



**CITY OF LAKELAND
MAYOR & COMMISSIONERS**

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Re: Veto Request for CS/HB 403 Home-Based Businesses

Dear Governor DeSantis:

On behalf of the City of Lakeland's 110,000 residents, we request your assistance in protecting the 100 residential neighborhoods in our community with a veto of CS/HB 403.

CS/HB 403 voids established local ordinances that were adopted to protect and preserve the quality of life of Lakeland's citizens. The proposed bill would allow significant and intense business activity in residentially zoned districts with no regard for the types of businesses, hours, noise and other externalities. The negative impacts of this bill to residential neighborhoods and property values is unquestionable.

During this session, the Florida League of Cities engaged in good faith negotiations with legislators and interested stakeholders to reach a reasonable compromise on home-based businesses, and the City of Lakeland supported that effort. Unfortunately, the final product, CS/HB 403, drastically departs from this compromise. The proposed bill will only exacerbate nuisance calls to our Police and Code Enforcement departments.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the backbones of our local economy. Comparably, vibrant and attractive neighborhoods are the characteristics that make a community thrive. The City of Lakeland has preserved the character of our community by successfully balancing both business interest and protecting the quality of life of residents through existing local regulations. We urge you to veto CS/HB 403 and allow us to continue growing our local economy while protecting our neighborhoods through reasonable local regulations.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of this great state and your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bill Mutz
Mayor

Phillip Walker
Commissioner

Bill Read
Commissioner

Mike Musick
Commissioner

Stephanie Madden
Commissioner

Sara McCarley
Commissioner

Chad McLeod
Commissioner