

CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 04, 2025
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Rick Rudometkin – City Manager
Subject: Public Records Exemption Resolution 25-03 to Enact Legislation

Background:

The FACC (Florida Association of City Clerks) Board of Directors is considering pursuing state legislation to provide a public records exemption for the personal information of current Municipal Clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work. FACC is asking our municipality to adopt a resolution urging the same. Once the resolution is adopted, please email a PDF copy to FACC staff at facc@flicities.com for submittal to the State.

The City Commission of the City of Sanford, Florida, recently adopted a resolution urging the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation providing a public records exemption for Municipal Clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work or have any part in a city's code enforcement functions and providing an effective date.

Many municipal staff who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings related to neglect or abuse, or other activities that could lead to a criminal prosecution are exposed to threats and other acts of violence. Municipal clerks often administer elections. Some election workers have been targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of the materials they are responsible for. Further, clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances. Occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants.

There are currently 27 public records exemptions in Florida. Of these exemptions, eight are for local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken. Municipal clerks and their respective staffs (e.g. Code Enforcement) fall within the window for greater protection.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approving Resolution 25-03 in support of the Initiative. This initiative will fall within the window for greater protection for municipal clerks and their respective staffs (e.g., Code Enforcement).

Suggested Motion:

"I move to authorize the City Manager to adopt Resolution 25-03 urging the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation to provide a public records exemption for Municipal Clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work or have any part in code enforcement functions of a city and providing for an effective date.

Alternatives: Not Approve.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact.

Attachments: Resolution 25-03