



City of Fort Walton Beach

America's Most Beautiful Beaches

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August 19, 2008

Barbara Petersen
Chair of the Commission on Open Government
336 E. College Avenue
Suite 101
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Chairman Petersen:

At its regularly scheduled Council meeting of August 12, 2008, the Fort Walton Beach City Council adopted Res. 2008-29 supporting an amendment to Florida's constitution to require the Legislature to operate under the Florida Sunshine Laws.

Your support of this resolution is appreciated.

Regards,


Mike Anderson
Mayor

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Resolution 2008-29

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN AMENDMENT TO FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATURE TO OPERATE UNDER THE FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAWS, AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law, enacted in 1967, established a right of access to most meetings of boards, commissions, and other governing bodies of state and local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, Governor Crist recently proclaimed March 16-22, 2008, as Sunshine Week, for the citizens of the State of Florida and stated "The role of Florida's government is to serve the people of Florida and open government gives the people the tools they need to hold their elected officials accountable"; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2007, Governor Crist issued Executive Order 01-107, creating the Commission on Open Government Reform to review, evaluate, and issue recommendations regarding Florida's public records and public meeting laws; and

WHEREAS, the Commission of Open Government will compile its findings and present a final report to the Governor, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2008 to include specific recommendations, including proposed legislation, rule changes and modifications, if any, to Article I, Section 24, of the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, our counties and municipalities live by this law and thereby assure that government business is conducted in the open for all people to see; and

WHEREAS, all Florida government is better served when all elected officials live in the Sunshine.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City of Fort Walton Beach:

Section 1. That the City of Fort Walton Beach and all cities of Florida urge the Commission on Open Government propose and the Governor support a constitutional amendment that required state legislators to operate under the same Sunshine Laws under which city officials operate.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be provided to the Chair of the Commission on Open Government, Florida Governor Charlie Crist, all municipalities in Florida and all local and regional leagues of cities.

