

RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA, URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION THAT WOULD RESTRICT OR ELIMINATE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES; DIRECTING CITY ADMINISTRATION TO TRANSMIT A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, THE WALTON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Part III of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, allows a county or municipality to create a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to carry out redevelopment of slum or blighted areas when certain conditions exist; and

WHEREAS, examples of conditions that can support the creation of a CRA include the presence of substandard or inadequate structures, a shortage of affordable housing, or inadequate infrastructure and insufficient roadways; and

WHEREAS, CRAs are community redevelopment programs designed to eliminate slum or blight conditions and to enhance quality of life and business conditions for residents and business owners in a community redevelopment area; and

WHEREAS, CRAs have demonstrated that the use of Tax Increment Financing dramatically improved the economic and social outcomes within the targeted areas; and

WHEREAS, CRAs have proven historically to provide housing and make urban areas safer for residents, preserve and grow business, and provide improved, safe and clean places for all who live there; and

WHEREAS, CRAs have proven historically to provide distressed communities with a better business environment through improved infrastructure, preservation and growth of businesses and job opportunities; these outcomes benefit both cities and the counties and, more importantly, their taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, there are 222 active CRAs in Florida, established to encourage new investment and job creation in urban areas that became blighted as a result of substantial growth moving away from the urban core; and

WHEREAS, municipal residents and local businesses pay local taxes and assessments in CRA areas for the specific purpose of obtaining and enhancing their desired level of municipal services and amenities; and

WHEREAS, CRAs are funded using local taxes and do not rely on state funds; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature should be wary of attempts to restrict the use of Tax Increment Financing, particularly if the debate is over money and control and not about the merits of revitalizing blighted areas; and

WHEREAS, it is not in the state's best interest to restrict municipalities' ability to revitalize and redevelop areas that are struggling the most, particularly when the state-funded Enterprise Zones program expired on December 31, 2015, and there is an absence of alternative programs to effectively address slum and blighted areas in Florida.

WHEREAS, the Florida League of Cities has included the support of CRAs as one of its 2018 Legislative Priorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, THAT:

Section 1. The above "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The City Council of the City of DeFuniak Springs urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose legislation that limits Part III of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, which allows a county or municipality to create a Community Redevelopment Agency to carry out redevelopment of slum or blighted areas.

Section 3. The City Administration is directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Florida League of Cities, the Walton County Legislative Delegation and any other interested parties.

Section 4. All Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are repealed to the extent of such conflict. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, FLORIDA



Mayor, Robert "Bob" Campbell

ATTEST:



Loretta A. Laird, City Clerk