



RESOLUTION NO. 2025-006

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH, FLORIDA, IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 517 AND SENATE BILL 840, 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 MUNICIPALITY; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; 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 staff fall within the need for a window for greater protection; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland Beach is very concerned for the safety and well-being of municipal clerks and their staff who serve the public on a daily basis and are, oftentimes, the first contact of citizens with municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland Beach has identified public records legislation as a priority in its 2025 State Legislative Agenda; and

WHREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature will consider the enactment of House Bil 517 and Senate Bill 840 to provide a public records exemption for the personal identifying and location information for municipal clerks, their staff, and spouses and children of municipal clerks and their staff; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highland Beach urges the Florida State Legislature to enact legislation in support of a public records exemption for municipal clerks and their staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH, FLORIDA:

Section 1: The Town Commission of the Town of Highland Beach, 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.

Section 2: That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, Palm Beach County League of Cities, and the Florida League of Cities, and the Florida Association of City Clerks.

Section 3: That if any clause, section, other part or application of this resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconditional or invalid, in part or in application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or applications of this resolution.

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

DONE AND ADOPTED by the Town Commission of the Town of Highland Beach,
Florida, on this 4th day of March 2025.

Natasha Moore, Mayor

**REVIEWED FOR LEGAL
SUFFICIENCY:**

ATTEST:

Lanelda Gaskins, MMC
Town Clerk

Leonard G. Rubin, Town Attorney

YES NO

VOTES:
Mayor Natasha Moore
Vice Mayor David Stern
Commissioner Evalyn David
Commissioner Donald Peters
Commissioner Judith Goldberg