

Resolution

#2019-11

Support for Funding for the Northeast Florida Regional Council

WHEREAS, the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) was formed on February 14, 1977 through an Interlocal Agreement by and between Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties and are required by law to exercise regional cooperation through membership on the Council; and

WHEREAS, the declared purpose of the Florida Regional Planning Council Act, Section 186.501, Florida Statutes, is to establish a common system of regional planning councils for area wide coordination and related cooperative activities of federal, state and local governments and ensure a broad-based regional organization that can provide a truly regional perspective enhancing the ability of local governments to resolve issues and problems transcending their individual boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected officials from each member county, gubernatorial appointees and representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation, St. Johns River Water Management District, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, who work together for the betterment of the Region; and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC is a multi-purpose regional governmental entity with policy responsibility in the areas of affordable housing, economic development, emergency preparedness, regional health, natural resources and regional transportation, and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC has and continues to provide value-added programs, projects and initiatives that, by the virtue of its organizational structure, Board leadership and dedicated staff are uniquely positioned to undertake on behalf of its local governments and the Region as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC, recognizing the need for expanded services for the citizens of Northeast Florida, created the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, the Regional Leadership Academy, the Private Industry Council (now CareerSource Northeast Florida), the Northeast Florida Health Care Coalition, the Northeast Florida Regional Community Institute, the Local Emergency Planning Committee and many others that have addressed the needs of all of its member governments; and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC uses econometric modeling to provide objective economic impact analyses on policy and investment decisions in support of local economic development organizations, helping them create jobs and invest in local communities; and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC prepares grant applications for federal and state economic development and job creation projects at the request of local economic development organizations and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the NEFRC convenes community leaders to develop regional visions that link business development, job creation, infrastructure, environment, land use, and transportation into long-term investment plans;

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the NEFRC to celebrate the unique assets of Northeast Florida and to engage its people, businesses, governments and organizations by communicating issues, convening stakeholders, collaborating with others, calculating and analyzing, and constructing solutions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Jacksonville's appropriation for the NEFRC has been removed from their budget, which will negatively affect the NEFRC's ability to address problems of greater-than-local concern, provide technical assistance to the local governments and economic development organizations, and emergency preparedness in the Region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeast Florida Regional Council Board of Directors:

1. Supports the restoration of the City of Jacksonville's funding.
2. Encourages support of its mission and its myriad of programs, projects and initiatives that inure to the mutual advantage of each unit of local government in the Region.
3. Engagement and support by all its County Members and their municipalities in the Region is encouraged.

Unanimously adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, on the third day of October 2019.



Len Kreger

President

Elizabeth Payne

CEO

Endorsed by the NEFRC Members in attendance as follows:

Hon. Jimmy Anderson – Baker County Board of County Commission
Mr. Michael Griffis – City of Macclenny, Baker County
Mr. Darryl Register – Baker County Chamber of Commerce, Gubernatorial Appointee
Hon. Elaine Brown – Mayor, City of Neptune Beach; Duval County, Gubernatorial Appointee
Hon. Sean Lynch – Mayor, Town of Baldwin, Duval County Municipal Rep.
Hon. David Sullivan – Vice-Chair, Flagler County Board of County Commission
Hon. Aaron Bell – Nassau County
Hon. John Drew – Nassau County Tax Collector, Gubernatorial Appointee
Hon. Len Kreger – Vice-Mayor, City of Fernandina Beach; Nassau County Municipal Rep.
Mr. John Martin – Nassau County Rep.
Hon. Buddy Goddard – Commissioner, Putnam County Board of County Commission
Mr. Robert Redford – Putnam County, Gubernatorial Appointee
Hon. Jeremiah Blocker – Commissioner, St. Johns County Board of County Commission
Hon. Roxanne Horvath – Commissioner, City of St. Augustine, St. Johns County Municipal Rep.
Hon. Paul Waldron – Chair, St. Johns County Board of County Commission