

RESOLUTION NO. 17-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., SUPPORTING THE COUNTYWIDE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, AND FURTHER SUPPORTING THE FUNDING OF SAID OFFICE THROUGH COUNTY AD-VALOREM TAX DOLLARS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2010, the voters of Palm Beach County approved a referendum to amend the Palm Beach County Charter to create a countywide Office of the Inspector General (the "IG Program"), which would be in effect in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. fully supports the creation and continued existence of the countywide IG Program as it provides a valuable service and benefit to all County residents; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2011, the Board of County Commissioners for Palm Beach County (the "BCC") adopted Ordinance No. 2011-009, which implemented the newly approved countywide IG Program, and which required the Municipalities within Palm Beach County to budget and pay for a portion of the IG Program's funding; and

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2016, the Fourth District Court of Appeal issued an opinion holding that the County's efforts to force Municipalities to pay for the IG Program were barred by the doctrine of municipal sovereign immunity; and

WHEREAS, the County recently has requested that all Municipalities in Palm Beach County voluntarily pay their "fair share" of the costs toward the countywide IG Program; and

WHEREAS, the budget, staffing levels, and levels of service for the countywide IG Program are controlled by the BCC and not the Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the countywide IG Program are County services, not municipal services; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Municipalities within Palm Beach County are also County residents; and

WHEREAS, municipal residents, whether individuals or businesses, pay taxes to the County in the same amount as taxpayers residing in the unincorporated areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, municipal residents, in fact, pay approximately seventy percent (70%) of all ad-valorem taxes collected by the County, which amounted to \$592 million paid by municipal residents in 2016, even though municipal residents only constitute fifty-six percent (56%) of the County's total population; and

WHEREAS, municipal residents, therefore, already are paying for the countywide IG Program through payment of their County taxes; and

WHEREAS, the BCC has the authority to continue funding the countywide IG Program through County tax dollars at whatever level it approves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. THAT:

Section 1: The Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. fully supports the continued existence and work of the countywide IG Program as it is a valuable County service and resource available to all County residents, and further supports the BCC's continued funding of the Program through County taxes.

Section 2: The Palm Beach County League of Cities, Inc. does not support contributing municipal tax dollars to pay for the countywide IG Program since municipal residents already pay for and support the Program through payment of their County taxes.

Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Section 4: The Executive Director is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the BCC and to the County Administrator.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of August 2017.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE PALM BEACH COUNTY
LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.


Keith A. James, Esq., President

(SEAL)

ATTEST:


Mo Thornton, Secretary/Treasurer