transportation, the National League of Cities, the chairs of the U.S. Congressional Transportation Committees and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida, this 17<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2019.

There being no further resolutions, President Longworth expressed appreciation to Chairman Isaac Salver and the members of the Resolutions Committee for their efforts.

President Longworth then called for a report of the Legislative Committee. Chairman Isaac Salver, League First Vice President and Councilmember, Bay Harbor Islands, introduced the priority statements and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded, and each priority statement was adopted.

**Private Property Rights “Bert Harris Act” Statement:**

The Florida League of Cities OPPOSES changes to the Bert J. Harris Jr. Private Property Rights Protection Act that do not consider everyone’s property rights or that create one-sided lawsuits that shift inordinate financial burdens onto local taxpayers and limit the ability of cities to quickly resolve claims.

**Sales Tax Fairness Statement:**

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to reform Florida’s sales and use tax laws that apply to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers. Changes are needed to ensure in-state retailers are treated equitably.

**Short-Term Rentals Statement:**

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation providing for a collaboration between the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and cities to ensure that short-term rental properties abide by state and local regulations and be properly licensed and insured, are complying with state and local taxation requirements, and comply with industry-accepted safety practices. The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation clarifying that existing, grandfathered municipal short-term rental ordinances can be amended if the changes being made are equal to or less restrictive than the current regulation in place.

**Transportation Funding Statement:**

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that will provide local governments with new and innovative revenue options and resources to finance critical infrastructure, maintenance and construction needs to meet the ever-changing transportation demands driven by dramatic population growth and new technology (autonomous vehicles) throughout Florida.

**Water Resources Statement:**

Water is an essential public asset that benefits Florida’s economy, residents, visitors and environment. Presently, Florida spends less than 1/10 of 1 percent of its entire state budget on water supply and water quality improvements.

The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation to address Florida’s water quality crisis and water supply deficiencies that:

- provides for an annual assessment of the state’s water infrastructure and water quality improvement needs at the state, regional and local levels.



- establishes a framework for a state water infrastructure and water quality funding program that includes objective criteria tied to beneficial returns on investment, sustainable utility practices and intergovernmental coordination.
- identifies potential sources of funding or financing.

President Longworth then called for a report of the Nominating Committee. Chairman Matthew Surrency, League past president and mayor of Hawthorne, offered the following nominations:

For President: Councilman Isaac Salver, Bay Harbor Islands. President Longworth called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Councilman Slaver for president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For First Vice President: Commissioner Tony Ortiz, Orlando. President Longworth called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Ortiz for first vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For Second Vice President: Mayor Randall P. Henderson Jr., Fort Myers. President Longworth called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Mayor Henderson for second vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted with dissent.

Chairman Surrency then announced the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 14 districts were as follows: (1) Mayor Pro Tem Shannon Hayes, Crestview; Councilman William Schaeztle, Niceville; (2) Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, Palatka; (3) Mayor Bob Apgar, DeLand; Mayor Bill Partington, Ormond Beach; (4) Mayor Carol McCormack, Palm Shores; Mayor Kathy Meehan, Melbourne; (5) Mayor Louie Davis, Waldo; Mayor Pro Tem Elise Dennison, Leesburg; (6) Commissioner Geoff Kendrick, Winter Springs; Commissioner Rosemary Wilsen, Ocoee; (7) Mayor Sam Fite, Bowling Green; Vice Mayor Marlene Wagner, Lake Hamilton; (8) Commissioner John Carroll, Largo; Councilmember Dan Saracki, Oldsmar; (9) Mayor Linda Hudson, Fort Pierce; (10) Commissioner Brian Williams, Palmetto; (11) Mayor William Ribble, Estero; (12) Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso, Lake Worth; Mayor Anne Gerwig, Wellington; Councilman Jeff Hmara, Royal Palm Beach; (13) Vice Mayor Margaret Bates, Lauderhill; Vice Mayor Traci L. Callari, Hollywood; Commissioner Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors; Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City; Commissioner Iris Siple, Pembroke Pines; Councilwoman Susan Starkey, Davie; Mayor Dan Stermer, Weston; (14) Vice Mayor Jon Burgess, Homestead; Mayor Joseph Corradino, Pinecrest; Mayor Claudia Cubillos, El Portal; Commissioner Andreana Jackson, North Bay Village.

President Longworth called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then moved the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 10 most populous cities: Jacksonville – Vacant; Miami – Commissioner Keon Hardemon; Tampa – Mayor Jane Castor; St. Petersburg – Mayor Rick Kriseman; Orlando – Commissioner Robert Stuart; Hialeah – Mayor Carlos Hernandez; Tallahassee – Mayor John Dailey; Fort Lauderdale – Mayor Dean Trantalis; Port St. Lucie – Councilwoman Jolien Caraballo; Cape Coral – Councilmember Rick Williams.

President Longworth called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then announced the By-Laws provide that past presidents serving in office also serve on the Board of Directors and those individuals are: Mayor Randall Wise, Niceville; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilman P.C. Wu, Pensacola; Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; and Commissioner Leo E. Longworth, Bartow.

The League's By-Laws call for elected officials who have been in elected office for 50 or more years, to have an automatic seat on the League Board.

Chairman Surrency further advised based on the By-Laws, that currently, Commissioner Roy Shiver of Florida City serves in that position.

Also, the League's By-Laws call for an automatic Ex-Officio, non-voting member from the Florida City and County Management Association. This year, Tamarac City Manager Michael Cernech will serve in that position. He is the Immediate Past President of FCCMA.

President Longworth then thanked Chairman Surrency and the Nominating Committee for their efforts and congratulated the newly appointed Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities.

There being no comments for the "Good of the Order" and no further business to come before the membership of the League, upon motion by Mayor Surrency, the Business Session was adjourned.

The Second General Session featured presentations by NLC President Karen Freeman-Wilson and bestselling author and profession jazz guitarist Josh Linkner. At this time, President Longworth recognized the Years of Service Award recipients; the Defender of Home Rule and Florida Municipal Achievement Awards were presented; the youth councils in attendance were recognized; and the Florida League of Cities President's End of Year Video was shown.

Following the Second General Session, the League's past presidents were recognized during a luncheon held in their honor. Past presidents in attendance were: J. L. Plummer; Robert "Bo" Donly; Larry Kelly; Eric Smith; Bill Evers; Ilene Lieberman; Samuel Ferreri; David Rigsby; Frank Satchel; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Dottie Reeder; Rene Flowers; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Carmine Priore; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilperson P.C. Wu, Pensacola; Lori Moseley; Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; and Gil Ziffer. Also, during the luncheon, President Isaac Salver was installed, and appropriate recognition was provided.

Following lunch, a workshop titled "Firefighter Cancer Benefits and Solutions for Implementation" was available for attendees. The League's Board of Directors also met that afternoon.

During the "Inaugural Celebration" that evening, delegates enjoyed entertainment and the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference was adjourned.