

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF
THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION NUMBER 97- 19

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH CALLING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE "UNITS IN STRUCTURE" QUESTION IN THE "SHORT FORM" QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS IN THE 2000 CENSUS.

WHEREAS, the US Census Bureau has submitted to Congress the subjects it plans to include in the 2000 Census; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau has proposed that the "Units in Structure" question be moved from the "short form" questionnaire which is sent to all households, where it was included in the 1990 Census, to the "long form" questionnaire which is sent to only a sample of households; and

WHEREAS, actual counts by block of the numbers of single family, multi-family and mobile home housing units could not be reported for the 2000 Census if the "Units in Structure" question is not included in the "short form" questionnaire, and data users would be forced to depend upon estimates based upon sample data reported only for larger geographic areas such as block groups and Census tracts; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) throughout Florida use a standardized trip generation model for transportation planning which calls for inputting separate counts of single family detached housing units and of all other housing units combined, as well as separate sets of data on various characteristics of the households occupying both types of housing, for each of hundreds of small zones covering the transportation study area; and

WHEREAS, Florida MPOs rely upon the capability to aggregate Census block counts of single and non-single family housing units from the Census short form questionnaire in order to develop the base year zonal data needed to validate their travel demand models and to establish a baseline for projecting the same zonal characteristics for the future years for which they need to forecast travel behavior in order to identify future transportation investment needs, so as to meet the requirements of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA); and

WHEREAS, the reliability and credibility of the travel demand forecasting models which are used to plan billions of dollars in federal, state and local government transportation expenditures would be adversely affected if Florida MPOs were forced to rely upon less accurate zonal estimates of housing units by type, derived from "long form" sample data in the absence one hundred percent counts; and

WHEREAS, many other local government agencies, including planning departments, housing agencies, and public utilities, also depend heavily upon the availability of counts of single family, multi-family and mobile home housing units by Census block, derived from the short form's "Units in Structure" question; and

WHEREAS, for use in the standard trip generation model used by Florida MPOs, as well as for most other purposes for which the units in structure data are used, the data would be easier to use and more useful and reliable if *detached* single family housing unit counts were reported separately at the block level, rather than combined with attached single family units as was done in the 1990 Census reports; and

WHEREAS, not all local governments have the capability to count housing units by housing type cost-effectively themselves, and even for those that can, it is difficult to reconcile such independent counts with Census housing and population counts;

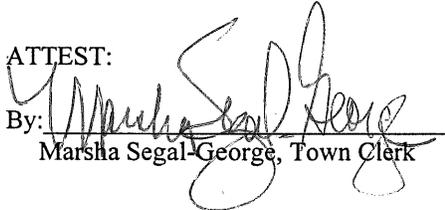
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Fort Myers Beach to urge Congress to require that the "Units in Structure" question be included in the "short form" questionnaire in the 2000 Census; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to urge the Bureau of the Census and Congress to specify that 2000 Census data on *detached* single family housing units be reported separately by Census block, and not combined with attached single family units.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 19th of May , 1997.

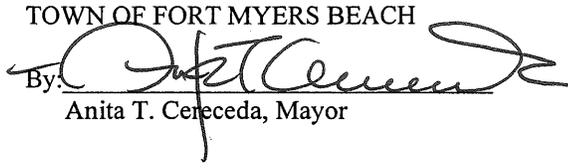
ATTEST:

By:

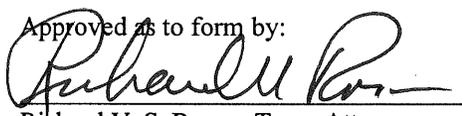

Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By:


Anita T. Cereceda, Mayor

Approved as to form by:


Richard V. S. Roosa, Town Attorney