

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 04-07

**WHEREAS**, the voters of Florida passed an amendment to Article V of the Florida Constitution, commonly referred to as Revision 7, that addresses funding for the Judicial Branch of government; and,

**WHEREAS**, currently, over half of the budget for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit comes from County funds, and Revision 7 calls for the State to fund a larger portion of the Courts' operational expenses, beginning July 1, 2004; and,

**WHEREAS**, all of the Florida Courts receive an amount of money which is less than 1% of the total 2003/2004 State budget and even after the shift caused by Revision 7 to State funding will be less than 2% of the State's 2004/2005 budget; and,

**WHEREAS**, as part of the third branch of government, the Twentieth Judicial Circuit serves the citizens of Lee County; and in particular, it:

- Guarantees the freedoms we enjoy daily by upholding the law, protecting our individual rights and liberties, enforcing public order and providing for a peaceful resolution of disputes;
- Safeguards victims' rights, determines guilt or innocence of the accused, and imposes appropriate punishment;
- Resolves personal, business, and property disputes;
- Protects families, children, the elderly and infirm;
- Facilitates case processing through programs that provide citizens with timely and efficient access to justice and that relieve the impact on the Court system and County services resulting from population growth;
- Provides due process services that protect each citizen's right to a fair and impartial trial through such services as court-appointed expert witnesses, interpreters, and court reporters;
- Provides post-adjudication services that ensure compliance with Court ordered sanctions, that reduce recidivism, and, most importantly, that offer offenders a structured program through which they can be restored as viable members of society; and,

**WHEREAS**, the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Lee County depend upon an impartial and independent judiciary and on the ability of the State's Attorney and the Public Defender to fulfill their vital roles; and,

**WHEREAS**, without adequate funding, the Courts, State Attorneys and Public Defenders will be unable to address all cases brought before the Courts, to serve vital public interests, and to protect our basic freedoms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Fort Myers Beach hereby recommends and requests that the Florida Legislature fulfill its obligations under Revision 7 and ensure that the Florida State Court System and the offices of the State Attorney and the Public Defender of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit receive full and adequate funding to support the programs identified in Revision 7 (the budget submitted by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court).

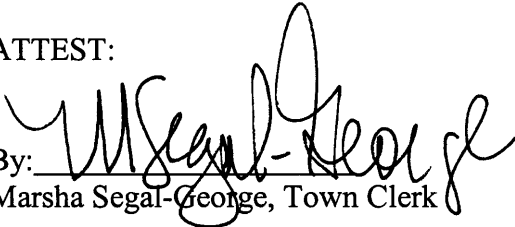
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Town Manager is authorized and directed to distribute this resolution to our Legislative Delegation and elsewhere as deemed appropriate to implement it's intent.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Fort Myers Beach Town Council upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

Howard Rynearson	<u>Aye</u>
Daniel Hughes	<u>Aye</u>
Bill Thomas	<u>Aye</u>
W. H. "Bill" Van Duzer	<u>Aye</u>
Terry Cain	<u>Aye</u>

APPROVED this 23rd day of February, 2004.

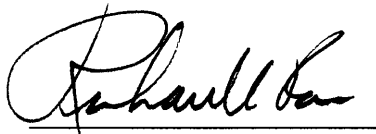
ATTEST:

By:   
Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By:   
Daniel Hughes, Mayor

Approved as to form by:

  
Richard V.S. Roosa, Town Attorney