

RESOLUTION 15 – 124

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING OPEN CARRY LEGISLATION; URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE OPEN CARRY LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Commission is dedicated to Ensuring Public Health, Safety and Welfare; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 163 and Senate Bill 300 allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry firearms openly and in an unsecured manner, making it more difficult for law enforcement to distinguish between those carrying firearms legally and illegally; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County Sheriff Robert Gualtieri as well as the Florida Sheriffs' Association are in opposition to the bills due to concerns regarding public safety; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 56,000 concealed carry permit holders in Pinellas County who would be able to openly carry firearms; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County is an international tourist destination with nearly 6 million overnight visitors each year in addition to the nearly 1 million residents; and

WHEREAS, citizens are already allowed to openly carry firearms on their own property without a permit and to carry a concealed weapon with a permit in many locations; and

WHEREAS, HB 163 and SB 300 would infringe upon the public safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors of Pinellas County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at a duly-assembled meeting held on the 24 day of November, 2015, as follows:

Section 1. That the Pinellas County Commission opposes HB 163 and SB 300.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution is sent to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and the Members of the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation.

Commissioner Welch offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner Gerard, and upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes: **Morrone, Justice, Long, Welch, Eggers, Gerard, and Seel.**

Nays: **None.**

Absent not voting: **None.**

APPROVED AS TO FORM
OFFICE OF COUNTY ATTORNEY
By J. Bennett
Attorney