



Memorandum

Date: February 15, 2025

To: Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Connie Diaz, City Clerk

Subject: Urging Florida Legislature - Public Records Exemption for Municipal Clerks

Introduction

Many municipal staff perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings related to neglect or abuse, or other activities that could lead to a criminal prosecution are exposed to threats and other acts of violence.

Municipal clerks often administer elections. Some election workers have been targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for. Further, clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances. Occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants.

There are currently 27 public records exemptions in Florida. Of these exemptions, eight are for local personnel who either investigate, enforce or otherwise provide a service that can result in contentious interactions when action is taken. Municipal clerks and their respective staff have none, and they fall within the window for greater protection.

The Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC) Board of Directors is considering to pursue state legislation to provide a public records exemption for the personal information of current Municipal Clerks and employees who perform municipal elections work.

Recommendation

Staff respectfully requests approval of this item, so that it can be transmitted to the Florida State Legislature.