MODEL COUNTY COMMISSION RESOLUTION

A Resolution to Preserve Cash Acceptance for County Government Services and Support Statewide Cash Acceptance Protections

Resolution No. _____

County of _____, State of _____

WHEREAS, cash, consisting of United States coins and currency, including Federal Reserve notes, remains an essential and widely accessible means of payment for the American people; and

WHEREAS, the ability to conduct transactions using physical currency protects individual financial privacy, preserves personal choice, and ensures that citizens are not required to participate in digital financial systems to fulfill their obligations to government; and

WHEREAS, cash provides a reliable alternative when electronic payment systems are unavailable due to power outages, natural disasters, cyberattacks, technical failures, or other disruptions; and

WHEREAS, requiring citizens to use credit cards, debit cards, electronic payment applications, or other digital payment systems may impose additional fees, create unnecessary barriers, and require individuals to maintain relationships with private financial institutions or payment processors; and

WHEREAS, access to government services should not be conditioned upon possession of a bank account, credit card, smartphone, digital identity, or other electronic payment technology; and

WHEREAS, the continued acceptance of cash by government entities supports financial inclusion, economic resilience, and the preservation of individual liberties; and

WHEREAS, the outsourcing of government services or payment collection to private contractors should not eliminate the public's ability to pay government obligations using cash; and

WHEREAS, organizations receiving public funds to provide goods, services, or programs to the community should preserve the public's ability to make payments using physical United States currency for activities supported by those funds, ensuring that public funding does not indirectly promote the exclusion of cash-paying citizens; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission recognizes the importance of maintaining cash as a viable payment option alongside electronic payment methods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commission of _____ County, _____, as follows:

Section 1. County Policy on Cash Acceptance

The County Commission hereby affirms its commitment to preserving the ability of citizens to use United States coins and currency, including Federal Reserve notes, when making payments to county government.

It shall be the policy of _____ County, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, that county departments, agencies, offices, boards, and other county governmental entities under the authority of the County Commission accept cash for payments, including but not limited to taxes, fees, fines, assessments, permits, licenses, admissions, and other charges for governmental services.

Section 2. Protection Against Mandatory Digital Payments

_____ County shall not require electronic or digital payment methods that impose a digital payment transaction fee borne by the payor as the exclusive means of satisfying financial obligations to county government.

No county entity subject to this resolution shall impose an additional surcharge or penalty solely because an individual chooses to pay using cash, except where expressly required by applicable law.

Section 3. Government Contractors and Third-Party Payment Processors

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the county shall ensure that contracts entered into or renewed for the collection of payments on behalf of county government preserve the public's ability to make payments using cash.

The county shall not circumvent its cash acceptance policy by outsourcing payment collection to a private entity that exclusively accepts electronic or digital payments. This provision applies only to payments collected on behalf of county government and does not regulate a contractor's unrelated private commercial transactions.

Section 4. Cash Acceptance by Organizations Receiving Government Funding

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any private organization, nonprofit entity, or other nongovernmental entity receiving funds from _____ County through a grant, contract, tax earmark, or other funding agreement shall, as a condition of receiving such funds, agree to accept United States coins and currency, including Federal Reserve notes, as well as silver and gold coinage and any derivatives of the same issued by any state, as payment from members of the public for goods, services, fees, or other charges associated with the activities or programs supported by county funding.

This requirement shall be incorporated into applicable grant agreements, contracts, and funding arrangements entered into or renewed after the adoption of this resolution.

No covered organization shall require members of the public to use electronic or digital payment methods exclusively for transactions associated with county-funded activities or programs.

Nothing in this section shall supersede applicable state or federal law.

Section 5. Reasonable Cash Handling Procedures

County governmental entities may establish reasonable procedures for the secure receipt, handling, accounting, and deposit of cash payments, provided such procedures do not effectively eliminate cash as an available payment option.

The county may designate reasonable physical locations and operating hours for accepting cash payments, consistent with applicable law and public accessibility.

Section 6. Support for Statewide Legislation

The County Commission hereby urges the _____ State Legislature to enact legislation requiring cash acceptance by state agencies, departments, boards, commissions, offices, public institutions of higher education, counties, municipalities, other political subdivisions, and private entities collecting payments on behalf of government.

Such legislation should protect the right of citizens to satisfy government payment obligations using physical United States currency without being compelled to use digital payment systems.

Section 7. Communication to State Officials

Upon adoption, the County Clerk or other designated county official is requested to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the county's state legislative delegation, and other appropriate state officials, expressing the County Commission's support for statewide cash acceptance protections.

Section 8. Implementation and Legal Compliance

The County Commission requests that the appropriate county officials review existing payment collection policies, procedures, and contracts to identify any barriers to cash acceptance and recommend measures necessary to implement this resolution.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to require an action prohibited by state or federal law or to supersede the independent statutory authority of any elected county official.

Where additional legislative or administrative action is necessary to establish an enforceable cash acceptance requirement, the appropriate county officials are encouraged to pursue such action.

Section 9. Effective Date

This resolution shall take effect upon adoption, with implementation of its operational provisions subject to applicable law and the authority of the County Commission.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

County Commission Chair: _____

County Clerk: _____

Attest: _____