

ORDINANCE NO. 597

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, OPTING OUT OF THE AMENDED PALM BEACH COUNTY LOBBYIST REGISTRATION ORDINANCE 2011-039; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has adopted an Amended Lobbyist Registration Ordinance putting in place a series of rules and regulations governing contacts between elected and appointed officials and employees, on the one hand, and private citizens engaged in lobbying, as defined in the County Ordinance, on the other hand; and

WHEREAS, the County Ordinance requires all persons, whether lobbyist or not to formally sign a visitor's log in order to speak with Town employees or their elected officials, which logs are to be kept as public records; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the amendment to the Palm Beach County Charter creating the Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics, made applicable to municipalities by referendum vote, the Board of County Commissioners has amended its lobbyist registration ordinance to allow for the ordinance to apply in municipalities that have not adopted an ordinance in conflict with the subject matter therein; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ocean Ridge is a small town with fewer than 2,000 full-time residents who enjoy the unfettered access to Town employees and elected officials that is emblematic of small town living; and

WHEREAS, the County establishes an extensive regulatory scheme that is inconsistent with the small town character of the Town of Ocean Ridge.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings of Fact. The WHEREAS clauses set forth above are adopted herein as findings of fact.

Section 2. Lobbyist Registration Ordinance. The Town of Ocean Ridge, hereby expressly rejects the need for, and the applicability of, the County's Amended Lobbyist Registration Ordinance or any predecessors thereto.

Section 3. Code of Ethics. The Town of Ocean Ridge expressly recognizes the applicability of the Palm Beach County Code of Ethics, pursuant to the vote of its electors, and hereby determines that the Code of Ethics provides sufficient oversight and regulation of the conduct of

Town employees and elected officials to provide sufficient transparency in government for the protection of the residents of the Town of Ocean Ridge.

Section 4. Severability. In the event any section, paragraph, sub-paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, illegal or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 5. Repeal of Ordinances. Any ordinance in conflict herewith, to the extent of such conflict, is hereby repealed.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

FIRST READING this 7th day of May, 2012.

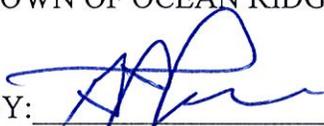
SECOND AND FINAL READING this 4th day of June, 2012.

Commissioner Aaskov offered the foregoing Ordinance and its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allison and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

GEOFFREY A. PUGH, Mayor	Yea
DR. LYNN L. ALLISON, Vice Mayor	Yea
GAIL ADAMS AASKOV, Commissioner	Yea
ED BROOKES, Commissioner	Absent
ZOANNE HENNIGAN, Commissioner	Yea

The Mayor thereupon declared this Ordinance approved and adopted by the Town Commission of the Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida, on second reading, this 4th day of June, 2012.

TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA

BY: 
GEOFFREY A. PUGH, MAYOR

ATTEST: 
TOWN CLERK