

## RESOLUTION 2018-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HB 17, AND SB 432 THAT WOULD AMEND PART III, CHAPTER 163, FLORIDA STATUTES, AS SUCH ACTS WOULD REDUCE THE ABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY OF COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES IN ACCOMPLISHING THEIR REDEVELOPMENT TASKS.**

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 17 and Senate Bill 432, as proposed for the 2018 legislative session, (the "Bills") increases bureaucratic hurdles, creates unnecessary obstacles to receive input, adds unfunded duties to register and investigate lobbyists and expands auditing requirements, requires the addition of two unelected officials to the CRA limited to certain professions which may not reflect the demographics or needs of the community, and limits local government's control and flexibility in addressing local conditions found in community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) and;

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

**WHEREAS**, CRAs throughout the state have demonstrated that the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) dramatically improved economic and social conditions within the targeted areas, with outcomes that have benefitted redevelopment areas, cities and counties; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 17 revises requirements for operating community redevelopment agencies, prohibits the creation of community redevelopment agencies after a date certain, provides a phase-out period, creates criteria for determining whether a community redevelopment agency is inactive, provides hearing procedures,

limits certain financial activity from inactive community redevelopment agencies, revises requirements for use of redevelopment trust fund proceeds, revises county & municipal government reporting requirements, revises criteria for finding that county or municipality failed to file a report, requires DFS to provide a report to DEO concerning community redevelopment agencies with no revenues, no expenditures and no debts; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 432 prohibits a person from lobbying a community redevelopment agency until he or she has registered as a lobbyist with that agency, requires that community redevelopment agencies adopt rules to govern the registration of lobbyists and requires that the CRA conduct investigations and hearings into compliance of lobbying rules, requires that CRAs include two additional members that are not elected officials and belong to specific professions (architecture, finance, construction, land use, affordable housing, sustainability, or other educational or professional experience in the area of community redevelopment) who are also required to take 4 hours of ethics training yearly; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 17 and SB 432 would significantly revise the manner and process under which city-created CRAs operate in carrying out redevelopment and policy-making for that purpose under state law. The changes would unduly restrict the ability of CRAs to fund traditional redevelopment activities as authorized by the existing state statutes, and for municipalities to create and continue to operate community redevelopment agencies in a cost effective and procedurally stream-lined manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bills would lead to existing community redevelopment agencies being hampered in their efforts to implement their redevelopment plans, and increase challenges to CRAs, their creation, and operations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine:

SECTION 1: The City Commission of the City of St. Augustine urges all members of the Florida Legislature to oppose the adoption of HB 17 and SB 432.

SECTION 2: The City Commission of the City of St. Augustine further directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Florida Legislative Delegation, Cabinet, and any other interested parties.


SECTION 3: This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

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**ADOPTED** in Regular Session of the City Commission for the City of St. Augustine, Florida, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

  
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Nancy Shaver, Mayor-Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk, Darlene Galambos  
(Corporate Seal)

