

RESOLUTION 2021-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE UNWARRANTED OR OVERLY BROAD PREEMPTIONS OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE POWERS; DIRECTING A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE TRANSMITTED TO MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, municipalities are voluntarily created and chartered by their citizens as the embodiment of local self-determination.

WHEREAS, in 1968, Florida voters amended the Florida Constitution to confer broad "Home Rule" powers to municipal government, under Article VIII, Section 2(b).

WHEREAS, numerous bills being considered by the Florida Legislature contradict the will of the people of Florida, who expressed an unequivocal desire for broad Home Rule powers in their state constitution.

WHEREAS, House Bill 219 related to vacation rentals and House Bill 403 related to home-based businesses undercut the intent of the citizens of every municipality in Florida, who voted to incorporate their community and exercise the broad Home Rule powers granted by the Florida Constitution to govern themselves and, thereby, effectively address the unique concerns of their communities.

WHEREAS, these house bills would impair municipal charter and ordinance provisions specifically adopted and approved by local communities to define their preferred form of self-government and safeguard issues of perennial importance to their communities.

WHEREAS, a municipality's ability to timely act on local problems and opportunities will be limited by these bills to a state Legislature that holds session only once a year, and whose ability to address local problems will be contingent on the relative effectiveness of its representative in the state Legislature.

WHEREAS, under these house bills, state legislators will find themselves spending increasing amounts of time arbitrating over local problems and legislating on local issues, and less time attending to pressing statewide needs.

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Mayors believes opposing these house bills is in the best interests of the residents and businesses of the municipalities in the State of Florida, and ultimately the state itself.

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Mayors would respectfully ask the state legislature to be mindful that regulations enacted by local governments have to be enforced by those same governments and, if excessive or burdensome, the peoples' local elected representatives are quickly made aware of those burdens and any unintended consequences.

WHEREAS, should these house bills become law, and not be overturned, the ability of Florida's municipalities to narrowly address local issues of public concern would be destroyed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, THAT:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The above recitals ("Whereas" clauses) are true and correct and adopted hereby as findings, purpose and intent of the City Commission.

SECTION 2. The City Commission hereby supports the opposition of House Bill 219 and House Bill 403 and agrees that the opposition is in the best interests of the welfare of its citizens and businesses.

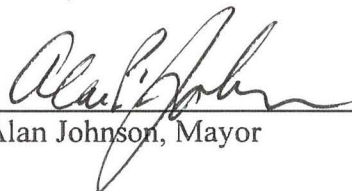
SECTION 3. The Florida League of Mayors opposes the State of Florida's overbroad attempt to repeal or restrict constitutional municipal home rule powers to protect the health, safety and welfare of citizens and urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose the adoption of unwarranted or overly broad preemptions.

SECTION 4. A copy of this Resolution be transmitted to members of the Florida Legislature, the Florida League of Cities, and any other interested parties.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. PETE BEACH, FLORIDA, THIS 23 DAY OF March, 2021.

CITY COMMISSION, CITY OF ST. PETE
BEACH, FLORIDA.




Alan Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Amber LaRowe, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



Andrew Dickman, City Attorney