RESOLUTION NO. 2098-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA SUPPORTING POLICE OFFICER AND FIREFIGHTER PENSION PLAN AND DISABILITY PRESUMPTION REFORMS TO MAKE THE PLANS SUSTAINABLE, SOUND AND SECURE FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS.

WHEREAS, to honor their service now and in years to come, current and future police officers and firefighters in the City of Winter Park deserve pension plans that are sound, secure and sustainable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winter Park is concerned about the sustainability of the current defined benefit pension plans; and

WHEREAS, under current Florida Statutes and the interpretation of those Statutes by the Division of Retirement cities do not have the ability to modify its pensions plans to reduce costs without losing premium tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the City of Winter Park is seeking immediate mandate relief from the Florida Legislature and requests the Legislature to untie its hands so that it can responsibly address its pension and other personnel issues locally and in a manner that best serves its taxpayers, stops potential pension abuse and protects pensions for current and future generations of police and firefighters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WINTER PARK, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the City of Winter Park hereby supports responsible police and firefighter pension and disability presumption reforms to ensure sound, secure and stable pensions will be there for current and future police and firefighters.

Section 2. That the City of Winter Park believes local issues should be addressed locally and hereby requests the Florida Legislature to remove itself from the local collective bargaining process between the City of Winter Park and its police and firefighters.

Section 3. That the City of Winter Park hereby requests the Florida Legislature to remove mandates establishing minimum pension benefit standards for police and firefighter pensions, remove the requirement to provide new, extra pension benefits to police and firefighters, and allow the City of Winter Park to use
insurance premium tax revenues to pay for the level of pension benefits for police and firefighters that meets the needs and priorities of the City of Winter Park.

Section 4. That the City of Winter Park hereby requests the Florida Legislature to enact responsible reforms to bring a fairer balance to the application of disability presumption laws relating to certain health conditions suffered by firefighters and police officers by requiring a police officer or firefighter to meet age and employment standards, allowing a disability presumption to be overcome by a preponderance of the evidence, and allowing certain individual risk factors to be considered when applying a disability presumption, such as tobacco use, weight and diet, genetics and lifestyle choices.

Section 5. That the City of Winter Park hereby requests the Florida Legislature to impose reasonable fiscal transparency and accountability standards on legislatively created police and firefighter pension boards of trustees.

Section 6. That the City of Winter Park urges the Florida Legislature to pass and the Governor to approve the above responsible pension reform recommendations relating to police and firefighter pension plans and disability presumptions in the 2012 legislative session.

Section 7. That the City of Winter Park City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Rick Scott, the Florida Legislature, and the Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Section 8. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted by the City Commission of the City of Winter Park, Florida, this 12th day of December, 2011.

Mayor Kenneth W. Bradley

ATTEST:

Cynthia S. Bonham, City Clerk

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