RESOLUTION 2013-07 OPPOSING THE PASSAGE BY THE ALABAMA LEGISLATURE OF COMPANION BILLS HB257 AND SB217 AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, HB257 by Representative Barry Moore has been introduced into the Alabama House of Representatives during the 2013 Regular Session currently convened; and

WHEREAS, SB217 by Senator Vivian Figures has been introduced into the Alabama Senate during the 2013 Regular Session currently convened; and

WHEREAS, both bills are designed to amend the Constitution of Alabama of 1901 to prohibit the imposition of a business license tax by a county or municipality on the rental of residential real estate on a per unit basis unless the tax was imposed before January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation is a constitutional amendment that places in our state’s foundational governing document a further restriction on local authority for municipal and county governments; and

WHEREAS, municipal and county governments already have limited options to raise sufficient revenues to meet the needs of local jurisdictions to provide key services including police protection, fire protection, water, sewer, sanitation, education and many others; and

WHEREAS, this proposed legislation further limits the options available to local governments to fund essential services; and

WHEREAS, this proposal is vague in its wording and could impact a variety of municipal and county governments as well as other institutions that have responsibility to finance bonded indebtedness; and

WHEREAS, taxation on a per unit basis is absolutely essential to local governments which have a significant number of residential rental properties, many of which are owned by absentee landowners; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials need the flexibility to develop business license fees and requirements based on local needs and conditions; and

WHEREAS, negatively impacting and altering current practice by placing the proposed restrictions in the Alabama Constitution is both overreaching and unwise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama, that the Council submits to the Alabama Legislature its official statement of opposition to the passage of HB257, SB217, and any other similar legislation as an unwelcome
intrusion on the authority of local governments in Alabama to structure and levy business license fees based on local needs and conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama, formally requests its legislative delegation to ardently oppose any legislation attempting to effect such amendment and to vote against any such legislation.

READ, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 2013 by the Town Council in regular session assembled and under the Seal of the Town of Perdido Beach, Alabama.

Patsy W. Barker, Mayor

Lynn Thompson, Town Clerk

Priscilla Condon, Councilwoman

Gary Fishbein, Councilman

Sean Hickey, Councilman

Andy Holk, Councilman

Ellen McDonald Leslie, Councilwoman