

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-01-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, OPPOSING LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO IMPEDE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT FLORIDA'S CITIZENS HAVE ENJOYED FOR NEARLY 50 YEARS TO GOVERN THEMSELVES UNDER MUNICIPAL HOME RULE POWERS; OPPOSING THE LEGISLATURE'S PERSISTENT INTRUSION INTO LOCAL FINANCES, WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL STABILITY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES UNIQUELY REQUIRED BY MUNICIPAL RESIDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES; DIRECTING VILLAGE STAFF TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, THE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND 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 constitutional right to 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**, the constitutional right of Floridians 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 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the “Village”) desires to express its support of home rule for the Village and its residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.**     **Recitals.**     The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution by reference.

**Section 2.**     **Supporting Home Rule.** The Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands hereby urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that limits Floridians' constitutional right to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule Powers. The Village Council further urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that would interfere with or intrude into municipal finances.

**Section 3.**     **Transmittal.** The Village Clerk is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Florida League of Cities, the Monroe County Legislative Delegation and any other interested parties.

**Section 7.**     **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilwoman Cheryl Meads, second by Vice Mayor Deb Gillis.

**FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION**

**VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS**

Mayor Chris Sante	YES
Vice Mayor Deb Gillis	YES
Councilman Mike Forster	YES
Councilman Cheryl Meads	YES
Councilman Jim Mooney	YES

**PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 18<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.**

  
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CHRIS SANTE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF  
ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS ONLY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY