

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-029

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, 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 CITY; PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING 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 City of Coconut Creek 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 cities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coconut Creek has identified public records legislation as a priority in its 2025 State Legislative Agenda; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature will consider the enactment of House Bill 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 City of Coconut Creek 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 CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That the foregoing “WHEREAS” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this resolution.

Section 2: That the City Commission of the City of Coconut Creek formally recognizes this initiative as part of its 2025 State Legislative Priorities and supports its inclusion in legislative advocacy efforts, hereby urging and encouraging 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 3: That the City Clerk, or designee, is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, the Broward County Legislative Delegation, the Broward League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, and the Florida Association of City Clerks.

Section 4: That if any clause, section, other part or application of this resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or in application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or applications of this resolution.

Section 5: That this resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Sandra L. Welch, Mayor

Attest:

Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Welch _____

Railey _____

Rydell _____

Brodie _____

Wasserman _____