

Meeting Date
February 18, 2024

CITY OF LAKE CITY

Report to Council

AGENDA	
Section	
Item No.	

SUBJECT: Florida Association of City Clerks Request for Public Records Exemption for Municipal Clerk
DEPT. / OFFICE: City Clerk

Originator: Audrey Sikes, City Clerk		
City Manager Don Rosenthal	Department Director City Council	2/5/25
Recommended Action: Adopt resolution urging the Florida 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.		
Summary Explanation & Background: <p>The Florida Association of City Clerks is asking municipalities to enact a resolution supporting a petition to the legislature to enact legislation to provide a public records exemption for the Municipal Clerk position. This would provide an extra layer of protection for the clerks profession as many municipal staff are often involved in elections and perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings, or other activities that could lead to a criminal prosecution or code enforcement action are exposed to threats and other acts of violence.</p> <p>Indeed, 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. Similarly, 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.</p> <p>Currently, the home address, telephone numbers, and other specified personal information of 30 classifications of public officers and employees and their spouses and children have been exempted in Florida Statutes. These exemptions cover local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken. Municipal Clerks and their staff fall within the window for greater protection.</p> <p>The Florida Association of City Clerks is very concerned about the safety and well-being of the municipal clerks and their staff who serve the public daily and are, oftentimes, the first point of contact with citizens.</p> <p>The Florida Association of City Clerks currently has a house bill sponsor and are working on a senate sponsor for this legislation.</p>		
Alternatives: N/A		
Source of Funds: N/A		
Financial Impact: None		
Exhibits Attached: Florida Association of City Clerks Resolution No. 2025-78		