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June 15, 2023

TO: Council Members

FROM: Scott R. Koons, AICP, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: Commissioner Janice Mortimer Receives Home Rule Hero Award

The Florida League of Cities recently recognized Commissioner Janice Mortimer, City of Starke, as a recipient of a 2023 Home Rule Hero Award. This prestigious award was presented for tireless efforts to advance the Florida League of Cities legislative agenda and help protect the home rule powers of Florida's cities during the 2023 Legislative Session.

In addition, the following municipal officials in the north central Florida region were also 2023 Home Rule Hero Award recipients.

- Councilman Jake Hill Jr., City of Lake City
- Commissioner Danny Nugent, City of Starke
- Vice-Mayor Ross Ambrose, City of High Springs
- Commissioner Matthew Surrency, City of Hawthorne

“The League and its legislative team appreciate the individual advocacy efforts undertaken by municipal officials throughout the state,” said Florida League of Cities Chief of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook. “Home rule heroes are some of our biggest advocates for protecting local decision-making. These League members stand out for their high level of participation, knowledge, and effectiveness. This year’s home rule heroes continuously advocated for their communities throughout the 2023 legislative session.”

Home rule is the ability for a city to establish its own form of government and enact ordinances, codes, plans and resolutions without prior state approval. The Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials, both elected and nonelected, who consistently responded to the League’s request to reach out to members of the Legislature and help give a local perspective to an issue.

Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida’s cities. Florida’s cities are formed by their citizens and governed by their citizens. The League is founded on the belief that local self-government is the keystone of American democracy.

Congratulations Commissioner Mortimer.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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