



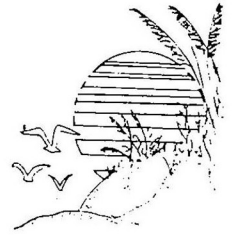
City of Fort Walton Beach

"The Treasure of the Emerald Coast"

107 Miracle Strip Parkway SW * Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

(850) 833-9504 * Fax (850) 833-9640

TDD (850) 833-9925



Michael D. Beedie
City Manager
mbeedie@fwb.org

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

RE: Veto Request for CS/HB 403 Home-Based Businesses

Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the City of Fort Walton Beach, I would like to request that you veto CS/HB 403 related to the regulation of home-based businesses.

CS/HB 403 would fully preempt the licensure and regulation of home-based businesses to the State of Florida in lieu of local governments. The regulation of home-based businesses is the epitome of a Home Rule issue as local governments have a better understanding of what our citizens want in their neighborhoods.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Fort Walton Beach did not require businesses to close or modify their operations. In fact, the City adopted policies that assisted businesses in getting through the Pandemic. The City also did not classify remote work or telecommuting as home-based businesses in our Land Development Code (LDC), so these types of workplaces were not affected by our current regulations.

The City has worked hard over the last 10 years to become more business-friendly with our LDC and understand that home-based businesses are a healthy part of a local community. Our LDC was put together with much public input from both citizens and business owners and is updated regularly as the marketplace changes.

Our current LDC allows low impact, low density home-based businesses. The more intense, higher impact businesses belong in a mixed use or commercial district, which we have plenty of space for.

Please veto CS/HB 403 and continue to allow local governments to regulate home-based businesses in our communities. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at mbeedie@fwb.org or (850) 833-9612.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Beedie, P.E., ICMA-CM
City Manager