

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY  
AFFIRMING REAL PROPERTY OWNERS' RIGHT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT'S  
ASSISTANCE TO REMOVE TRESPASSERS AND SQUATTERS FROM THEIR  
PROPERTIES WITHOUT SUFFERING UNDUE DELAY, HARDSHIP,  
ATTORNEY FEES AND COURT COSTS**

**Whereas**, for purposes of this resolution, the term "real property" shall mean land without any buildings, structures or improvements and also land with and including the buildings, structures or improvements, such as homes, dwellings, storage sheds, workshops, or garages that are situated upon the land, and the term "real property owner" shall mean and include any individual, company, government entity, or non-profit organization that is named as the owner in the title to real property and/or named as the mortgagor in a mortgage on the real property or is the owner or possessor of the real property pursuant to a law, statute, ordinance, or administrative code.

**Whereas**, the increasing number of illegal aliens within the United States and the horrific stories of homeowners around the country having to endure lengthy delays 'by courts to evict vagrants and the high costs of making repairs to damaged homes which were taken over by "squatters" has focused renewed attention upon the need to review state laws nationwide relative .....to so-called "squatters rights"; and

**Whereas**, one particular illegal alien in the United States from Venezuela, Leonal Moreno, had received national attention for brazenly publishing videos on the internet advising other illegal aliens on ways to exploit weaknesses in, and to circumvent, state laws around the nation so as to seize dwellings from their lawful owners while those rightful owners happen to be away for an extended period of time; and

**Whereas**, in March 2024, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a new law into effect in the State of Florida eliminating squatters' rights in the state, increasing penalties for squatting, and making it easier and quicker for property owners to remove squatters from their property, which provides an example other states could adopt and follow; and

**Whereas**, on April 8, 2024, an ABC affiliated television station, Channel 4 in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, published a report at its website entitled, "South Carolina battles squatting issue: lengthy evictions and calls for stricter laws," which increased public awareness of the issues and concerns in the State of South Carolina specifically; and

**Whereas**, South Carolina state laws are currently written, interpreted or enforced in such a way that real property owners in the state are not adequately protected from suffering mental, physical and financial harms arising from the false claims and aggressive actions of trespassers and squatters on their properties in the state.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the South Carolina Republican Party affirms real property

owners' right to law enforcement's assistance to remove trespassers and squatters from their properties without suffering undue delay, hardship, attorney fees and court costs; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the South Carolina Republican Party respectfully urge the South Carolina Legislature to review existing South Carolina laws relative to the offenses of trespassing and squatting, including, but not limited to, South Carolina Code of Laws Section ~~16~~-11-620, and to repeal, amend and/or enact state laws in 2025 that strengthen the protections and rights of real property owners against trespassers and squatters; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the South Carolina Republican Party respectfully urge the South Carolina Legislature to repeal state laws pertaining to "Adverse Possession" in Article 3 of Title 15, Chapter 67, of the South Carolina Code of Laws (S.C. Code Sections 15-67-210 — 15-6% 270) so as to eliminate confusion and loopholes that could be exploited by trespassers and squatters to weaken the rights and protections of real property owners in the state; and

**Be it further resolved,** that the South Carolina Republican Party respectfully urge the South Carolina Legislature to strengthen state laws by clarifying that if a real property owner reports a trespassing or squatting offender to law enforcement and the offender is unable to produce a written real property sale or lease agreement signed by the real property owner to the investigating law enforcement officer(s), law enforcement must immediately take actions to remove the offender from the property, and if law enforcement refuses to do so, the real property owner may take all reasonable actions and use all reasonable means to remove the offender without suffering a criminal investigation, prosecution or penalty; and .

**Be it further resolved,** that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to all the Republican state legislators in the South Carolina Legislature.