

# City of Hallandale Beach City Commission Agenda Cover Memo

Meeting Date:	April 19, 2017		Item Type:	Resolution	Ordinance		Other	
_			(Enter X in box)	X				
Fiscal Impact:			Ordinance Reading: (Enter X in box)		1st Reading		2nd Reading	
(Enter X in box)	Yes	No						
			Public Hearing:		Yes	No	Yes	No
		X	(Enter X in box)			X		
Funding Source:	N/A		Advertising Requirement: (Enter X in box)		Yes		No	
							X	
Account Balance:	N/A		Quasi Judicial: (Enter X in box)		Yes		No	
							X	
Project Number :	N/A		RFP/RFQ/B	id Number:	N/A			
Contract/P.O. Required:	Yes No		Strategic Plan Priority Area: (Enter X in box)					
(Enter X in box)								
			Safety					
		X	Quality					
			Vibrant Appea	al 🗌				
Sponsor Name:	Mayor Joy F. Cooper		Department:		Office of the City Clerk			
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#### **Short Title:**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF HALLANDALE BEACH, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SENATOR BILL NELSON'S SENATE BILL S. 606, IDENTITY THEFT AND TAX FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2017, TO COMBAT ID THEFT TAX FRAUD BY INCREASING PENALTIES ON BOTH IDENTIFY THIEVES, AND ON TAX PREPARERS WHO FAIL TO KEEP TAXPAYERS' IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SECURE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Staff Summary:
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### **Background:**

In response to Senator Bill Nelson introducing Senate Bill 606, which would combat ID theft tax fraud by increasing penalties on both identify thieves, and on tax preparers, on February 02, 2017, Mayor Cooper requested staff to draft an agenda item supporting the bill. As currently drafted, Senate bill 606 hits close to an issue that greatly affects the State of Florida, the Identity Theft and Tax Fraud Prevention Act of 2017. South Florida ranks among the top metropolitan areas for identify theft complaints, according to data released earlier by the Federal Trade Commission. The Florida legislation seeks to deter criminals who commit tax fraud using a stolen identity by increasing penalties on both identity thieves, and on paid tax preparers. These fraudsters are costing tax payers hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

Furthermore, the bill would help crack down on thieves, while also making it easier for those whose identifies are stolen to get the refunds they're owed. The bill's intent is to develop and implement publicly available guidelines for management of cases involving stolen identity refund fraud in a manner that reduces the administrative burden on taxpayers who are victims of such fraud. The bill would increase the maximum fine criminals could face for filing a fraudulent tax return with someone else's identity from one hundred thousand (\$100,00.00) dollars to two hundred fifty thousand (\$250,000.00) dollars. the bill would also increase the penalty for tax preparers who fail to protect their clients' information from two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollars per incident to one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars. To speed up the time it takes the IRS to resolve these types of claims, Sen. Nelson's bill would require the agency to create and implement a more streamlined process for handling ID theft cases; and

#### Why Action is Necessary:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 5.01 of the City of Hallandale Beach Charter, the City Commission would need to adopt a Resolution as an expression of the Commission on matters of official concern and opinion.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact.

### **Proposed Action:**

The City Commission is to discuss and determine the approval of the attached Resolution, supporting  ${\sf S.606}.$ 

## Attachment(s):

Exhibit 1- Resolution