

2020 Resolutions Committee
Florida League of Cities
Thursday, August 13, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Opening Remarks – Chair Tony Ortiz
Commissioner, City of Orlando
First Vice President, FLC

- B. Welcome and Introduction

- C. Review of Procedures and Rules

- D. Consideration of the following Proposed Resolutions:
 - 1. Town of Bay Harbor Islands
 - 2. Florida City Government Week
 - 3. Census Partnership 2020
 - 4. Michael Sittig Retirement
 - 5. COVID Relief for Cities
 - 6. Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program
 - 7. Broadband Infrastructure

- E. Other Business

- F. Adjournment

*****Please have this Packet with you for the Meeting*****

2020 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Commissioner Tony Ortiz, City of Orlando
First Vice President, Florida League of Cities

Vice Chair: Mayor Randall P. Henderson, City of Fort Myers
Second Vice President, Florida League of Cities

LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVES

Gib Coerper, Mayor, City of Alachua

President, Alachua County League of Cities

Billy Rader, Commissioner, City of Panama City

President, Bay County League of Cities

Traci L. Callari, Commissioner, City of Hollywood

President, Broward League of Cities

Cal Rolfson, Councilmember, City of Mount Dora

President, Lake County League of Cities

Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner, City of North Port

President, ManaSota League of Cities

Keon Hardemon, Commissioner, City of Miami

President, Miami-Dade County League of Cities

Tom Deville, Mayor, Town of Penney Farms

President, Northeast Florida League of Cities

Bob Campbell, Mayor, City of DeFuniak Springs

President, Northwest Florida League of Cities

Amy Jamieson, Council Member, City of Fort Walton Beach

President, Okaloosa County League of Cities

Kimberly Glas-Castro, Vice-Mayor, Town of Lake Park

President, Palm Beach County League of Cities

Rob Robinson, Mayor, City of Davenport

President, Ridge League of Cities

Bill Ribble, Mayor, Village of Estero

President, Southwest Florida League of Cities

Yvonne Minus, Council Member, City of Melbourne

President, Space Coast League of Cities

John Carroll, Commissioner, City of Largo

President, Suncoast League of Cities

Drinda Merritt, Mayor, Town of Inglis

President, Suwanee River League of Cities

Vinny Barile, Mayor, Town of Sewall's Point

President, Treasure Coast League of Cities

Geoff Kendrick, Commissioner, City of Winter Springs

1st Vice President, Tri-County League of Cities

Don Burnette, Mayor, City of Port Orange

President, Volusia League of Cities

FLC POLICY COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Stu Glass, Mayor, Town of Indialantic
Chair, Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works

Paul Shalhoub, Vice Mayor, Town of Lake Clarke Shores
Chair, Finance, Taxation & Personnel Committee

Jolien Caraballo, Councilwoman, City of Port St. Lucie
Chair, Land Use and Economic Development Committee

Gigi Simmons, Commissioner, City of Gainesville
Vice Chair, Transportation & Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Dan Saracki, Council Member, City of Oldsmar
Chair, Municipal Administration Committee

Greg Ross, Mayor, City of Cooper City
Chair, Federal Action Strike Team

Phillip Walker, Commissioner, City of Lakeland
Chair, Advocacy Committee

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Clayton Parker, Building Services, City of Sunny Isles Beach
President, Building Officials Association of Florida

Debra Buff, City Clerk, City of Belle Glade
President, Florida Association of City Clerks

Micah Maxwell, Assistant City Manager, City of Clearwater
President, Florida City & County Management Association

Darrel Donatto, Fire Chief, Palm Beach Fire Rescue
President, Florida Fire Chiefs' Association

Jamie Roberson, Director of Finance, City of Apopka
President, Florida Government Finance Officers Association

Kevin Ruane, Mayor, City of Sanibel
President, Florida League of Mayors

Ray Desjardins, Senior Division Manager, Charlotte County
President, Florida Local Government Information Systems Association

A. Kurt Ardaman, Attorney
President, Florida Municipal Attorneys Association

Todd DeAngelis, Chief Communications Officer, City of Parkland
President, Florida Municipal Communicators Association

Jeff Pearson, Chief of Police, Satellite Beach PD
President, Florida Police Chiefs Association

Toni Shamplain, Director, Downtown North CRA Manager, City of Panama City
President, Florida Redevelopment Association

FLC-SPONSORED PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVES

Matthew Surrency, Mayor, City of Hawthorne
Chair, Florida Municipal Insurance Trust
Susan Starkey, Council Member, Town of Davie
Vice Chair, Florida Municipal Loan Council
Joseph Barkley III, Commissioner, City of Belleair Bluffs
Vice Chair, Florida Municipal Pension Trust
Frank Ortis, Mayor, City of Pembroke Pines
Chair, Florida Municipal Investment Trust

AT LARGE MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS

Anne Gerwig, Mayor, City of Wellington
Gary Resnick, Commissioner, City of Wilton Manors
Bill Partington, Mayor, City of Ormond Beach
Terrill Hill, Mayor, City of Palatka
Michael Beedie, City Manager, City of Fort Walton Beach
Curtis Richardson, Commissioner, City of Tallahassee
Chris Via, Mayor, City of Holly Hill
Joe Kyles, Mayor, City of South Bay
Willie Shaw, Commissioner, City of Sarasota
Mark Ryan, City Manager, City of Indian Harbour Beach

2020-01

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE TOWN OF BAY HARBOR
ISLANDS, FLORIDA, FOR ITS SUPPORT OF ISAAC SALVER AS
PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.**

WHEREAS, Isaac Salver, council member of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands, Florida, served as president of the Florida League of Cities from 2019 through 2020; and

WHEREAS, the citizens, mayor, council members and staff of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands were understanding of the demands placed upon Council Member Salver in his role as president of the League; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Council Member Salver focused on the importance of educating the youth in our communities via speaking engagements, interactions with the state's youth councils and the creation of the League's first-ever children's book, *The City That Talks*; and

WHEREAS, during his presidency, Council Member Salver provided leadership, guidance, vision and compassion for Florida's 411 cities and their staffs, residents and businesses during an unprecedented time in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the membership and staff of the League recognize that the commitment of the Town of Bay Harbor Islands to Council Member Salver's presidency ensured his active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League, and it 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 Town of Bay Harbor Islands staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Salver and FLC staff in coordinating his duties with the town and with the League, and all town 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 the Town of Bay Harbor Island's citizens, council members and staff made to Council Member Salver's presidency.

Section 2. A copy of this resolution be presented to the Town of Bay Harbor Islands.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Tony Ortiz, First Vice President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Commissioner, City of Orlando

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2020-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19-25, 2020, 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, city governments have remained vigilant in monitoring and informing residents on the impact of the coronavirus and relevant municipal resources; 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; 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 a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council Member, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2020-03

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution requires the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct a count of the population every 10 years; 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 these efforts were hampered during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic causing deadlines to be amended so that an accurate count can be obtained; 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 census data collected factors into the apportionment of 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 should join together so that the 2020 Census message reaches the broadest 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 U.S. Census.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., has been and will continue to be of assistance throughout the census process and asks its members to finalize their efforts toward the October 31 deadline with every possible resource to achieve an accurate and complete count.

Section 3. A copy of this resolution be provided to the southeast office of the U.S. Census Bureau and also be shared with the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council Member, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2020-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF MICHAEL SITTIG AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE TO THIS ASSOCIATION.

WHEREAS, Michael (Mike) Sittig began his employment with the Florida League of Cities in 1970 as a machine operator in the print shop and building maintenance staff; and

WHEREAS, he grew in knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the League's issues and in his respect of the membership's commitment to Home Rule and further grew into one of the League's most valiant advocates; and Mike also experienced association management as the executive director of the Florida City and County Management Association (FCCMA) for several years through their administrative contract with the League; and

WHEREAS, Mike briefly left the League to further his municipal expertise with the City of West Palm Beach as an assistant city manager before returning to the League in a newly created position as assistant executive director, and in this role he advanced in responsibility as he led the League's campaign for a constitutional amendment related to unfunded mandates, and he worked on numerous legislative reforms and initiatives for Florida's cities while also increasing his understanding of the pooled insurance and investment trusts, municipal loan and pension programs that were growing, expanding and finding wide success as entrepreneurial programs that would give all local governments new and much-needed options while securing the League's fiscal stability; and

WHEREAS, these actions led to his selection as the League's executive director in 1995; and he soon oversaw the design, construction and completion of new offices in both Tallahassee and Orlando; and he continued his effective, efficient and stalwart direction of the many programs and projects through tremendous technological advances, a new century and the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, Mike's reputation as a knowledgeable advocate and as someone sought out by political leaders of all parties for advice, and his fairness, tenacity, wisdom and guidance have led to well-deserved recognition locally, statewide and among his national peers; and

WHEREAS, Mike developed a team in the Tallahassee and Orlando offices devoted to the cities, towns and villages of Florida and to excellence within each program, product and project so that it benefits the municipalities and other local governments, as well as the affiliate programs that the League so effectively administers; and

WHEREAS, Mike created a culture and environment for this team that cause employees to attain tenures rarely experienced in any sector due in large part to Mike's outstanding

leadership, and these achievements have led the League into its status as one of the largest state municipal leagues in the United States with unparalleled success and a premier reputation; and

WHEREAS, the retirement of such a dedicated leader across nearly five decades of exemplary and unparalleled service is worthy of recognition, commendation, accolades and celebration.

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

Section 1. Mike Sittig, his wife, Marty, and their family are extended every best retirement wish including a future of great health and happiness.

Section 2. A framed copy of this resolution be presented to Mike Sittig with the sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks of the Board of Directors, member governments and League staff.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council Member, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Jeannie Garner, Executive Director Designate
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2020-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,
REQUESTING THAT CONGRESS PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING
DIRECT FUNDING ASSISTANCE TO ALL CITIES TO HELP MITIGATE
EXPENDITURES AND CURRENT AND FUTURE LOSSES AS A RESULT
OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC.**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic is an extraordinary time for the nation and the world, and it has significantly altered the normal day-to-day life of most Floridians; and

WHEREAS, since Florida cases of the coronavirus were first reported, Florida's cities, towns and villages have been continuously working to respond to the needs of their residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Florida cities have been coordinating efforts among first responders, local health care professionals, and county and state partners as they work together to combat this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Florida cities have been taking extraordinary measures to both limit the spread of COVID-19 and support local businesses, all while keeping the health and safety of their residents at the forefront of their efforts; and

WHEREAS, cities have been utilizing general revenues and implementing innovative and effective programs to deliver targeted relief such as mini grants, fee reductions and utility bill assistance to residents and small businesses needing help ; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal consequences of COVID-19 are unprecedented, and cities are now facing financial shortfalls while maintaining essential services for their residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed several stimulus packages to provide relief to individuals and businesses facing enormous challenges as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided direct federal relief to local governments with a minimum population of 500,000, which applied to only one Florida municipality; and

WHEREAS, Congress has not provided any direct funding to Florida's cities with a population under 500,000 to help mitigate the devastating and unexpected fiscal and employment impacts this pandemic has caused; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis announced Florida's plan to disburse up to \$1.275 billion in CARES Act funds to counties with a population below 500,000

and recommended that counties share funds with cities within their jurisdictions, but these funds are not guaranteed nor directly available to cities; and

WHEREAS, cities are a key component to accelerating Florida’s economic recovery and providing a climate that will help businesses thrive, attract visitors from all over the world and enhance the quality of life that the citizens of Florida expect and deserve.

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

Section 1. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass direct federal funding assistance to all cities that will help rebuild and restore the economic health of our nation by restoring the economic health of our cities.

Section 2. The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to support S. 3742 by Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Steve Daines, (R-MT) and Patty Murray (D-WA) and H.R. 6907 by Representatives Daniel Kildee (D-MI-5), Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-5), Dwight Evans (D-PA-3) and Fred Upton (R-MI-6) titled the RELIEF for Main Street Act. This bi-partisan legislation would allocate direct funding assistance to cities, counties and states to provide local relief and recovery funds for small businesses within their jurisdictions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council Member, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

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, 2020; 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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, FEMA was scheduled to launch a new risk rating system called Risk Rating 2.0 to address deficiencies in the traditional mapping process that was originally scheduled to go into effect October 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, FEMA postponed the launch of Risk Rating 2.0 until October 1, 2021, to allow additional time to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the proposed rating structure to protect policyholders and minimize any unintended negative effects of the transition.

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), Stephanie Murphy (D-7-FL) and Alcee Hastings (D-20-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 a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council Member, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff

2020-07

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, millions of American workers, students and patients staying home to help combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) highlights the importance of broadband infrastructure and connectivity for the transition to remote workforce, education and health care systems; 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; 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; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes funding for the transition to remote life among its many relief provisions with specific funding for broadband connections, distance learning, telehealth and telework including \$100 million to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service (RUS) for its Reconnect Pilot Program, which provides grants for the costs of construction, improvement or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.

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 prioritize efforts 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 Federal Communications Commission (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 a Business Meeting conducted through the use of communications media technology, this 14th Day of August 2020.

Isaac Salver, President
Florida League of Cities, Inc.
Council Member, Town of Bay Harbor Islands

ATTEST: _____
Michael Sittig, Executive Director
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Submitted by: FLC Staff