

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-117

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 376, AMENDING FLORIDA STATUTES TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO USE THEIR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITES FOR LEGALLY REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

WHEREAS, First, numerous Florida Statutes require local governmental entities to place public notices and advertisements in newspapers of general circulation that have been in existence for one year; and

WHEREAS, Second, legally required public notices and advertisements in newspapers of general circulation are extremely costly for governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, Third, as technology has advanced and nearly all governmental entities in Florida maintain publicly accessible websites, the law should be changed, so that governmental entities may utilize their websites for legally required public notices and advertisements in lieu of advertising in newspapers of general circulation; and

WHEREAS, Fourth, a 2009 study by the PEW Internet and American Life Project estimates that 74% of all adults go online and an estimated 59% go online to visit government websites; and

WHEREAS, Fifth, residents will have as much or more notice on the publicly accessible governmental websites as compared with traditional newspaper advertisements while the costs of legally required public notices and advertisements will be significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, Sixth, the Florida Senate Committee on Community Affairs published an internet notice report titled "*The Florida Senate Interim Report 2010-106*" in October 2009 (the "Report") finding that "the Internet is a valuable tool that can provide cost savings for local governments" and "some forms of public notices and some legal advertisements could be transitioned from the newspaper to the Internet without threatening public participation in local government or undermining the availability of important information"; and

WHEREAS, Seventh, the Report, states that the latest annual average cost of newspaper publications reported by municipalities was \$20,222; and the average cost reported by counties was \$61,381; and

WHEREAS, Eighth, the Pew Research Center report titled "*Key News Audiences Now Blend Online and Traditional Sources – Audience Segments in a Changing New Environment*" dated August 2008 shows a decline in newspaper readership from 58% in 1993 to 34% in 2008 as circulation revenues decline and advertising costs continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, Ninth, on October 9, 2009, Senate Bill 376 was filed, which, if passed, authorizes a governmental entity to use its publicly accessible website for legally required public notices and advertisements; and

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTON, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 376, AMENDING FLORIDA STATUTES TO AUTHORIZE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES TO USE THEIR PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITES FOR LEGALLY REQUIRED PUBLIC NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

WHEREAS, Tenth, the City Commission has determined that it is in the public interest to support Senate Bill 376.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Weston, Florida:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2: The City Commission supports passage and adoption of Senate Bill 376.


Section 3: The City Commission urges the Florida Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign Senate Bill 376.

Section 4: The City Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, the Broward County Legislative Delegation, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida City County Management Association, the Broward County League of Cities, and each of the municipalities within Broward County.

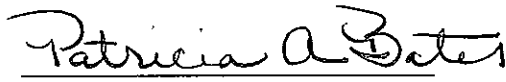
Section 5: The appropriate City officials are authorized to take all necessary actions and execute all necessary documents to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Section 6: This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Weston, Florida, this 7th day of December 2009.


Eric M. Hersh, Mayor

ATTEST:


Patricia A. Bates, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality
for the use of and reliance by the
City of Weston only:


Jamie Alan Cole, City Attorney

Roll Call:

Commissioner Stermer	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Henriksson	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Chermak	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Gomez	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Hersh	<u>Yes</u>