

RESOLUTION NO. 027 - 2022

A RESOLUTION OF MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING AND URGING PASSAGE OF THE COMMITMENT TO VETERANS SUPPORT ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE, IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ENSURE ACCESS TO VETERANS-RELATED RELATED PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Monroe County is home to approximately 8,000 full-time and 2,500 seasonal veterans, military personnel, dependents and family members; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County Board of County Commissioners funds and administers a Veterans Affairs Department, staffed with 8 county employees fully trained per the federal and state regulations, in two full-time offices and one part-time satellite office to cover the 100-mile long chain of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, each year the Monroe County Veterans Affairs Department has more than 18,000 veteran client interactions, maintains more than 3,500 active veterans' files, and has an active caseload of 500; and

WHEREAS, each year the Monroe County Veterans Affairs Department focuses on helping veterans access their federal service-related benefits and provides myriad other support and assistance services including service-related disabilities, non-service connected pensions, burial benefits, survivor's benefits, educational/vocational benefits, VA home loan eligibility assistance, appeals of denied benefits; military service records, VA health care application assistance, and assistance veterans-related license tags, property exemptions, and educational benefits; the County VA Department also operates a courtesy Veterans Transportation Program; and

WHEREAS, over \$62 million in VA federal benefits were expensed for Monroe County veterans and of the \$62 million, \$36 million in funds are direct compensation and pension benefits and \$26 million were for medical care benefits for our Veterans. For FY 2021, the County's Veterans Department captured \$5.1 million in new direct compensation and pension benefits for our veterans; and

WHEREAS, though our Veterans Affairs Department's primary focus is helping veterans navigate the federal benefits system, these offices are currently funded almost entirely by Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, the CVSO Act, a bi-partisan bill introduced in the House and Senate, will provide critical federal resources to help us meet our growing caseloads by awarding competitive grants worth \$250 million over five years for states to create, expand, or support local veterans services; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County will utilize these new resources to expand veteran engagement, increase accessibility and augment the provision of veteran support services, specifically in the area of suicide prevention; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida strongly encourages Congressional efforts that serve and support the nation's veterans and their families;

2. The Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida supports and urges passage of the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act, and respectfully requests our federal delegation to support this legislation;

2. The Clerk for this Board shall furnish copies of this resolution to:
 - U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
 - U.S. Senator Rick Scott
 - U.S. Representative Carlos Gimenez, District 26

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 21st day of January 2022.

Mayor David Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem Craig Cates	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Michelle Coldiron	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner District 3	<u>Vacant</u>
Commissioner Holly Merrill Raschein	<u>Yes</u>



Attest: Kevin Madok, Clerk
 By: *Family Shillinger*
 As Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 By: *W. B. Shillinger*
 Mayor

Approved for form and legal sufficiency
 By Robert B. Shillinger, Monroe County Attorney

**Robert B.
 Shillinger**

Digitally signed by Robert B. Shillinger
 DN: cn=Robert B. Shillinger, o=Monroe County
 BOCC, ou=Monroe County Attorney,
 email=shillinger-bob@monroecounty-fl.gov, c=US
 Date: 2022.01.14 14:17:02 -05'00'

FILED FOR RECORD
 2022 JAN 28 PM 1:20
 CLERK CIR. CL.
 MONROE COUNTY, FL



Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
7400 SW 87th Avenue, Suite 270
Miami FL 33173

Honorable Senator Rubio,

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 026-2022 urging reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program that include protection from the potential increases to flood insurance premiums as a result of the implementation of Risk Rating 2.0 by limiting annual increases to flood insurance premiums to no more than 10% per year, and supporting federal legislation recently introduced in Congress that include these reforms.

Also enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 027-2022 supporting passage of the federal Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act that will provide additional funding to Monroe's Veterans Affairs Department that serves and supports the County's veterans and their families.

These Resolutions were adopted by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting, held in formal session, on January 21, 2022. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (305) 292-3550.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Madok, CPA, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and ex-officio to the
Monroe County Board of County
Commissioners

By: Pamela G. Hancock, D.C.

cc: Legislative Affairs
County Attorney
File

KEY WEST
500 Whitehead Street
Key West, Florida 33040
305-294-4641

MARATHON
3117 Overseas Highway
Marathon, Florida 33050
305-289-6027

PLANTATION KEY
88820 Overseas Highway
Plantation Key, Florida 33070
305-852-7145

PK/ROTH BUILDING
50 High Point Road
Plantation Key, Florida 33070
305-852-7145



Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Senator Rick Scott
111 N Adams Street, Suite 208
Tallahassee FL 32301

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January 28, 2022

Honorable U.S. Representative Carlos Gimenez
14221 SW 120th Street #115
Miami FL 33186

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