

RESOLUTION 2017-01

SAINT SIMON'S ON THE SOUND EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WHEREAS, the Vestry of Saint Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church ("St. Simon's") represents 528 active church members and is responsible for managing the resources and facilities of the church; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's desires to express its appreciation for the extraordinary services performed by the City of Fort Walton Beach (the "City") Fire Department; in its constant effort to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and their property; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's is aware of the limitations on funding for public safety and other municipal services; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's respects the staff and City Council's necessary exploration of funding opportunities to provide such services; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's is concerned that the proposed Fire Assessment could have unintended and serious adverse consequences on churches such as St. Simon's; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's is unable to fully absorb the fees that would be assessed under Option 6, the most aggressive proposal for fees on institutional facilities in the Fire Assessment as currently proposed; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's is concerned the imposition of fees on the church under all options will have an adverse impact on its ability to sustain its community outreach that serves the community and the greater good; including feeding the homeless, caring for the infirmed, and sponsoring Elliott Point Elementary School; and,

WHEREAS, St. Simon's is troubled by the precedent that the imposition of fees establishes on tax exempt entities such as churches and schools and is wary of the expansion of such a program to fund other services in the future; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Simon's does hereby oppose the Fire Assessment proposed by the City to the extent such proposal causes a disproportionate burden on the tax exempt church facilities of St. Simon's and similarly situated churches.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned do set their hand and sign:

Dated this 5th day of June 2017

BY: *Van Fuller, Senior Warden*
St. Simon's Vestry

ATTEST: *Ellen Dodson, Clerk*
St. Simon's Vestry