



RESOLUTION 08-01-2016 (D)

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SQ 779 AS DETRIMENTAL TO THE FINANCING OF CITIES AND TOWNS IN OKLAHOMA AND URGING CITIZENS TO VOTE NO ON SQ 779

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's average sales tax rate is 8.77%; and The Village's combined sales tax is 8.5% and Oklahoma ranks 6th in the nation for overall combined sales tax and would rank 1st with the passage of SQ 779; and

WHEREAS, a high national ranking would negatively impact economic development for Oklahoma, as well as negatively impact the poorest households in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma ranked 48th in the nation for education outcomes, while the teachers remain in dire need of a pay increase; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma lawmakers have systematically eroded funding for education in that the three pillars of HB 1017, smaller class sizes, increased teacher pay and improved funding for public schools have not occurred; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is the only state where towns, cities and municipalities are limited to and rely entirely on sales tax revenues to fund the General Fund for services including police, fire, emergency services, parks, street maintenance, water, sewer and solid waste services, and other general services; and

WHEREAS, SQ 779 if adopted would jeopardize the City of The Village's ability to continue to fund its operations to the detriment of all its citizens and Oklahoma towns, cities and municipalities have no alternative source of funding for these critical city functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that The Village City Council while supporting education opposes SQ 779 as an attack on the limited revenue available for cities in Oklahoma to operate our city and we urge our citizens to vote no on SQ 779.



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PASSED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and City Council this 1st day of August, 2016.



HUTCH HIBBARD, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK