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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Bartow City Manager Mike Herr Honored with 2025 Home Rule Hero Award

Herr recognized for advocacy efforts during the 2025 Legislative Session

(Bartow, FL - May 15, 2025) Bartow City Manager Mike Herr has been awarded a 2025 Home Rule Hero Award from the Florida League of Cities (FLC) for his hard work and advocacy during this year's Legislative Session. FLC, the united voice for Florida's municipal governments, recognized Herr for his efforts throughout session to promote local voices making local choices, protect the Home Rule powers of Florida's municipalities and advance the League's legislative agenda. Herr also was honored as a Home Rule Hero in 2024.

"This session, local leaders stepped up once again, bringing persistence, perspective, and a strong voice for local decision-making to every conversation," said FLC Chief of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook. "The League and our legislative team deeply appreciate their leadership and are proud to recognize the meaningful difference they made for Florida's cities."

Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems with local solutions with minimal state interference. Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials, both elected and nonelected, who consistently responded to the League's request to reach out to members of the Legislature and help give a local perspective on an issue.

"I am honored to once again be recognized as a Home Rule Hero," said Herr. "I have spent many years championing Home Rule in Florida and will continue to work with our state and federal representatives in upcoming sessions to ensure that local self-government continues to thrive in the state."

Herr, a long-time public servant, has served as Bartow's City Manager since January 2023. He previously was the City Manager in Winter Haven and in Plant City as well as Polk County

Manager, among other high level municipal positions. Herr has served on FLC's Advocacy Committee and its Federal Actions Strike Team and currently is a member of the National League of Cities' Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee.

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