Agenda Item #: 3A-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: May 7, 2019

[X] Consent [] Ordinance

[] Regular [] Public Hearing

Department: Administration

Submitted By: Administration

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: a resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence Act (TRACED).

Summary: On April 16, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to write a resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the TRACED Act (Act). The purpose of the Act is to enable the telecom industry, federal regulators, and the Attorney General's office to take meaningful steps to abate the rapid proliferation of illegal and unwanted robocalls. The Act is designed to reduce the number of illegal robocalls and fight spoofing, which is the practice of using technology to disguise the caller's phone number. This legislation will require implementation of authentication framework, affirm the authority of a voice provider to block a call, and create a safe harbor for the inadvertent blocking of legitimate calls. <u>Countywide (AH)</u>

Background and Justification: The TRACED Act is legislation that effectively addressed many concerns raised by federal regulators, voice service providers, private businesses and members of the public to combat illegal robocalls and spoofing. In 2017, consumers reported losses in excess of \$290 million as a result of frauds perpetrated by telemarketers, and Consumers Union reported that telemarketing scams have been a \$9.5 billion cost to the U.S. economy. At the end of 2018, the estimated number of illegal robocalls had increased by more than 36% and reached almost 48 billion. Telemarketers rely on both automated dialing software and the internet-based telecommunications technology of Voice over Internet Protocol. The hardware and software required to make robocalls is easy to obtain, is relatively inexpensive, enables "mass-dialing of thousands of calls for pennies," and allows telemarketers to fake or "spoof" Caller ID information.

Attachments:

1. Resolution

Recommended by	:N/A	
-	Department Director	Date
Approved By:	Assistant County Administrator	5/2/19 Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years		
Capital		
Expenditures		
Operating Costs		
External		
Revenues		
Program		
Income(County)		
In-Kind		
Match(County		
NET FISCAL		
IMPACT		
#ADDITIONAL		
FTE		
POSITIONS		
(CUMULATIVE		

Is Item Included in Current Budget?YesNoDoes this item include the use of federal funds?YesNo

Budget Account No:

Fund Agency Organization Object

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

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B. Legal Sufficiency

-19 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review

Department Director

what 41301)9 Contract Dev. &

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE TELEPHONE ROBOCALL ABUSE CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT AND DETERRENCE ACT; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2017, consumers reported losses in excess of \$290 million as a result of frauds perpetrated by telemarketers and Consumers Union reported that telemarketing scams have been a \$9.5 billion cost to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 2018, the estimated number of illegal robocalls had increased by more than 36% and reached almost 48 billion people; and

WHEREAS, the hardware and software required to make robocalls is easy to obtain, relatively inexpensive, enables mass-dialing of thousands of calls, and allows telemarketers to fake or "spoof" Caller ID information; and

WHEREAS, robocalls and telemarketing calls are currently the number one source of consumer complaints at the Federal Communication Commission; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2019, Attorney General Ashley Moody urged the United States Senate to enact the Telephone Robocall Abuse Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act; and

WHEREAS, the Act is designed to reduce the number of illegal robocalls and fight spoofing, which is the practice of using technology to disguise the caller's phone number; and

WHEREAS, the TRACED Act enables states, federal regulators and telecom providers to take steps in combating illegal robocalls; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of 54 state and territorial attorneys general sent a letter on March 5, 2019 to the United States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation supporting the TRACED Act; and

WHEREAS, the legislation will require voice service providers to participate in a call authentication framework to help block unwanted calls; and

WHEREAS, the TRACED Act will create an interagency working group to take additional actions to reduce robocalls and hold telemarketers and robocallers accountable.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Palm Beach County affirms its support of the TRACED Act, which will help to combat the growing issue of robocalls interrupting the lives of the American people and protecting those who are most vulnerable to being the victim of a scam; and requests the United States Congress to enact the TRACED Act.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

MACK BERNARD, Mayor

DAVID KERNER, Vice Mayor

COMMISSIONER HAL R. VALECHE

COMMISSIONER GREGG K. WEISS -

COMMISSIONER ROBERT S. WEINROTH -

COMMISSIONER MARY LOU BERGER -

COMMISSIONER MELISSA MCKINLAY -

The Mayor thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted on this

_____ day of _____, 2019.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK

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BY: anne De

Anne Helfant Assistant County Attorney

BY:_____

Deputy Clerk