

RESOLUTION NO. 2008 - 029

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION THAT WOULD FORCE VOTERS TO DECIDE ALL CHANGES TO A MUNICIPAL OR COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; URGING MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT BROWARD COUNTY AND THE STATE OF FLORIDA, AS WELL AS FLORIDA ELECTORS, TO OPPOSE FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida as well as other municipalities throughout the State of Florida continue to experience sizeable growth; and

WHEREAS, the challenges presented by growth require that local governments embrace smart growth policies aimed at protecting our State's quality of life, engendering greater economic prosperity, and equitably planning for the common good; and

WHEREAS, smart growth requires careful planning and direction combined with a clear and effective means of engaging the general public; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches understands that elected leaders must always empower citizens and never abandon government's primary responsibility for creating sound public policy; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council, when considering comprehensive plan amendments and other land use changes, solicits input from the general public pursuant to Chapter 163, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council gives great weight to the comments of the general public when evaluating comprehensive plan amendments and other land use changes; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has even gone so far as creating its own Comprehensive Plan Advisory Board in order to solicit recommendations from the public regarding any changes to the Town's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Hometown Democracy initiative seeks to place a Constitutional Amendment before Florida voters to amend Article II, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment constitutes a fundamental abandonment of the Town's comprehensive plan and land use amendment process, which has historically been an effective and efficient model for furthering planning and development throughout the Town; and

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment will further, paralyze local governments by creating undue delay in development and potentially cripple vital public services including crime prevention, transportation improvement and public education, among others; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida deems it to be in the best interests of the citizens and residents of the Town and the entire State to oppose the Florida Hometown Democracy's proposed amendment to the Constitution of the State of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Section 1: The above referenced recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. The Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida hereby opposes the Florida Hometown Democracy's proposed Constitutional Amendment that would force voters to decide all changes to a municipal or county comprehensive plan. The Town Council hereby further urges municipalities in Broward County and throughout the State of Florida, as well as Florida electors, to oppose Florida Hometown Democracy's proposed Constitutional amendment if it appears on the general election ballot.

Section 3. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to provide a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Florida, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the President of the Florida Senate, the members of the Broward County Legislative delegation, the Florida League of Cities, the Broward League of Cities, all municipalities in Broward County, and the Board of County Commissioners for Broward County.

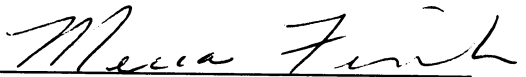
Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 13th day of December 2007, on a motion by Council Member Aster Knight and seconded by Council Member Don Maines.

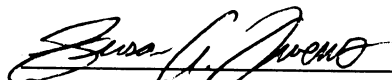
| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Fink | <u> N </u> |
| Nelson | <u> Y </u> |
| Breitkreuz | <u> Y </u> |
| Knight | <u> Y </u> |
| Maines | <u> Y </u> |

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Ayes | <u> 4 </u> |
| Nays | <u> 1 </u> |
| Absent | <u> 0 </u> |
| Abstaining | <u> 0 </u> |



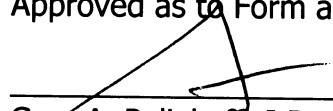
Mecca Fink, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan A. Owens, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Gary A. Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney

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