

RESOLUTION NO. R-05-2022

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING HOME RULE POWERS AND OPPOSING LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO IMPEDE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS 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 MUNICIAL RESIDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES; AND PROVIDING FOR REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND SETTING 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 Florida Constitution's right of local self-government; and

WHEREAS, municipal Home Rule powers include all government, 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, but not limited to, 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, Floridians' constitutional right 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 Florida 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 the 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 purposes 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 most precious powers a city in Florida has are its Home Rule powers; and, the ability to establish its form of government through the charter, and to then enact ordinances, codes, plans, and resolutions based on the needs and standards of the community without state interference is essential; and, to further be able to enforce there powers “at home” and to make necessary changes as a city grows is a great reflection of the trust that citizens have in their respective leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that limits Floridians’ constitutional right to govern themselves under municipal Home Rule powers.

SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Green Cove Springs urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that would interfere with or intrude into municipal finances.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

DONE AND RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA IN REGULAR SESSION THIS 21ST DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Daniel M. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

L. J. Arnold, III, City Attorney