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HB 979 – Village of Wellington Signed Into Law

Wellington, Fla. – Yesterday, HB 979, Village of Wellington, Palm Beach County by **Representative Matt Willhite (D – Wellington)** was signed into law by **Governor DeSantis**. This legislation permits the Village of Wellington to prohibit the sale and use of fireworks located within the Equestrian Preserve of the Village of Wellington on all days of the year except for public displays supervised and conducted by a competent operator. In addition, the chiefs of the police and fire departments of Wellington must approve the firework displays. The prohibitions in the bill do not prevent the importation, purchase, sale, or use of fireworks for agricultural purposes.

After the signing of this bill, **Representative Willhite** issued the following statement:

"It is well documented that horses are startled by loud noises. Wellington houses approximately 13,000 highly valuable horses bred to train and compete in various equestrian sports during the season. I am enthusiastic about this bill being signed into law. Because of Wellington's unique circumstances, it is a great accomplishment that the Governor signed this bill into law. This legislation is crucial because equestrian sports are not an economic driver for just the Village of Wellington, but because of the tourism it attracts, it also economically benefits Palm Beach County and the entire state of Florida.

This legislation took effect upon the Governor's signature.

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