

RESOLUTION NO. 25-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY, FLORIDA, 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.

WHEREAS, many municipal staff who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings that could lead to a criminal prosecution or code enforcement actions are exposed to threats and other acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, municipal clerks often administer elections and some election workers have been targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for; and

WHEREAS, municipal clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances and, occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants; and

WHEREAS, currently public records exemptions in Florida include those for local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken and municipal clerks and their staffs fall within the need for a window for greater protection; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Association of City Clerks is very concerned for the safety and well-being of the municipal clerks and their staffs who serve the public on a daily basis and are, oftentimes, the first contact of citizens with cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chipley has complied with all requirements and procedures of Florida law in processing and adopting this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHIPLEY AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council of the City of Chipley hereby adopts the recitals set forth in this Resolution (whereas clauses) as the legislative findings of the City Council.

2. The Mayor and City Council of the City of Chipley, Florida, hereby urges and encourages 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 municipality.

3. The City of Chipley is hereby directed and authorized to send a certified copy of this Resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Jay Trumbull and Representative Shane Abbott, and the Florida League of Cities (FLC).

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Chipley, Florida on this 11th day of February, 2025.

City of Chipley

ATTEST:

Tracy L. Andrews, Mayor

Sherry Snell,
City Clerk

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