

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. SC12-460

IN RE: JOINT RESOLUTION OF
LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT

**COMMENT SUBMITTED ON BEHALF
OF THE CITY OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA**

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COMMENT

The City of Lakeland, Florida, provides this Comment in response to the Court's Scheduling Order dated March 13, 2012, regarding the validity of Senate Joint Resolution 2-B.

On March 9, 2012, the Court concluded that the apportionment plan of the Florida Senate, as contained in Senate Joint Resolution 1176, violated the requirements of the Florida Constitution. In regard to the City of Lakeland, the Court provided the following instruction: "the Legislature should determine whether it is feasible to utilize the municipal boundaries of Lakeland after applying the standards as defined by this Court."

On March 27, 2012, the Florida Legislature adopted Senate Joint Resolution 2-B, which complies with the Court's instruction and includes the City of Lakeland wholly within one district (Senate District 15). The City of Lakeland supports the Senate districts as defined in Senate Joint Resolution 2-B, and wishes to thank the Florida Senate for constructing a map which respects the City's municipal boundaries, and this Court for the instruction that it provided in its March 9 Decision.

Furthermore, in the event this Court invalidates Senate Joint Resolution 2-B, thus necessitating a judicial reapportionment as contemplated by Article III, Section 16(f) of the Florida Constitution, the City of Lakeland respectfully requests

that the Court “utilize existing political . . . boundaries” in preserving the City wholly within one district, as is accomplished by Senate Joint Resolution 2-B.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of April 2012.

/s/ David A. Theriaque

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via Electronic Mail and United States Mail to:

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This 11th day of April 2012.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Comment complies with the font requirements of Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.210(a).

/s/ David A. Theriaque

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