



CITY COMMISSION ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

TITLE: Resolution 25-12 – (Clerk’s Office)

DATE: February 25, 2025

DESCRIPTION: A RESOLUTION OF THE COOPER COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COOPER CITY, 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.

CITY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION:

The City Manager recommends approval of Resolution 25-12, which urges the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation providing a public records exemption for municipal clerks and employees involved in municipal election administration and code enforcement functions.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

Municipal clerks and city employees engaged in election administration and code enforcement are increasingly subjected to threats, harassment, and acts of violence due to the nature of their duties.

- Election officials often handle contentious disputes related to election integrity, ballot processing, and voter registration.
- Code enforcement officers conduct investigations and issue citations for ordinance violations, which can sometimes lead to hostility from affected individuals.

Currently, Florida law provides public records exemptions for certain local government personnel involved in law enforcement, investigations, and judicial processes. However, municipal clerks and election staff do not have the same protections, leaving them vulnerable to harassment and retaliation.

The Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC) has expressed strong support for legislative action to extend these protections to municipal clerks and their staffs.

ANALYSIS:

The adoption of Resolution 25-12 is essential to:

1. Enhance Safety & Security
 - Protect municipal employees from threats and harassment related to their official duties.
2. Encourage Legislative Action
 - Urge the Florida Legislature to amend public records laws to safeguard the personal information of election officials and code enforcement personnel.
3. Align with State & National Concerns
 - Other states have enacted similar exemptions recognizing the heightened risks faced by election administrators and municipal staff.
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If approved, the City Clerk will distribute certified copies of this resolution to:

- Governor Ron DeSantis
- State Senators and Representatives serving Broward County
- Broward League of Cities
- Florida League of Cities (FLC)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 25-12