

**Minutes**  
**Florida League of Cities, Inc. Annual Conference**  
**August 16-18, 2018**  
**Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida**

The Florida League of Cities' 92nd Annual Conference was held at the Diplomat Resort in Hollywood, Florida, on August 16-18, 2018. There was an attendance of over 800 delegates and guests, representing approximately 200 city governments.

On Thursday, August 16, 2018, delegates began arriving for various workshops and events of the annual conference. In the morning, a workshop was held titled "Continuing Education in Ethics: Have You Completed Your Hours?" That afternoon, the League's legislative policy committees conducted meetings. A "Cities 101," Florida Utilities Forecast, and Preemption or Redemption workshops were held, and an orientation session was available for first-time conference attendees. The Resolutions Committee and Federal Action Strike Team both held meetings. That evening, the President's Welcome Reception was held in the Great Hall for all conference delegates to attend.

Friday morning began with a Florida Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials breakfast. Concurrent sessions featured #LetCitiesWork Advocacy Strategy Workshop; Leadership Workshop; Small Cells/Big Changes; Home Rule and Preserving Floridians' Rights to Local Self-Government; and What's All the Fuss About Home Rule? Also, the Nominating Committee met that day.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Constitutional Municipal Home Rule. Florida League of Cities President Gil Ziffer, Tallahassee Commissioner, made it his goal to actively promote and defend the cherished concept of Home Rule. The afternoon began with the much-anticipated Home Rule Rally. The Miramar High School Band opened the event. President Ziffer presided over the event which included special presentations by Gracy Olmstead, guest columnist for *The New York Times* and a writer for *The American Conservative*, *National Review*, *The Weekly Standard* and *The Washington Times*; Stephen K. Benjamin, president, U.S. Conference of Mayors and mayor, City of Columbia, S.C.; Francis Suarez, mayor, City of Miami; Kathleen M. Peters, Florida House of Representatives; Matthew D. Surrency, mayor, City of Hawthorne; Rick D. Kriseman, mayor, City of St. Petersburg; Dean J. Trantalis, mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale; Clarence E. Anthony, executive director, National League of Cities; Carlos Hernandez, mayor, City of Hialeah; and Bob Buckhorn, mayor, City of Tampa.

At the conclusion of the Home Rule Rally, President Ziffer called on representatives from the local/regional leagues to join him on stage to offer a pledge on what their leagues will do to preserve Home Rule.

The Board of Directors met Friday afternoon, and in the evening a Florida League of Cities Membership Networking Event was held.

On Saturday, several local/regional leagues held breakfast meetings, and a session for Youth Councils was held.

At 9 a.m. that morning, President Ziffer, called the Business Session to order and announced that a quorum of delegates was present. Voting delegates were requested to be seated in the designated area. President Ziffer advised delegates that if it were necessary for a division of the house to be called, an explanation of the system of casting weighted votes would be provided in advance. The meeting was conducted in accordance with the League's bylaws and *Robert's Rules of Order*. Each voting delegate was properly registered and received voting credentials and ballots identifying the delegate's weighted vote. Members were also advised that they could split their vote; however, a single voting delegate must cast the total of each city's vote. Kraig Conn, the League's general counsel, served as parliamentarian.

The first order of business was a motion duly made and seconded to approve the 2017 conference minutes as posted on the League's website. The motion was adopted.

President Ziffer then recognized the chairs of the League's five legislative policy committees and thanked them and committee members for their service.

He also recognized the chairs of the Federal Action Strike Team, Advocacy Committee, and International Relations Committee, and thanked them for their service. He then announced there was no unfinished business to come before the membership of the Florida League of Cities.

President Ziffer called for a report of the Resolutions Committee. Chairperson Leo E. Longworth, League first vice president and mayor of Bartow, introduced each resolution and moved its adoption. Each motion was duly seconded, and each resolution was adopted.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA,  
FOR ITS SUPPORT OF GIL ZIFFER AS PRESIDENT OF THE  
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, Gil Ziffer, commissioner of Tallahassee, Florida, served as president of the Florida League of Cities from 2017 through 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens, mayor, commissioners and staff of Tallahassee were most understanding of the demands placed upon Commissioner Ziffer in his role as president of the League; and

**WHEREAS**, during his presidency, Commissioner Ziffer focused on reenergizing the League's legislative advocacy efforts with the "Let Cities Work" Initiative to get Florida municipal officials more engaged in communicating with legislators, citizens,

business groups and the media on the need to preserve municipal Home Rule and the ability to make decisions locally without unnecessary state interference; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership and staff of the League recognize the commitment of the City of Tallahassee to Commissioner Ziffer's presidency ensured his active participation in League activities and unselfish service to the League and permitted him to successfully promote the programs, projects and philosophy of the League during the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership and staff of the League also wish to recognize and personally thank Commission Aide Cathy Branch and all of the dedicated Tallahassee city staff for their efforts in providing outstanding assistance to President Ziffer and the FLC staff in coordinating his duties with the city and with the League; Cathy and all city staff went above and beyond the call of duty, and their outstanding contributions to this effort are applauded and greatly appreciated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities' membership and staff do officially and personally appreciate the commitment Tallahassee's citizens, commissioners and staff made to Commissioner Ziffer's presidency.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be presented to the City of Tallahassee.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92nd Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18th Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 22-28, 2018, AS  
"FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK" AND ENCOURAGING  
ALL FLORIDA CITY OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THIS  
CELEBRATION BY PARTICIPATING IN THE "MY CITY: I'M  
PART OF IT, I'M PROUD OF IT!" ACTIVITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, city government is the government closest to the people and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents, making their city their home; and

**WHEREAS**, city government is administered for and by its citizens and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along the understanding of the services provided by cities and their benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the significant role played by city government in our lives and to spread the word to all Floridians that they can shape and influence this level of government, which is closest to the people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., encourages all city officials, city employees, school officials and citizens to participate in events that recognize and celebrate Florida City Government Week.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., supports and encourages all city governments to promote, sponsor and participate in “My City: I’m Part of It, I’m Proud of It!”

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution be provided to Florida Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Cabinet, Florida School Boards Association and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
RECOGNIZING THE NEW VILLAGE OF INDIANTOWN AND  
CONGRATULATING THE NEWEST MUNICIPALITY IN FLORIDA  
UPON ITS SUCCESSFUL INCORPORATION IN 2017.**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the Village of Indiantown by referendum voted to incorporate as a city in December 2017 under the provisions of Florida law and held their initial council elections in March 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Indiantown has all municipal powers allowed by the Florida Constitution and Laws of Florida to promptly respond to the needs and conveniences of its citizens and is the government closest to its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 2 of Article VIII, Florida Constitution (1968) establishes Home Rule for municipalities by granting them “governmental, corporate and proprietary

powers ... to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services ...”; and

**WHEREAS**, the newly elected council for Indiantown is also congratulated upon their respective elections, and its newest staff appointments are also herein honored for being the inaugural elected and appointed officials to represent the new village; and

**WHEREAS**, this most recent act furthers the positive elements of self-governance and Home Rule philosophies, and the Florida League of Cities desires to applaud these actions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., proudly acknowledges the municipal incorporation of the Village of Indiantown and welcomes its addition to the League’s municipal family.

**Section 2.** The citizens of the Village of Indiantown are commended for their desire to create a municipality and to thereby assume the responsibility of self-governance.

**Section 3.** A copy of this resolution be presented to the Village of Indiantown.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE IN THE  
FLORIDA CONSTITUTION AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIES,  
TOWNS AND VILLAGES TO SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION OF  
THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION.**

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of Florida voted to amend Article VIII of the Florida Constitution on November 5, 1968, to include authority for municipal Home Rule powers as part of the comprehensive revision of the State Constitution undertaken that year; and

**WHEREAS**, this power has enabled each city, town and village across the Sunshine State to consider, adopt, revise, or remove its own laws without the need to seek legislative permission from the state, and has further served as the foundation upon which every municipality builds its governmental structure; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution provides that any municipality may “*conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law*”; and

**WHEREAS**, this provision is a reversal of the previous Dillon’s Rule, which was a restrictive limitation on municipal powers, and all Floridians are indebted to the diligence of Ralph Marsicano, municipal attorney and general counsel to the Florida League of Cities, Inc., who served on the 1968 Constitution Revision Commission and who tirelessly educated its members regarding the many benefits that would be secured for local government decision-making and who further assisted the League in educating all Floridians about the need for change; and

**WHEREAS**, since this amendment was passed there have been attacks upon Home Rule by members of the Florida Legislature, and each of these has rightly resulted in protest by municipal leaders each year, and while several measures have been passed into law to limit or restrict these powers, the soul of Home Rule remains intact despite these assaults; and

**WHEREAS**, a half century is a momentous anniversary and should be recognized and celebrated so all Floridians and all future generations will understand, appreciate and uphold this Constitutional authority and who, in turn, will be supporters, protectors and defenders of this cherished municipal power.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** All municipalities are encouraged to celebrate the milestone 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of municipal Home Rule with individual resolutions.

**Section 2.** All municipalities are further encouraged to create and hold public educational outreach for their respective citizens of all ages with the goal for all Floridians to understand the significance of Home Rule authority.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES INC., OPPOSING AMENDMENT 1, WHICH CREATES AN ADDITIONAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION TO FLORIDA’S CONSTITUTION AND, IF ADOPTED, WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL INEQUITIES IN FLORIDA’S TAX SYSTEM BY GRANTING CERTAIN TAX BREAKS TO SOME TAXPAYERS AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER TAXPAYERS.**

**WHEREAS**, a proposed constitutional amendment sponsored by the Florida Legislature will be placed on the 2018 general election ballot as Amendment 1; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed constitutional change exempts the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district levies; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 1 is expected to cost \$644.7 million per year, resulting in service reductions or tax hikes; and

**WHEREAS**, local communities may be forced to increase their property tax rates to offset revenue reductions; and

**WHEREAS**, changing local property taxes should be done locally, not through a constitutional amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of fixing Florida's complicated tax system, Amendment 1 makes it more complicated and less fair; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's tax system should work for all homeowners, not just a few; and

**WHEREAS**, most of Amendment 1's benefits go to only a handful of homeowners; and

**WHEREAS**, Amendment 1 exposes local businesses to a much higher tax burden; and

**WHEREAS**, this one-size-fits-all scheme is made to look like a tax cut, but it is really a tax shift that will further disenchant millions of already-skeptical Florida voters.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges Floridians to be aware that Amendment 1 is not a true tax cut.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges Florida's residents to VOTE NO on Amendment 1 on the 2018 General Election ballot.

**Section 3.** That a copy of this resolution be provided to the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc. and other interested parties.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS TO MAINTAIN FUNDING FOR THE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program was enacted and signed into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has as its primary objective “the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income”; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has considerable flexibility to allow municipalities to carry out activities that are tailored to their unique affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties, and state and local government-sector associations are unanimous in their support of the CDBG and the need to keep this program intact; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the CDBG is most commonly used to support activities that improve the quality of life in communities; to promote energy conservation and renewable energy resources; for construction of and improvements to public infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, and water and sewer facilities; and for small business assistance to spur economic development and job creation/retention; and

**WHEREAS**, this year Congress increased funding for CDBG for the first time since 2010 from \$3 billion to \$3.3 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, for every dollar of CDBG funding invested in a project, another \$4.05 is leveraged from other sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDBG program has created or retained more than 421,000 jobs for low- and moderate-income persons through a variety of economic development activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., appreciates Congress increasing funding for CDBG and urges Congress to continue providing at least \$3.3 billion in formula funding for CDBG.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities, the secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE DE-  
OBLIGATION PROCESS OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DISASTER  
RELIEF FUNDS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) establishes the statutory authority for most federal disaster response activities, especially as they pertain to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the Stafford Act is to provide continued and orderly assistance from the federal government to state and local governments to relieve hardship and assist in disaster recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to obligate funds to states and local governments to help recover from natural disasters that cause widespread damage to homes, businesses and critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the ability of state and local governments to recover successfully from natural disaster events is due in large part to their partnership with FEMA and the financial assistance that it provides under the Stafford Act; and

**WHEREAS**, it is through this partnership that local governments seek FEMA's approval of recovery projects that include authorized costs to be reimbursed by FEMA once the projects are completed; and

**WHEREAS**, FEMA has sought to retroactively de-obligate previously approved recovery funds from local governments, despite the passage of many years since the recovery funding was originally approved and despite the local governments' expenditure of such funds in accordance with the grant's requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, FEMA's retroactive de-obligation of previously approved recovery funds weakens the intent of the Stafford Act; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments do not have the resources or expertise to fully respond to the voluminous FEMA requests for information and documentation relating to their post-disaster recovery expenses and efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress enacted Section 705(c) of the Stafford Act, titled Binding Nature of Grant Requirements, to protect recipients of disaster assistance from these retroactive de-obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation has passed the U.S. House of Representatives that would amend the Stafford Act to change the three-year statute of limitations by which FEMA can recover payments to begin once the Project Worksheet is transmitted, rather upon completion of the final expenditure report for the entire disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) have also introduced legislation to amend the statute of limitations in the Stafford Act; and

**WHEREAS**, this provision would provide more fiscal certainty to local governments that receive FEMA disaster assistance funds.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the federal government to clarify the process whereby FEMA can declare previously approved funds distributed to local governments for disaster relief efforts are de-obligated so as to ensure the de-obligation process:

1. complies with Section 705(c) of the Stafford Act;
2. includes a reasonable time frame for municipalities to respond to information requests; and
3. requires FEMA to make timely decisions on appeals filed by municipalities that face the potential rescission of previously appropriated federal funds.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., expresses appreciation to Representative Lois Frankel (D-21), Senator Bill Nelson, Senator Marco Rubio, Representative Mario Diaz-Balart (R-25) and other members of Florida's Congressional Delegation for their efforts to improve the FEMA disaster recovery funding de-obligation process.

**Section 3.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges the U.S. Senate to pass legislation to improve the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program.

**Section 4.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 5.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL FLOOD  
INSURANCE PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, floods are the most common and most destructive natural disaster in the United States and Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in response to the lack of available private flood insurance and continued increases in federal disaster assistance due to floods; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP allows property owners in participating communities to buy insurance to protect against flood losses; and

**WHEREAS**, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both inland and coastal; and

**WHEREAS**, this issue is a critical concern for our state, as Florida has more than 1.7 million active NFIP policies and \$435.7 billion in coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida has the largest number of participants in the NFIP and pays four times more into the program than it receives in claim payments; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP is set to expire on November 30, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, as a government program, the NFIP should treat its customers equitably and should adhere to insurance principals that rates must not be excessive, inadequate or unfairly discriminatory; and

**WHEREAS**, properties should be rated based on their ability to withstand risk, not their use or ownership structure; and

**WHEREAS**, necessary increases in premiums should be implemented with regard to customers' ability to absorb those increases; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and other Senators have been working on bi-partisan legislation which would reauthorize the NFIP program for six years; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and improve accuracy in flood mapping, transparency and broader-based solutions for funding.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
SUPPORTING THE FLOOD MAPPING MODERNIZATION AND  
HOME-OWNER EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROGRAM ACT OF  
2018.**

**WHEREAS**, flooding is a serious risk in Florida due to the state's geography and proximity to water, both inland and coastal; and

**WHEREAS**, as Florida experiences more frequent rain and hurricanes, many municipalities have seen a rise in flood activity; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida has the largest number of participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and pays four times more into the program than it receives in claim payments; and

**WHEREAS**, NFIP flood maps are generally outdated and do not accurately measure a community's flood risk; and

**WHEREAS**, many urban areas that experience reoccurring flooding are often outside of regulatory floodplains and subsequently not covered by the NFIP; and

**WHEREAS**, to better protect home and business owners from facing clean-up and maintenance costs, a stronger effort to learn about flood mapping potential in these areas is necessary to implement effective preventive solutions in the long term; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) introduced S. 2701, and Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL-5) introduced H.R. 5569

titled the Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 2701 and H.R. 5569 would provide \$5.5 million for demonstration grants to help many cities improve their mapping technologies and turn over better flood mapping data to Congress and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation will allow cities to develop better methods for mapping, understanding and mitigating urban flooding.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass S. 2701 and H.R. 5569 which would help cities apply for federal grants to improve their flood mapping technology.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.  
URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE COASTAL COMMUNITIES  
ADAPTATION ACT.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida is vulnerable to frequent and recurring flooding from tidal events and stormwater; and

**WHEREAS**, these events are increasing in frequency and threaten municipal infrastructure, public safety and the state's tourism industry; and

**WHEREAS**, in coastal and nearshore areas, seasonal high tides regularly flood downtown areas, sewer systems and canals, and have accelerated saltwater intrusion into drinking water supplies; and

**WHEREAS**, communities throughout Florida are vulnerable to stormwater flooding caused by extreme weather events; and

**WHEREAS**, strategies and tools to adapt to and mitigate the potential impacts of these increasing natural hazards will require coordination among all levels of state and local government; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced S. 2783, titled the Coastal Communities Adaptation Act; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation would create a revolving loan program through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to assist cities that need to upgrade their infrastructure to address climate change-related events, such as tidal flooding, beach erosion and saltwater intrusion caused by sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida's cities will need the assistance of their federal and state partners to provide the infrastructure necessary to protect citizens and property from increasing coastal risks.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass the Coastal Communities Adaption Act.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,  
URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE WATER RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2018.**

**WHEREAS**, the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA) is a bipartisan bill that authorizes numerous water resources projects and policies for navigation, flood control, recreation, water supply and emergency management; and

**WHEREAS**, WRDA addresses Florida municipal interests related to ports, inland waterways, vegetation, wetlands, watersheds, coastal restoration, safe drinking water and clean water infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, WRDA authorizes funding and grants for flood protection, water infrastructure, wastewater, drinking water and stormwater projects that will benefit municipalities throughout Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Everglades, Lake Okeechobee, the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee River estuaries, and the Indian River lagoon are imperiled ecosystems and waters of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the health of these ecosystems is critical to the economy, public safety and quality of life of the entire state; and

**WHEREAS**, WRDA will strengthen the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and Comprehensive Everglades Planning Project to restore the long-term health and ecological and economic productivity of these ecosystems of statewide importance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., urges Congress to pass the Water Resources Development Act of 2018.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.  
URGING THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION TO  
UPDATE REGULATIONS ADDRESSING RADIO FREQUENCY  
EMISSIONS OF WIRELESS FACILITIES AND, IN PARTICULAR,  
SMALL WIRELESS FACILITIES LOCATED IN PUBLIC RIGHTS-  
OF-WAY.**

**WHEREAS**, increased usage of wireless communications services has resulted in greater deployment of wireless communications facilities in Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, Florida adopted the Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act, which addresses municipal and county regulations for new wireless communications technology known as small wireless facilities to be placed in public rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are considering legislation and regulations, respectively, addressing the deployment of small wireless communications infrastructure in public rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, provides in pertinent part that “[n]o State or local government or instrumentality thereof may regulate the placement, construction, and modification of personal wireless service facilities on the basis of the environmental effects of radiofrequency emissions to the extent that such facilities comply with the Commission’s regulations concerning such emissions”; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to this federal statute, states and local governments throughout the United States are preempted from taking into consideration the health effects of radio frequency emissions (rf) when regulating the placement of wireless facilities or small wireless facilities with their jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, Florida residents have expressed significant concerns with the health effects of rf emissions associated with wireless facilities, particularly small wireless facilities placed in public rights-of-way often in very close proximity to residents’ homes, places of work and where they recreate; and

**WHEREAS**, cities and counties employ methods to avoid providing certain environmental related services near residents with particular sensitivities; and

**WHEREAS**, the FCC is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, among other things, to evaluate the effect of emissions from FCC-regulated transmitters on the quality of the human environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the FCC adopted a proceeding in 2013 to reassess rf exposure limits; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous states, local governments and Indian tribes have urged the FCC to revisit and to update FCC standards for rf emissions, with input and support from other federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities (NLC), National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), on behalf of their respective constituencies, jointly submitted a letter to the FCC Commissioners urging that the FCC take action to perform a comprehensive review of rf emission standards, particularly with respect to small wireless technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 7, 2018, the National League of Cities met with FCC commissioners regarding small wireless deployment and again called on the FCC to

update its rf exposure data to allow local officials to “respond to residents’ concerns about the safety of this infrastructure, which is often much closer to pedestrians and residents than traditional wireless infrastructure.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.,**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities urges the FCC to take action as diligently as possible to update prior standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for rf emissions, particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in close proximity to residents’ homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio and the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., OPPOSING S. 3157, “THE STREAMLINING THE RAPID EVOLUTION AND MODERNIZATION OF LEADING-EDGE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO ENHANCE SMALL CELL DEPLOYMENT” ACT, WHICH, IF ADOPTED, WOULD CREATE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, COMPLICATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO DEPLOY SMALL WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

**WHEREAS,** Florida’s cities embrace the latest innovations in technology to improve the lives of their citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** Florida’s cities also strive to protect public safety and maintain their appearance and unique characteristics; and

**WHEREAS,** the deployment of small wireless facilities is an emerging trend that uses multiple antenna on existing and newly constructed utility poles that are located primarily in municipal rights of way; and

**WHEREAS,** Florida cities share Congress’ goal of ensuring efficient, safe and appropriate deployment of new broadband technology; and

**WHEREAS**, roughly half of all U.S. states, including Florida, have passed legislation specifically addressing the deployment of small wireless facilities, and the local governments in those states are adopting ordinances and procedures to comply with these laws; and

**WHEREAS**, Senators John Thune (R-SD) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) introduced S. 3157, titled the Streamlining the Rapid Evolution and Modernization of Leading-edge Infrastructure Necessary to Enhance Small Cell Deployment Act; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Florida legislature passed the Florida Advanced Wireless Infrastructure Deployment Act which became effective July 1 of that year; and

**WHEREAS**, there are significant differences between S. 3157 and the Florida law, which may complicate and interfere with local governments' processing of applications for small wireless facilities in the rights of way; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 3157 introduces an unnecessary one-size-fits-all preemption of state and local efforts, when little data exists to determine what is most effective; and

**WHEREAS**, S. 3157 represents a direct affront to traditionally held local authority and will complicate rather than simplify efforts to expedite infrastructure deployment by prolonging state and local processes, which are already in place, by instituting a federal regulatory structure; and

**WHEREAS**, the limited fees authorized under S. 3157 are significantly different from the fees allowed under Florida law, and S. 3157 does not ensure appropriate compensation to taxpayers for private, profit-generating use of public property; and

**WHEREAS**, while the Florida law allows local governments the authority to preserve historic sites and undergrounding requirements and also excludes poles owned by municipal electric utilities, S. 3157 does not.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc., opposes S. 3157 and urges Congress to allow cities to properly regulate the deployment of small wireless facilities within their communities.

**Section 2.** A copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, the Florida Congressional Delegation, the National League of Cities and the membership of the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall become effective upon adoption and shall remain in effect until repealed and hereby repeals all conflicting resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., IN RESPONSE TO THE HIGH CONCENTRATION AND PROLONGED PRESENCE OF HARMFUL RED TIDE ALGAL BLOOMS IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND TOXIC BLUE GREEN ALGAL BLOOMS IN FLORIDA'S COASTAL, ESTUARINE AND INLAND WATERS, URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO DECLARE AFFECTED JURISDICTIONS IN FLORIDA A MAJOR DISASTER AREA, URGING MEMBERS OF FLORIDA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO REQUEST SAID ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT, AND URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO EXPAND THE CURRENT STATE OF EMERGENCY TO ENCOMPASS ALL AFFECTED JURISDICTIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, water quality is of vital importance to Florida's municipalities, their residents, businesses and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, water quality is of vital importance to the state's economy and numerous municipal economies throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, there is widespread, high concentration and prolonged presence of harmful Red Tide in waters of the Gulf of Mexico and its adjacent estuarine areas, resulting in large numbers of dead fish and marine life washing up on beaches and within rivers and waterways within numerous jurisdictions throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, decaying fish and marine life further degrades water quality; and

**WHEREAS**, excess water discharged from Lake Okeechobee is causing widespread and prolonged toxic Blue Green Algal blooms in coastal and inland waterways in numerous jurisdictions throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the widespread and prolonged algal blooms threaten the State's environment and fragile ecosystems, including its beaches, rivers and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the widespread and prolonged algal blooms and fish kills have led to the issuance of health advisories, closure of recreational areas, and economic losses to affected communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Rick Scott issued Executive Order Number 18-191 on July 9, 2018, declaring a State of Local Emergency for the following counties for Emergency Management-Lake Okeechobee Discharge/Algae Blooms: Glades, Hendry, Lee, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's declaration of Executive Order Number 18-191 may make funding assistance available to businesses, individuals, and governmental entities adversely affected by algal blooms and fish kills; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blue Green Algal blooms are increasing the severity and impact of the Red Tide; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined effects of the Harmful Red Tide and Blue Green Algal Blooms has caused numerous visitors to cancel vacations to Florida, while businesses that rely on water quality have seen sharp declines in revenue, causing devastating impacts to local government economies and the well-being of local residents and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the adverse impacts caused by the Red Tide and Blue Green Algal blooms are being experienced in jurisdictions beyond the initial seven counties encompassed in Executive Order Number 18-191; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no indication the harmful Red Algal bloom and toxic Blue Green Algal bloom will abate before lasting economic harm occurs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.:**

**Section 1.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges the President of the United States to declare all jurisdictions affected by the harmful Red Tide Algal bloom and the toxic Blue Green Algal bloom a Major Disaster area to provide economic assistance to businesses and individuals impacted by these blooms.

**Section 2.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges members of Florida's Congressional Delegation to request the President of the United States to declare all jurisdictions affected by the harmful Red Tide Algal bloom and the toxic Blue Green Algal bloom a Major Disaster area.

**Section 3.** The Florida League of Cities, Inc. urges the Governor of the State of Florida to expand Executive Order Number 18-191 to include additional jurisdictions that are adversely impacted by the harmful Red Tide Algal bloom and the toxic Blue Green Algal bloom.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Florida League of Cities, Inc., in conference assembled at the League's 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, at the Diplomat Resort, Hollywood, Florida, this 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August 2018.

There being no further resolutions, President Ziffer expressed appreciation to Chairperson Longworth and the members of the Resolutions Committee for their efforts.

President Ziffer then called for a report of the Nominating Committee. Chairman Matthew Surrency, League past president and mayor of Hawthorne, offered the following nominations:

For President: Mayor Leo E. Longworth, Bartow. President Ziffer called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Mayor Longworth for president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For First Vice President: Councilmember Isaac Salver, Bar Harbor Islands. President Ziffer called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Councilmember Salver for first vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

For Second Vice President: Commissioner Tony Ortiz, Orlando. President Ziffer called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Commissioner Ortiz for second vice president. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then announced the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 14 districts: (1) Councilmember Shannon Hayes, Crestview; Mayor Richard Rynearson, Fort Walton Beach; (2) Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, Palatka; (3) Mayor Robert Apgar, DeLand; Mayor William Partington, Ormond Beach; (4) Mayor Carol McCormack, Palm Shores; Mayor Kathy Meehan, Melbourne; (5) Mayor Louie Davis, Waldo; Commissioner Elise Dennison, Leesburg; (6) Council Member Donald Shroyer, St. Cloud; Commissioner Rosemary Wilsen, Ocoee; (7) Mayor Sam Fite, Bowling Green; Mayor Marlene Wagner, Lake Hamilton; (8) Commissioner John Carroll, Largo; Commissioner Heather Gracy, Dunedin; (9) Mayor Linda Hudson, Fort Pierce; (10) Commissioner Willie Charles Shaw; Sarasota; (11) Mayor Rachel Keesling, Punta Gorda; (12) Vice Mayor Andy Amoroso, Lake Worth; Mayor Anne Gerwig, Wellington; Commissioner Keith James, West Palm Beach; (13) Commissioner Margaret Bates, Lauderhill; Commissioner Dan Daley, Coral Springs; Mayor Gary Resnick, Wilton Manors; Mayor Greg Ross, Cooper City; Commissioner Iris Siple, Pembroke Pines; Councilwoman Susan Starkey, Davie; Mayor Dan Stermer, Weston; (14) Councilman Jon Burgess, Homestead; Mayor Claudia Cubillos, El Portal; Councilmember Jordan Leonard, Bay Harbor Islands; Councilperson Felicia Robinson, Miami Gardens.

President Ziffer called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then moved the committee's nominees for the Board of Directors representing the 10 most populous cities: Jacksonville – Councilmember Samuel Newby; Miami – Commissioner Keon Hardemon; Tampa – Mayor Bob

Buckhorn; St. Petersburg – Council Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman; Orlando – Commissioner Robert Stuart; Hialeah – Mayor Carlos Hernandez; Tallahassee – Commissioner Nancy Miller; Fort Lauderdale – Mayor Dean Trantalis; Port St. Lucie – Mayor Gregory Oravec; and Cape Coral – Mayor Pro Tem Rick Williams.

President Ziffer called for additional nominations. There being none, Chairman Surrency moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for the nominees as presented. The motion was duly seconded and adopted without dissent.

Chairman Surrency then announced that the by-laws provide that past presidents serving in office also serve on the Board of Directors and those individuals are: Mayor Randall Wise, Niceville; Commissioner Scott Maddox, Tallahassee; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilman P.C. Wu, Pensacola; Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; and Commissioner Gil Ziffer, Tallahassee.

Chairman Surrency further advised based on the by-laws, Commissioner Roy Shiver of Florida City would be serving in an at-large position and City Manager Michael Cernech, Tamarac, would serve in the Florida City and County Management Association non-voting seat.

President Ziffer then thanked Chairman Surrency and the Nominating Committee members for their efforts and congratulated the newly appointed Board of Directors of the Florida League of Cities.

There being no comments for the “Good of the Order” and no further business to come before the membership of the League, upon motion by Commissioner Ziffer, the Business Session was adjourned.

The General Session featured a presentation by NLC President Mark Stodola, mayor of Little Rock, Ark., and a keynote discussion on Amendment 1 by Ryan Houck, communication strategist and media consultant, Consensus Communications, and Steven Vancore, partner, VancoreJones Communications. At this time, President Ziffer announced the winner of the E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award: P. C. Wu, councilmember, Pensacola. President Ziffer recognized the Years of Service Award Recipients; the Defender of Home Rule and Municipal Achievement Awards were presented; the youth councils in attendance were recognized; and the Florida League of Cities President’s End-of-Year Video was shown.

Following the General Session, the League’s past presidents were recognized during a luncheon held in their honor. Past presidents in attendance were: J.L. Plummer; Robert “Bo” Donly; Eric Smith; Ilene Lieberman Michelson; Clarence Anthony; Samuel Ferreri; David Rigsby; Frank Satchel; Commissioner Scott Maddox, Tallahassee; Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City; Mayor Frank C. Ortis, Pembroke Pines; Carmine Priore; John Marks; Mayor Pat Bates, Altamonte Springs; Councilperson P.C. Wu, Pensacola; Lori Moseley; Mayor Matthew Surrency, Hawthorne; and Susan Haynie.

Also, during the luncheon, President Longworth was installed, and appropriate recognition was provided.

The League's Board of Directors met that afternoon. During the Inaugural Celebration that evening, delegates enjoyed entertainment, and the 92nd Annual Conference was adjourned.