

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2025 -178

WHEREAS, Chamber of Commerce are essential organizations that promote economic vitality, represent the interests of the business community, and provide valuable services such as advocacy, training, marketing, and networking; and

WHEREAS, the **GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** traces its origins to 1925, when community leaders first organized a local chamber with Fredrick Williamson as its inaugural president; and

WHEREAS, after enduring the hardships of the Great Depression, the Chamber experienced a revival in 1938 under the leadership of banker Alfred McKethan, once again becoming a pillar of support for local businesses; and

WHEREAS, as Hernando County experienced rapid growth and development in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the emergence of new communities such as Spring Hill, the business community became fragmented across multiple chambers; and

WHEREAS, in a spirit of unity and progress, community leaders Morris Porton, Steve Emerson, and Vince Vanni led efforts to consolidate the business community, resulting in the formal establishment of the **GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** on December 22, 1992; and

WHEREAS, for the past 100 years, the Chamber has continually evolved to serve the dynamic needs of Hernando County's businesses, steadfastly guided by its Pillars of Success: Advocacy, Marketing, Networking, and Training; and

WHEREAS, the **GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** is the oldest and largest business organization in Hernando County, and has been recognized by the Tampa Bay Business Journal as one of the largest chambers in the Tampa Bay region, reflecting its ongoing growth, leadership, and influence; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber proudly represents a diverse membership across many key industries, including professional services, construction and trades, real estate, healthcare, finance, education, retail, hospitality, transportation, and nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber also hosts several flagship programs and events that enrich the local business landscape, including Leadership Hernando, a longstanding tradition and leadership development program that has graduated more than 525 participants since its inception in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the **GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has played a vital role in supporting economic development, fostering collaboration, and strengthening the overall quality of life in our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The Board of County Commissioners hereby recognizes and commends the **GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and expresses its sincere appreciation for a century of dedicated service to the businesses and residents of Hernando County.

**SECTION 2.** The Board of County Commissioners encourage all citizens in Hernando County to support the **GREATER HERNANDO COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** by celebrating this milestone during Chamber Week October 13, 2025, through October 17, 2025, and that the Chamber be encouraged to continue its impactful work in building a strong, vibrant, and unified business community for generations to come.

ADOPTED in Regular Session this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025, A.D.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Attest:

Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.  
Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

Steve Champion  
Commissioner

Ryan Amsler  
Commissioner

Brian Hawkins  
Chairman

Jerry Campbell  
Vice Chairman

John Allococo  
Second Vice Chairman

