

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
BCC Assembly Room
315 Court Street, 5th Floor
Clearwater, Florida 33756

December 6, 2012

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Citizens' Comments Will Follow Each Presentation

9:30 a.m.

1. [Domestic Registry](#)
Presentation by Paul Valenti, Director of Human Rights

2. [Emergency Medical Services Priority Dispatch](#)

3. [Appointments to Board, Councils and Committees](#)
Presentation by Tim Closterman, Director of Communications

Break May be Taken

“Citizens’ Comments”

Any Person Wishing to Speak During the “Citizens’ Comments” Portion of the Work Session Agenda Must Have a Yellow Card Completed and Given to the Board Secretary at the Staff Table. The Chair Will Call the Speakers, One by One, to the Podium to be Heard. Each Speaker May Speak up to Three (3) Minutes.



Memorandum
from
Office of Human Rights

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Paul Valenti, Director of Human Rights 

Through: Robert LaSala, County Administrator 

CC: The Honorable Ken Burke, Clerk of the Circuit Court
The Honorable J. Thomas McGrady, Chief Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Administrative Office of the Courts, Sixth Judicial Circuit
Pinellas County School Board
Jim Bennett, Pinellas County Attorney
Christina LeBlanc, Sr. Assistant County Attorney

Date: July 25, 2012

Re: Proposed Ordinance Creating Domestic Partnership Registry

Background:

Domestic Partnership Registries have been approved, or are being considered, in sister jurisdictions across Florida¹, as well as in incorporated areas within Pinellas County². The Board has asked staff to prepare for their consideration an ordinance creating a Domestic Partnership Registry in Pinellas County.

Staff members from various Appointing Authorities have worked collectively to prepare a proposed ordinance, a draft of which is attached as Exhibit A.

To further assist your consideration of the proposed ordinance, attached as Exhibit B is a comparison of Domestic Partnership Registries (current through June 25, 2012) which exist in Florida.

Summary of Proposed Ordinance:

Substantive Provisions

The proposed ordinance would authorize two consenting adults (regardless of sex) to register as each other's domestic partner when said persons:

¹ Including, but not limited to, Orange, Broward, Sarasota, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties, as well as the cities of Tampa, Miami, and Orlando.

² Including St. Petersburg, Gulfport, and Largo.

- Are not married, or are not partners in another domestic partnership or civil union;
- Are unrelated by blood as defined by Florida law;
- Reside together in a mutual residence;
- Consider themselves to be members of the immediate family of the other, with attendant responsibility for the joint maintenance and support of each other;
- Expressly declare their intent to each other to serve as a healthcare surrogate, as well as agent for the disposition of the other's body after death; and
- Agree to notify the Clerk of the Circuit Court, in writing, if the terms of the domestic partnership are no longer applicable, or one of the domestic partners wishes to terminate the domestic partnership.

Upon registering with the Clerk of the Circuit Court as domestic partners, the ordinance would, to the extent not precluded by state or federal law, authorize the domestic partners to:

- Visit their domestic partner in health care facilities throughout Pinellas County;
- Participate in discussions relating to the health care of their domestic partner, and act as their domestic partner's healthcare surrogate as defined by Florida law, within Pinellas County;
- Make funeral and burial decisions relating to their domestic partner within Pinellas County;
- Receive notifications, including emergency notifications, relating to their domestic partner in instances where family members would receive such notifications;
- Act as a pre-need guardian designate as defined under Florida law upon the incapacity of their domestic partner; and
- Participate in the education of a dependent of their domestic partner within Pinellas County consistent with state and federal law, and the policies of the School Board of Pinellas County.

Other Provisions

The proposed ordinance also:

- Specifically states that domestic partnerships are not recognized or treated as a marriage;
- Specifically requires applicability of the provisions within to be consistent with federal, state and local law, as well as with court orders and other contractual agreements;
- Allows for judicial enforcement of the rights created within through the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court;
- Recognizes domestic partnerships established in other jurisdictions upon the proof of same; and
- Underscores that the Clerk's administration of the domestic registry is purely ministerial, that the Clerk has no responsibility for adjudicating disputes which may arise from creation of a domestic registry, and that the Clerk is to be immune from liability in administering the domestic registry.

Administration of the Domestic Partnership Registry:

The proposed ordinance invests the Clerk of the Circuit Court with responsibility for creating and maintaining the Domestic Partnership Registry, and for establishing the fees (subject to Board approval) associated in relation thereto.

The following factors were considered in assigning the Clerk of the Circuit Court responsibility for the creation and administration of the Domestic Partnership Registry:

- The Clerk's office is one of the few agencies within Pinellas County which regularly engages in, and already has existing operations for, collection of fees;
- The Clerk's office currently engages in duties relating to the filing of documents with legal effect;
- Other jurisdictions within Florida which have adopted (or are considering) a similar ordinance have delegated responsibility for administration of the domestic registry to the Clerk of Court, City Clerk, or other analogous office; and
- The willingness and graciousness of the Clerk to assume responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the contemplated registry.

As currently contemplated, the Domestic Partnership Registry would be a separate database available on the Clerk's webpage. It would be searchable by name, and would provide a hyper-link to an image of the document creating the domestic partnership.

Other methods for maintaining the registry were considered, and rejected, for the following reasons:

- The database described above would be easier for the Clerk's staff to update;
- The database described above will more easily allow persons or entities to confirm the existence of a domestic partnership, without concern for cross-referencing other, potentially contradictory, filings (i.e. it would not require the time, resources or expertise to conduct an "abstract" of names of persons claiming domestic partnership status); and
- Recording domestic partnerships within the official record books is not expressly authorized by Florida law, and may in fact conflict with the same.

I remain available to answer any questions you may have.

Exhibit A
Proposed Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. 12 -

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PINELLAS; ADDING ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 70 OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE; CREATING SECTIONS 70-236 THROUGH 70-243; PROVIDING TITLE TO BE NAMED "DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY"; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS; PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS; PROVIDING FOR MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS; PROVIDING FOR FILING FEES; PROVIDING FOR LEGAL EFFECT OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AREAS EMBRACED; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM REVIEW FOR THE ORDINANCE AT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND WITH RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners finds that County residents establish and maintain important personal, emotional, and economic relationships with persons to whom they are not married under Florida law; and

WHEREAS, individuals forming such domestic partnerships often live in a committed relationships as domestic partners; and

WHEREAS, providing the opportunity for such partnerships to register will provide public acknowledgment of their relationship status within the County; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall not be construed to supersede any federal or state law or regulation, nor shall this Ordinance be interpreted in a manner as to bring it into conflict with federal or state law; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as recognizing or treating a domestic partnership as a marriage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY THAT:

Section 1. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

ARTICLE III. DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRATION

Section 2. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-236. Definitions:

(a) *Affidavit of Domestic Partnership* means a sworn form, under penalty of perjury, that is created by the Board of County Commissioners, which certifies that two (2) domestic partners meet the registration requirements as described in Section 70-237.

(b) *Affidavit of Termination of Domestic Partnership* means a sworn form, under penalty of perjury, which certifies that two (2) domestic partners have terminated the domestic partnership and all rights and duties included therein as described in this Article.

(c) *Clerk* means the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Pinellas County, Florida.

(d) *Dependent* is a person who resides within the household of a Registered Domestic Partnership and is:

(1) A biological, adopted, or foster child of a Registered Domestic Partner; or

(2) A dependent as defined under IRS regulations; or

(3) A ward of a Registered Domestic Partner as determined in a guardianship or other legal proceeding; or

(4) A person supported in whole or in part by their partner's earnings and relies on such support.-

(e) *Certificate of Domestic Partnership* means the certificate received from the Clerk after registration as Domestic Partners under this Article.

(f) *Domestic Partnership Registry* means a public record maintained by the Clerk which includes those persons who have met the domestic partnership requirements set forth in this Article and have registered with the Clerk.

(g) *Health care facility* includes, but is not limited to, hospitals, nursing homes, hospice care facilities, convalescent facilities, walk-in clinics, doctor's offices, mental health care facilities, and any other short-term or long-term health care facilities located within Pinellas County.

(h) *Jointly responsible* means each domestic partner mutually agrees to provide for the other partner's basic needs while the domestic partnership is in effect, except that partners need not contribute equally or jointly to said basic needs such as food and shelter.

(i) *Mutual residence* means a residence shared by the Registered Domestic Partners; it is not necessary that the legal right to possess the place of residence be in both names. Registered Domestic Partners do not cease to share a mutual residence if one leaves the shared place but intends to return.

(j) *Registered Domestic Partners* means two (2) adults who are parties to a domestic partnership and who meet the requisites for a domestic partnership as established pursuant to the registration requirements of this Article and who have registered as a domestic partnership under this Article.

Section 3. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-237. Registration of Domestic Partnerships

(a) A domestic partnership may be registered by any two (2) persons by filing an Affidavit of Domestic Partnership with the Clerk which Affidavit shall comply with all requirements set forth in this Article for establishing such domestic partnership.

(b) Upon payment of any required fees, the Clerk shall file the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership electronically and issue a Certificate of Domestic Partnership reflecting the registration of the domestic partnership in the County.

(c) The Clerk shall maintain a Domestic Partnership Registry which shall be an online searchable database of the domestic partnerships which have been registered with the County.

(d) A notarized Affidavit of Domestic Partnership, on such form as created by the County, shall be presented to the Clerk by both partners, physically present, who shall provide proof of identification; and shall contain the name and address of each domestic partner, the signature of each partner, the signatures of two (2) witnesses for each partner signature, and each partner shall swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that:

(1) Each person is at least eighteen (18) years old and competent to contract;

(2) Neither person is currently married under Florida law or is a partner in a domestic partnership or a member of civil union with anyone other than the co-applicant;

(3) Neither person is related by blood as defined in Florida law;

(4) Each person considers themselves to be a member of the immediate family of the other partner and to be jointly responsible for maintaining and supporting the Registered Domestic Partnership;

(5) The partners reside together in a mutual residence;

(6) Each person expressly declares their desire and intent to designate their Registered Domestic Partner as their healthcare surrogate and as their agent to direct the disposition of their body after death.

(7) Each person agrees to be jointly responsible for each other's basic food and shelter.

~~(7)~~(8) Each person agrees to immediately notify the Clerk, in writing, if the terms of the Registered Domestic Partnership are no longer applicable or one of the domestic partners wishes to terminate the domestic partnership; and

(e) Any partner to a domestic partnership may file an amendment with the Clerk to the Domestic Partnership Registry, on the form created by the County, to reflect a change in their legal name or address. Amendments shall be signed by both members of the Registered Domestic Partnership under oath and must be accompanied by the applicable fee as determined by the Clerk.

Section 4. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-238. Termination of Registered Domestic Partnership

(a) Either partner to a Registered Domestic Partnership may terminate such registration by filing, in person, a notarized Affidavit of Termination of Domestic Partnership with the Clerk which shall become effective on the date of filing.

(b) The Clerk shall file the Affidavit of Termination and update the online registry to remove the domestic partnership.

(c) A Registered Domestic Partnership will terminate by operation of law upon occurrence of the following events:

- (1) One of the domestic partners marries in Florida;
- (2) One of the domestic partners dies; or
- (3) One of the domestic partners registers with another partner.

(d) The marrying, surviving, or re-registering Domestic Partner(s) shall file an Affidavit with the Clerk terminating the domestic partnership within ten (10) days of one of the occurrences listed in (c) above.

(e) The surviving domestic partner, pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of this section, shall retain funeral and burial decision rights as provided for in Section 70-240(c).

Section 5. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-239. Maintenance of Records; Filing Fees

(a) The County shall prepare the form of all affidavits, amendments, and certificates required to be filed under this Article. The Clerk shall maintain electronic copies. Domestic Partnerships which have properly registered, and have not been terminated, will appear on the online registry. Records regarding a terminated registration can be requested from the Clerk.

(b) The Clerk shall establish fees for the filing of any affidavits, amendments, the issuance of any certificates required by this Article, or for the provision of copies of documents subject to the approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Any fees established under this

section shall be reasonable and commensurate with the actual costs of administering the provisions of this Article.

(c) The Clerk is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to implement the provisions of this section within ninety (90) days after this Article is enacted.

Section 6. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-240. Legal Effect of Registered Domestic Partnership

To the extent not superseded by federal, state, or other city law or ordinance, or contrary to rights conferred by contract or separate legal instrument, Registered Domestic Partners shall have the following rights:

(a) **Health Care Facility Visitation.** All health care facilities operating within the County shall honor the Registered Domestic Partnership documentation issued pursuant to this Article as evidence of the partnership and shall allow a Registered Domestic Partner or dependant visitation rights as provided for under 42 CFR 482 and 485.

(b) **Health Care Decisions.** Registry as a domestic partner shall be considered to be written direction by each partner designating the other to make health care decisions for their incapacitated partner, and shall authorize each partner to act as the other's healthcare surrogate as provided for in Chapter 765, Florida Statutes. No person designated as a health care surrogate shall be denied or otherwise defeated in serving as a health care surrogate based solely upon their status as the Domestic Partner of the partner on whose behalf health care decisions are to be made. Any statutory form, including, but not limited to, a living will or health care surrogate designation in forms provided for in Chapter 765, Florida Statutes, that is properly executed after the date of registration which contain conflicting designations shall control over the designations made pursuant to domestic partnership registration in Pinellas County.

(c) **Funeral/Burial Decisions.** Registry as a domestic partner shall be considered to be written direction by the decedent of their intention to have their domestic partner direct the disposition of the decedent's body for funeral and burial purposes as provided in Chapter 497, Florida Statutes, unless, prior to death, the decedent creates written authorization and direction providing conflicting terms of disposition. Where such conflict exists, the later dated document shall control.

(d) **Notification of Family Members.** In any situation providing for mandatory or permissible notification of family members, including, but not limited to, notification of family members in an emergency, "notification of family members" shall include Registered Domestic Partners.

(e) **Pre-need Guardian Designation.** A person who is a party to a Registered Domestic Partnership, pursuant to this Article, shall have the same right as any other individual

to be designated as a pre-need guardian pursuant to Chapter 744, Florida Statutes, and to serve in such capacity in the event of their domestic partner's incapacity. A domestic partner shall not be denied or otherwise be defeated in serving as the plenary guardian of their domestic partner or the partner's property under the provisions of Chapter 744, Florida Statutes, to the extent that the incapacitated partner has not executed a valid pre-need guardian designation, based solely upon their status as the domestic partner of the incapacitated partner.

(f) Participation in Education. To the extent allowed by federal and state law, and subject to the policies of the School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, as amended from time to time, as well any applicable court orders, agreements, or contracts, a domestic partner of a domestic partnership registered in this County shall have the same rights as the parent partner to participate in the education of a dependent of the Registered Domestic Partnership in the County. Any right to participate in the education of a dependent of the Registered Domestic Partnership shall be exercised consistently with applicable policies and procedures of the School Board of Pinellas County, Florida.

Section 7. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-241 Limited Effect

(a) Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to alter, affect, or contravene city, county, state, or federal law or to impair any court order or contractual agreement.

(b) Nothing in this Article shall be construed as recognizing or treating a Registered Domestic Partnership as a marriage.

Section 8. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-242. Enforcement; Legal Remedy; and Limitation of Liability

(a) A Registered Domestic Partner may enforce rights provided for under this Article by filing a private judicial action in the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court for declaratory relief, injunctive relief, or both, or for any other available legal remedy;

(b) The Clerk acts in a purely ministerial capacity and has no authority or responsibility for the resolution of disputes arising from the domestic partnership registry. Any disputes as to registration or legal effect under this Article shall be filed with the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court.

(c) The Clerk shall not be liable for any act taken within the scope of its authority provided pursuant to this Article.

Section 9. Article III of Chapter 70 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

Section 70-243. Reciprocity

All rights, privileges and benefits extended to Registered Domestic Partnerships as provided for in this Article shall also be extended to all persons who can provide proof of their registration as domestic partners in any other jurisdiction. In the event of a conflict between this Article and the domestic partnership laws of another jurisdiction, the provisions of this Article shall prevail.

Section 10. Severability

In the event that any court having jurisdiction over any case arising under this Article determines that any subsection or other provision of this Article is invalid for any reason, the remaining subsections or other provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect, and towards that end the Board of County Commissioners declares this Article and its subsections and other provisions to be severable.

Section 11. Effective Date

Pursuant to Section 125.66(2), Florida Statutes, a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Clerk of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners within ten (10) days after enactment by the Board of County Commissioners. This Ordinance shall become effective upon filing of the Ordinance with the Department of State.

Section 12. Areas Embraced

This Ordinance shall be effective in the incorporated and unincorporated area of the County.

Section 13. Codification

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Pinellas County Code; and that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.

Exhibit B

Comparison of Domestic Partnership Registries in Florida

To: Jim Bennett, County Attorney
Carl Harness, Assistant County Administrator

From: Carl Brody, Assistant County Attorney

Re: Domestic Partnership Ordinances

Date: June 4, 2012

Florida Domestic Partnership Registry Laws

Broward County: Residents of the county or at least one partner employed by the county. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

City of Gainesville: No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

City of Key West: No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

City of Kissimmee: Employees of the city. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

Leon County: Humans Resources (Personnel) only. No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

Miami-Dade County: Residents of the county or at least one partner employed by the county. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

The cities of Miami and South Miami also grant additional benefits to domestic partners who are employees of the cities.

Monroe County: HR only. No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

Orange County: HR only. No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

Palm Beach County: Residents of the county or at least one partner employed by the county. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

City of Tampa: Domestic Partnership Registry adopted unanimously by Tampa City Council to take effect on July 4, 2012. No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

City of Gulfport: No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples also grants additional benefits to domestic partners who are employees of the cities.

City of St. Petersburg: No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

Ex. B, p. 1 of 2

City of Clearwater: No residency requirement. Both opposite- and same-sex couples.

Comparison (Broward, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Tampa)

- Requirements for Registration: Domestic Partner – 2 adults – at 18 years old – not married – not related by blood – mutual residence (PB, MD) – jointly responsible for each other's basic living needs and considers themselves to be immediate family
- Registration: MD – Consumer Services; PB – Clerk & Comptroller's Office; Broward – Records Taxes & Treasury Division
- Residency: Yes – Broward and PB; No – MD; PB requires additional proof of residency
- Termination: Filing with registering agency
- Extension of benefits for County Employees & Partners: MD and Broward – Broward also extends to County Contractors
- Health Care Rights: PB and MD require health care facilities to extend rights of access to partner; Broward gives right of access
- Broward gives partner rights as a health care surrogate (765.201)
- PB gives rights in absence of advanced directive (765.401)
- Detention visitation: All give rights to visit partner or child
- Pre-need designation: Broward and PB provide specific pre-need rights (744.3045)
- Notification: Broward and PB require notification as if family
- Funeral/Burial Rights: PB gives rights to parties as if spouse
- Reciprocity with other jurisdictions: Yes - PB and MD
- Enforcement: Private civil
- All are county-wide
- Tampa provides a right to participate in the education of the child of a partner
- All provide a certificate of registration – Tampa provides an online searchable database

Notes:

PB has most complete ordinance except for the Broward provision granting health care surrogate rights to partners and Tampa including educational rights to participate in the education of the dependent of a partner. Health care, funeral, correctional visitation, and notification rights to partner are suggested. Some ordinances also provide benefit rights to domestic partners, others provide for these rights in their HR policy.

CC: County Attorney Workgroup

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Ex. B Page 2 of 2



12.6.12 #2

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Honorable Chair and
Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Robert S. LaSala, County Administrator 

THROUGH: Maureen Freaney, Assistant County Administrator 
Bruce Moeller, Director, Public Safety Services 

SUBJECT: Emergency Medical Services Priority Dispatch

DATE: December 6, 2012

The following documents have been submitted for distribution in conjunction with the Emergency Medical Services Priority Dispatch presentation to the Board of County Commissioners for the December 6, 2012 work session:

- Presentation
- Draft 9-1-1 Call Processing Resolution
- 9-1-1 Call Processing Ordinance (passed December 20, 2011)
- Belleair Bluffs Resolution
- Dunedin Resolution
- East Lake Special Fire Control District Resolution
- Largo Mayor's Letter
- Largo Resolution
- Lealman Special Fire Control District Resolution
- Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District Resolution
- Pinellas Park Resolution
- Pinellas Suncoast Special Fire Control District Resolution
- Safety Harbor Resolution
- Seminole Mayor's Letter
- St. Pete Beach City Manager's Letter
- St. Petersburg Resolution
- South Pasadena Resolution
- Phase 3 Communications Plan (Plan, Fact Sheet, Stakeholder Letters, News Release)



Priority Dispatch Improvement Phase 3



December 6, 2012

Objectives of the Workshop

- Review of Draft 9-1-1 Resolution
 - Memorializes Current Process
- Provide an Overview and History of Priority Dispatch
- Provide an Overview of Phase 3 of Priority Dispatch
- Receive Feedback from the BCC regarding Phase 3 of Priority Dispatch



Review of Draft Resolution

- 9-1-1 Call Processing Ordinance established December 20, 2011 (Pinellas County Code 54-98)
- Document framework of 9-1-1 call handling
 - Consensus of the various jurisdictions
 - PCSO, FHP, city police, fire departments, fire districts, EMS
- Memorializes standardized processes:
 - Single, consolidated 9-1-1 public safety answering point
 - Fire/Rescue dispatch (*18 agencies*)
 - Call transfer standards for police calls
 - Integrated policies designed for rapid call processing
 - Meets accreditation requirements
 - Based upon local best practices
- Includes phase 1, 2 and 3 of Medical Priority Dispatch



Use of Priority Dispatch

- First priority is quality care.
- Medical Priority Dispatch
 - Effectively utilize resources
 - Improve quality and efficiency
 - Structured process
 - *Rapidly identify severe problems*
 - *Triage based on call nature and severity*
 - *Instructions to the caller while EMS responds*
 - *Dispatch of appropriate units based upon the triage*



National Academy of Emergency Dispatch Response Model

- Every EMS System, using NAED, determines their local response model based upon:
 - Local demographics
 - Available resources
 - Level of service (*basic or advanced life support*)
 - Local response time standards
- Triage is an integral part of the model



Benefits of Priority Dispatch

- Effective triage
 - Proper resource utilization by call type and severity
 - Preserves availability of resources
 - Improve response times to serious emergencies
 - “Right-sizing our response to low acuity calls”



Response Philosophy

- First Responder need?
 - *Paramedic needed to quickly treat a priority symptom*
 - *More than two personnel required to complete tasks on scene*
- Ambulance need?
 - *Patient requires (or requests) transport by ambulance*



Preserve Availability

First Responder

Life-threatening emergencies

Fire protection

Ambulance

Transport mission

“Send the right resource, the right way, at the right time.”

“When in doubt, send them out.”



Prior Improvement Phases

- **Phase 1** – *April 2009*
 - Consolidated 9-1-1 EMD call-taking function into the 9-1-1 Center
 - Savings of \$500,000 annually
 - Implemented change was safe and effective
- **Phase 2** – *December 2010*
 - On specific calls one First Responder unit is sent
 - Reduced ambulance responses by 8,000 or 5.6% calls annually
 - One efficiency that reduced ambulance costs during contract extension
 - Implemented change was safe and effective



9-1-1 Phase 3 Proposed Improvement

- *Elimination of First Responder to minor “Falls” and “Sick Person” calls*
- First Responder will continue to respond to all life-threatening calls and all other low severity calls (*i.e. back pain*)
- First Responder responses would be reduced by approximately 14,000 calls per year.
- This would reduce First Responder responses by approximately 10% overall.



Why Now?

- Quality improvement should be continuous
- Worked with stakeholders for 2 years on this improvement
- Concept is applicable to any EMS System design
- All current EMS System design proposals use Priority Dispatch
- Continue efforts to contain growth and manage resources
- Codify our current 9-1-1 practices by resolution

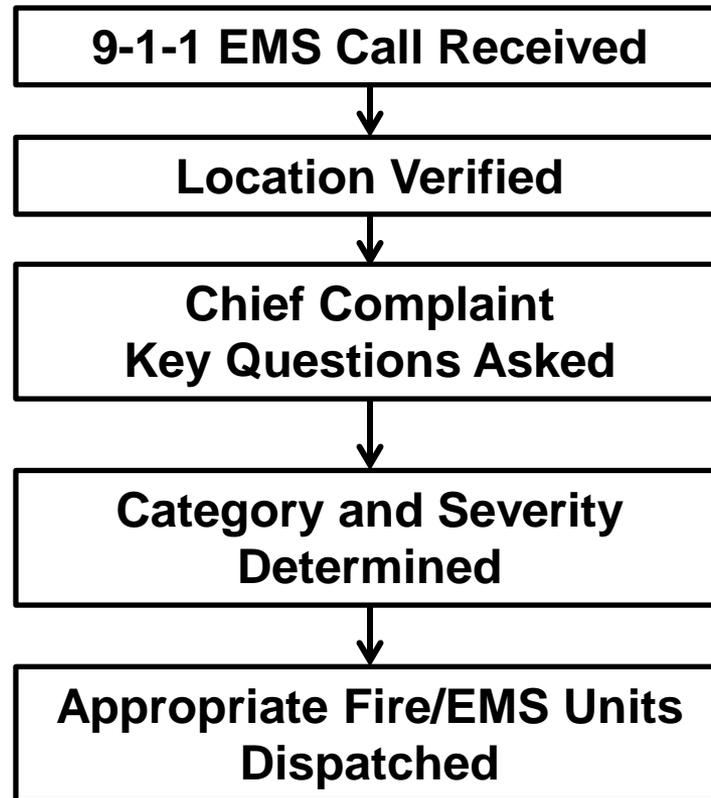


Public Perception of Inefficiency

- Complaints 9-1-1 operators receive:
“Why are you sending a fire truck? I just needed an ambulance for a ride to the hospital.”
- Questions we hear from elected officials and citizens:
“Why is a fire truck sent to every ambulance call?”
(Example : Citizen University)



9-1-1 Call Taking Flow



***Immediate Dispatch
for Priority Symptoms
and Unknown
Situations***

***Note: Call Taker and
Dispatch Functions are
Separate and Parallel***



Medical Priority Dispatch Phase 3 Recommendation

- Recommendation is patient-centered and improves efficiency
- Endorsed and approved by:
 - EMS Medical Director
 - EMS Medical Control Board
 - EMS Management Committee
 - Stakeholder representatives
 - Studied retrospective data
 - Worked closely together for over a year
 - EMS Advisory Council



Response Configuration

- Current
 - 4 to 6 personnel in 2 units
 - First Responder and ambulance (*no lights & sirens*)
- Proposed
 - 2 personnel in 1 unit
 - Ambulance (*no lights & sirens*)



9-1-1 Dispatch Example

FALL

Description

Response

Extreme or Long fall (*greater than 10 ft.*)

Fire & Ambulance (*lights & siren*)

Unconscious, cardiac arrest, not alert, chest or neck injury
(*with difficulty breathing*)

Unknown status, Serious hemorrhage

Fire & Ambulance (*lights & siren*)

Possibly dangerous body area (*head, neck, chest, abdomen*)

Non-recent Injuries (*more than 6 hrs*)

Ambulance (*no lights & siren*)

Not dangerous body area (*upper/lower extremities*)

9-1-1 Specific Dispatch Changes

“Falls” and “Sick Persons” are the only categories.

Currently 4-6 Personnel Responding on 2 Units (*First Responder and Ambulance*)
Proposed 2 Personnel with 1 Unit (*Ambulance*)
71.5% of these Patients Transport by Ambulance

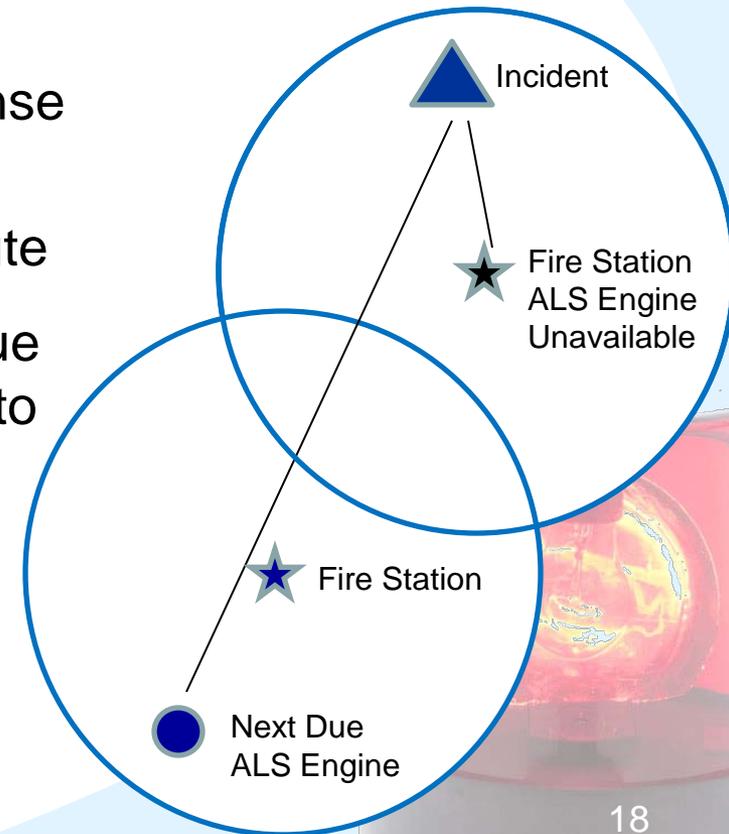
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|--|---|
| 01 - Falls Not Dangerous Body Area | 21 - Cut-off ring request |
| 02 - Falls Non-Recent (>6hrs) injuries | 22 - Deafness |
| 03 - No priority symptoms | 23 - Defecation/diarrhea |
| 04 - Blood pressure abnormality | 24 - Earache |
| 05 - Dizziness/Vertigo | 25 - Enema |
| 06 - Fever/Chills | 26 - Gout |
| 07 - General Weakness | 27 - Hemorrhoids/piles |
| 08 - Nausea | 28 - Hepatitis |
| 09 - New onset of immobility | 29 - Hiccups |
| 10 - Other pain | 30 - Itching |
| 11 - Transportation only | 31 - Nervous |
| 12 - Unwell/ill | 32 - Object stuck (<i>nose, ear, vagina, rectum, penis</i>) |
| 13 - Vomiting | 33 - Object swallowed |
| 14 - Boils | 34 - Painful urination |
| 15 - Bumps (<i>non-traumatic</i>) | 35 - Penis problems/pain |
| 16 - Can't sleep | 36 - Rash/skin disorder |
| 17 - Can't urinate | 37 - Sexually transmitted disease (<i>STD</i>) |
| 18 - Catheter (<i>in/out without hemorrhaging</i>) | 38 - Sore throat |
| 19 - Constipation | 39 - Toothache (<i>without jaw pain</i>) |
| 20 - Cramps/spasms/joint pain | 40 - Wound infected (<i>focal or surface</i>) |



EMS Call Example

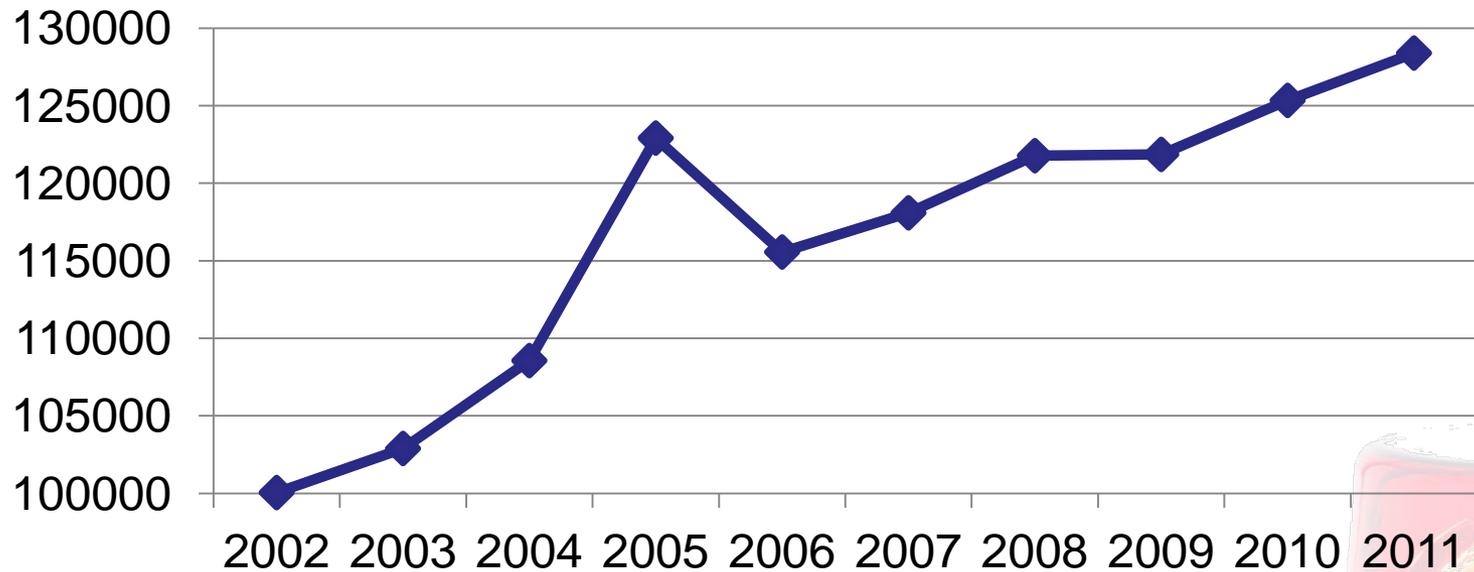
- Cardiac Arrest

- 1st Due ALS Engine – unavailable
(on a minor sick person call)
- 2nd Due ALS Engine – 8 minute response
(compared to 4:30 average)
- Survival decreases by 7-10% per minute
- Under the proposed change, the 1st Due ALS Engine would have been available to respond.



Why is this important?

Pinellas County EMS 9-1-1 Medical Incidents



28% increase in calls over 10 years

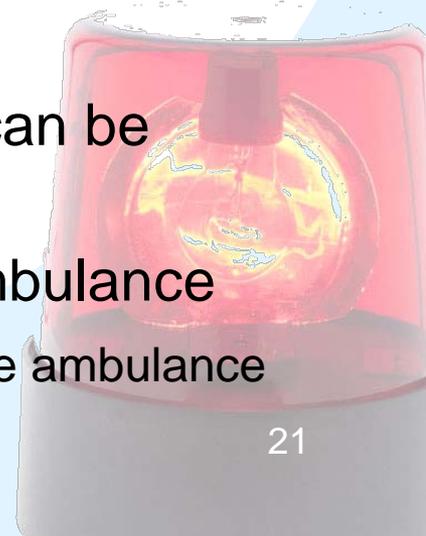
Cost Containment & Efficiency

- Cost Containment
 - Each 24/7 First Responder Paramedic position is \$472,000 – average annually for 3.6 personnel salary/benefits
 - Reduce the justification and need for rescue units
 - Reduce the justification and need for new fire/rescue apparatus
- Ambulance Contractor
 - Responding on these calls already
 - Compensated for transports
 - Not compensated for non-transport (*patient care or refusal*)



Effect on Response Time

- “Downgraded,” meaning *No Lights/Sirens*
- Average downgraded time First Responder: 7 min., 16 sec.
- Average downgrade time for ambulance: 10 min.
- Response time will be an average of 2 min. 44 sec. longer
- Level of service not changed – still Advanced Life Support (ALS) to all 9-1-1 calls
- If the ambulance will be more than 15 minutes, a First Responder will be sent immediately
- If ambulance needs assistance a First Responder can be requested
- Not uncommon for communities to send only an ambulance
 - Example: Hillsborough County & City of Tampa, BLS private ambulance for these calls (60 minute Response Time Goal)



Public Education Plan

- Letter sent to ALL stakeholders announcing this workshop
- Public information/media plan in workshop packet
 - Plan
 - Fact sheet
 - Press release
- Educate each 9-1-1 caller of the expected response
 - Follows National Academy Emergency Dispatch Guidelines
 - Other changes have been seamless to the public
 - Every community has some type of triage
 - Every community sends different resources



Phase 3 Preparations Completed

- Medical Control Board approved the protocol; customarily changes are implemented at this level
- 9-1-1 emergency medical dispatcher software and training ready
- Public education plan developed by EMS Advisory Council with County Communications Department



Next Steps

- Bring Resolution to memorialize 9-1-1 call processing to a regular BCC meeting for adoption
- Receive feedback from BCC on Medical Priority Dispatch Phase 3
- Based upon input, implement with oversight by the Medical Dispatch Review Committee
 - 9-1-1, Fire, Sunstar, and Medical Director members
 - Phase in and monitor implementation





RESOLUTION 12- ____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE COUNTYWIDE
911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM;
ADOPTING POLICIES RELATING TO DISPATCH PROTOCOLS;
AND ADOPTING PROCEDURES FOR CHANGES TO SUCH PROTOCOLS; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, § 365.171, Florida Statutes, provides for multi-jurisdictional 911 systems to give citizens rapid direct access to public safety agencies and Pinellas County Home Rule Charter 2.04(a) gives the County the special power to develop and operate a 911 emergency communications system; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to the County Home Rule Charter adopted Pinellas County Code section 54-98 establishing a process for the Board to consider when adopting policies for handling calls into the 911 system; and

WHEREAS, Pinellas County operates a countywide Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) which receives all calls for assistance arising in Pinellas County through the 911 system; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff, Municipal Police Departments, Florida Highway Patrol, and the various Fire Departments are the designated authorities of their respective jurisdictions for Law Enforcement and Fire responses respectively, the Board of County Commissioners operating in its role as the Emergency Medical Services Authority as established by Laws of Florida 80-585, the Fire Departments, the Ambulance Contractor, the Medical Director, the Medical Control Board and the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council are all interested parties in Medical Responses and the operations of the Emergency Medical Services system; and

WHEREAS, through the evolution of the Pinellas County 911 Center and consolidation of Fire Department dispatch services through the automatic aid agreement with cities and districts and coordination with the Fire Chiefs, County staff has established agreements with the various jurisdictions on how emergency calls are to be handled and developed in-depth processes and standard operating procedures for call handling; and

WHEREAS, certain cities and the Sheriff operate secondary PSAPs for the dispatch of law enforcement personnel and actions are coordinated between all PSAPs in the county through a County-wide PSAP group; and

WHEREAS, the 911 Center answers all 911 calls, dispatches all calls requiring medical and fire responses and transfers calls for police responses to the appropriate law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide assistance it is necessary for a telecommunicator to determine the nature of the emergency as well as the location for which the caller is seeking services. This is complicated by the fact that 911 calls from landlines display a location on the telecommunicator's computer screen but for the majority of calls locations must be established for calls from cell phones and voice over internet; and

WHEREAS, once a location is established the telecommunicator can identify the appropriate jurisdictions from their Computer Aided Dispatch screen which is connected to a detailed mapping system; and

WHEREAS, through working with the various law enforcement jurisdictions and fire jurisdictions County Staff has been able to populate its database to provide the telecommunicator with precise jurisdictional response for every address within the County; and

WHEREAS, responses by Fire Departments for fire and medical dispatches are normally from fire stations within the respective geographic jurisdictions, while the responses by the ambulance contractor are from various locations based upon a dynamic deployment model which uses historical data to predict patterns of need for emergency services; and

WHEREAS, medical calls for assistance can present difficult and complex situations which must be analyzed to determine the type of resources that must be dispatched and how they should respond to calls, the 911 Center uses "Medical Priority Dispatch", an emergency medical dispatch (EMD) system promulgated by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch which through a detailed series of questions determines whether a caller's situation is a life or death emergency requiring an urgent maximum response with multiple vehicles or a lesser situation which does not require an urgent response and may be handled with a single vehicle; and

WHEREAS, based upon continuous review of patient care data, the Medical Director, the Medical Control Board and other interested parties have implemented and proposed certain dispatch responses based upon the use of Medical Priority Dispatch to provide the most appropriate response and maximize the availability of existing emergency resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to establish the overall policy in 911 dispatch operations pursuant to the Pinellas County Home Rule Charter.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, in regular session duly assembled this _____ day of _____, 2012, that the following policies for the 911 Center are adopted:

I. Calls For Assistance from Law Enforcement:

- a. For calls involving a crime or requiring other law enforcement assistance, the call will be transferred to law enforcement based upon location and advice of the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction. The 911 Center may also notify a law enforcement agency of a call via internal lines.
- b. This process may be changed with the consensus of affected agencies.

II. Calls Relating To Fire Hazard Emergencies:

- a. If the request relates to a fire emergency, the call will be dispatched according to run cards and procedures authorized by local fire departments.
- b. This process may be changed with the consensus of affected agencies.

III. Calls for Emergency Medical Services (Medical First Responder and Ambulance):

- a. If the call is for a medical emergency, EMD will be conducted to determine the response according to protocols approved by the Medical Director and Medical Control Board existing at the time of the adoption of this resolution including the implementation of protocols which will govern the nature and number of vehicles sent to each situation.
- b. Once the response is determined by EMD, the call will be dispatched according to run cards authorized by local fire departments and EMS subject to the aforementioned protocols or as otherwise required by the State of Florida Department of Health.
- c. Recognizing that as technology and emergency interventional practices change, there may be reasons in the face of patient care, public safety or prioritization of resources where changes to current processes will become necessary. Such changes may take place after approval by the Medical Director and Medical Control Board and after notice to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council which may endorse such changes. Such proposed changes shall be

reported to the Board of County Commissioners along with any comment from affected agencies. Such changes shall not take effect until 30 days after notice to the Board unless the Board takes further action.

IV. Operational Changes May Be Made By County Staff. – Public Safety Services staff may make operational changes, including changes to the EMD process, without bringing such changes to the Board where there is consensus between affected agencies. In the event there is a localized or system-wide emergency situation which requires a deviation from established protocols for a temporary or limited time necessary changes may be made by Public Safety Services staff after, and to the extent possible, consultation with affected local agencies and the Medical Director.

V. Requests For Action By the Board of County Commissioners:

- a. An affected agency may request action by the Board of County Commissioners to modify an existing or proposed 911 protocol.
- b. When considering whether or not to change a protocol, the Board of County Commissioners shall consider the following:
 - i. The nature of the call for assistance,
 - ii. Whether or not the request involves an agency with county-wide jurisdiction,
 - iii. Requests by the various jurisdictions having authority,
 - iv. The impact that such responses will have upon multiple agencies,
 - v. Such other considerations which are appropriate.

VI. Effective Date: This Resolution shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida.

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon roll call the vote was:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent and Not Voting:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MAKING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, CREATING SECTION 54-98 OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE PROVIDING FOR THE PROMULGATION BY RESOLUTION OF A PROCESS FOR HANDLING CALLS RECEIVED BY THE 911 CENTER, PROVIDING FOR AREAS EMBRACED, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM REVIEW OF THE ORDINANCE AT PUBLIC HEARING AND WITH RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES.

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Charter provides that for certain countywide governmental activities the County shall have special powers which authorize it to provide certain services, take regulatory actions and enact ordinances which shall prevail over municipal ordinances impacting such functions; and

WHEREAS, the 911 communications system for Pinellas County operates a single Public Safety Answering Point for the County which transfers calls for law enforcement and dispatches Fire and Medical calls; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has determined to put in place a process by which an appropriate and efficient dispatch of emergency services be adopted.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County:

SECTION 1. Legislative Findings

1.1 The Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(g) provides that the charter of charter counties “shall provide which shall prevail in the event of conflict between county and municipal ordinances”; and

1.2 Section 2.04 of the Pinellas County Charter, s. 1, as adopted by the Florida Legislature and approved by a vote of the Pinellas County electorate on October 7, 1980, as amended (“Charter”), provides for all special and necessary powers of the County to provide certain enumerated services and regulatory authority; and

1.3 Section 2.04 of the Charter provides, “when directly concerned with the furnishing of the services and regulatory authority [in certain specifically enumerated areas], county ordinances shall prevail over municipal ordinances when in conflict”; and

1.4 Specifically, section 2.04 of the Charter provides that the following shall be special powers of the County:

- (a) Development and operation of 911 emergency communication system.
- (h) Development and implementation of civil preparedness programs.

- 1.5 Section 2.03 of the Charter provides that where the Charter provides no method for execution the exercise of powers of the County shall be by ordinance, resolution or action of the Board of County Commissioners

SECTION 2 Section 54-98 of the Pinellas County Code is created to read as follows:

- (a) The Board of County Commissioners may by resolution make provision for the handling of calls received by the 911 center.
- (b) In providing for the handling of such calls for assistance the Board may consider the following
1. The nature of the call for assistance,
 2. Whether or not the request involves an agency with county-wide jurisdiction,
 3. Requests by the various jurisdictions having authority,
 4. The impact that such responses will have upon multiple agencies,
 5. Such other considerations which are appropriate and set forth in the resolution at the time of adoption.

SECTION 3. Areas Embraced Pursuant to Sections 2.01 and 2.04 of the Pinellas County Charter, this ordinance shall be effective within the boundaries of Pinellas County.

SECTION 4 Severability If any Section, Subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not be construed to render the remaining provisions of this Ordinance invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5 Filing of Ordinance; Effective Date

Pursuant to Section 125.66, Fla. Stat., a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Department of State by the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners within ten (10) days after enactment by the Board of County Commissioners. This Ordinance shall become effective upon filing of the ordinance with the Department of State

RESOLUTION 2012-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FLORIDA, IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belleair Bluffs supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement Phase Three of Priority Dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement Phase Three of Priority Dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the City of Belleair Bluffs; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the City of Belleair Bluffs' First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality or District's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belleair Bluffs opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the City and the City does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the City's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belleair Bluffs clearly does not agree with Phase Three of Priority Dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of Phase Three of Priority Dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the City of Belleair

Bluffs and Authority have discussed it; and

WHEREAS, Phase Three of Priority Dispatch denies residents the level of emergency response that they are accustomed and entitled to as a resident of the City of Belleair Bluffs; now, therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS, FLORIDA, IN SESSION DULY AND REGULARLY ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. That City Commission of the City of Belleair Bluffs opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of Priority Dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

Section 2. That the City Commission of the City of Belleair Bluffs opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of Priority Dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the City's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

Section 3. That the City Commission of the City of Belleair Bluffs does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the City's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the City.

Section 4. That the City Commission of the City of Belleair Bluffs clearly does not agree with Phase Three of Priority Dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the Authority and the City have had the opportunity to discuss it.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and adoption.

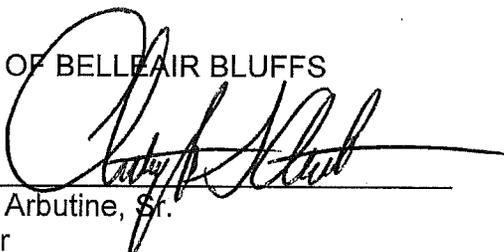
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BELLEAIR BLUFFS CITY COMMISSION, THIS 20th DAY OF AUGUST, 2012.



ATTEST:


Debra S. Sullivan
City Clerk
City of Belleair Bluffs

CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS


Chris Arbutine, Sr.
Mayor

RESOLUTION 12-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA, IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING COMPLETION OF STUDIES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE HEREOF.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dunedin supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement Phase Three of Priority Dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement Phase Three of Priority Dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the City of Dunedin; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the City of Dunedin's First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality or District's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call

without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dunedin opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the City and the City does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the City's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Dunedin clearly does not agree with Phase Three of Priority Dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of Phase Three of Priority Dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the City of Dunedin and Authority have discussed it; and

WHEREAS, Phase Three of Priority Dispatch denies residents the level of emergency response that they are accustomed and entitled to as a resident of the City of Dunedin; now, therefore.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA, IN SESSION DULY AND REGULARLY ASSEMBLED:

Section 1. That City Commission of the City of Dunedin opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of Priority Dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

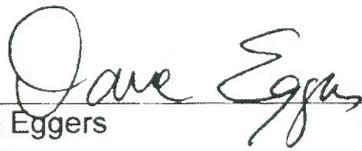
Section 2. That the City Commission of the City of Dunedin opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of Priority Dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the City's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

Section 3. That the City Commission of the City of Dunedin does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the City's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the City.

Section 4. That the City Commission of the City of Dunedin clearly does not agree with Phase Three of Priority Dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until various studies underway are completed and more certain facts are known.

Section 5. That this Resolution shall become effective upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DUNEDIN, FLORIDA, THIS 23rd day of August, 2012.



Dave Eggers
Mayor

ATTEST:



Denise M. Schlegel
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-06

A RESOLUTION OF EAST LAKE TARPON SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the District supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the District; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the District's First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality or District's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would response to a call without the District EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the District opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the District and the District does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the District's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the District clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the District and Authority have discussed it; and

WHEREAS, Phase Three of priority dispatch denies East Lake residents the level of emergency response that they are accustomed and entitled to as a resident of the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District, that this Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the District's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

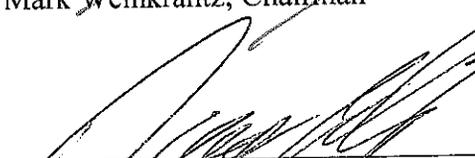
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the District's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the Authority and the District have had the opportunity to discuss it.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

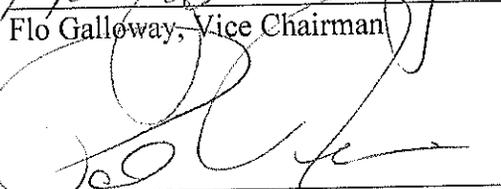
ADOPTED this 28th day of August, 2012.


Mark Weinkrantz, Chairman


David Root, Secretary


Tom McKone, Commissioner


Flo Galloway, Vice Chairman


Paul Ferreri, Treasurer



JUL 30 2012

City of Largo, Florida

Post Office Box 296, Largo, Florida 33779-0296

Office of the Mayor and Commission
E-mail: commission@largo.com

(727) 587-6702
FAX: (727) 587-6797

July 27, 2012

Pinellas County
Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear County Commissioners:

The City of Largo Fire Rescue Department provides both Fire Suppression Services and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) under contract with Pinellas County for the residents of our City, the City of Belleair Bluffs, the Town of Belleair, and three unincorporated fire districts. I recognize the value of maintaining the current dual response system, in which one of our fire units staffed with paramedics and EMT's is dispatched along with a SUNSTAR ambulance to serious medical calls for service. However, I am also aware of the need to make the current emergency medical response system more efficient in order to enhance its long term fiscal sustainability. I also continue to receive input from the public regarding their perception that multiple units responding to minor medical situations is wasteful.

I support the use of nationally recognized protocols to prioritize the dispatch of the appropriate type and number of units to calls for medical assistance. The decision in 2010 to dispatch only fire department units to calls that typically do not require transport was a positive initial step. The proposal to now dispatch only SUNSTAR units to calls that typically just require transport is another logical step towards making the system more efficient and better match resources to actual needs. By not dispatching a fire unit on such calls, that unit will be available to answer critical calls that involve either a life-threatening medical emergency or a fire. A reduction in unnecessary calls may ultimately result in the need for fewer EMS fire units, reducing the operating costs for an EMS system that is under financial stress.

In summary, I support the recommendation of the County Administrator and his staff to further implement Medical Priority Dispatch by only dispatching a SUNSTAR ambulance to calls that do not require a Fire Department EMS unit.

Sincerely,

Patricia S. Gerard
Mayor
CITY OF LARGO

cc: ✓ County Administrator Robert Lasala
Largo City Commission
City Manager Norton "Mac" Craig

RESOLUTION NO. 2080

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LARGO, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF MEDICAL PRIORITY DISPATCH IN PINELLAS COUNTY AND SUPPORTING THE PINELLAS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO DISPATCH ONLY SUNSTAR UNITS ON CERTAIN MEDICAL/EMS CALLS FOR SERVICE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Largo Fire Rescue Department provides both fire suppression services and emergency medical services (EMS) under contract with Pinellas County, Florida for the residents of Largo, the City of Belleair Bluffs, the Town of Belleair, and three unincorporated fire districts; and

WHEREAS, in response to the current economic client municipalities and counties statewide continue to seek new and more efficient ways to provide government services to the public; and

WHEREAS, currently the dual response system requires that a fire unit staffed with paramedics and EMTs be dispatched along with a SUNSTAR ambulance to all medical calls for service; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator has recommended the implementation of Medical Priority Dispatch (MPD) in an effort to provide a more fiscally sustainable and responsible method of fire and EMS dispatch countywide; and

WHEREAS, there are frequent requests for EMS/medical services that entail simple transport by ambulance from one location to another within the County; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator, as part of the continued implementation of the MPD system, has recommended dispatching only SUNSTAR units to calls for simple transport of a patient from one location/facility to another; and

WHEREAS, the City of Largo City Commission recognizes this method will reduce the number of unnecessary calls for service received by the Largo Fire Rescue Department and will reduce the operating costs for both the Largo Fire Rescue Department and the County EMS system as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the City of Largo supports such a cost-saving measure that balances the need to continue providing an exemplary level of fire and EMS service while recognizing the need to provide such services at a reduced cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF LARGO CITY COMMISSION HEREBY RESOLVES:

Section 1. That the City of Largo supports the implementation of Medical Priority Dispatch within Pinellas County recognizing it will allow for the continued provision of EMS services in a more efficient, cost effective manner.

Section 2. That the City of Largo supports the Pinellas County Administrator's recommendation to further implement Medical Priority Dispatch by providing for the dispatch of only SUNSTAR units to calls for transportation of a patient from one location/facility to another.

Section 2. That this resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

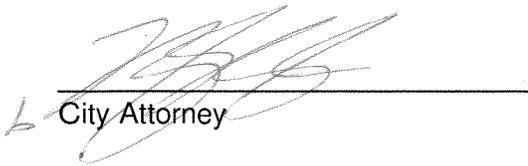
PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS DAY OF September 18, 2012.

CITY OF LARGO, FLORIDA



Mayor

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:



City Attorney

ATTEST:



City Clerk

LEALMAN SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2012 - 02

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE LEALMAN SPEICAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the Lealman Special Fire Control District (District) has been established by Special Act 2000-426 Laws of Florida and the Chapter provides that the District is the sole provider of fire, rescue and emergency medical services within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the District supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement Phase Three of priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement Phase Three of priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality or fire district would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's or fire district's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the city or district; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the District's First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls and potentially violating the Charter; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality or district's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal and fire districts EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended; because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal or fire districts EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the District opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the District and the District does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolition, in part or in total, of the District's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the District clearly does not agree with Phase Three of priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the District and Authority have discussed it and resolved the issues raised; and

WHEREAS, Phase Three of priority dispatch denies Lealman Special Fire Control District residents the level of emergency response that they are accustomed and entitled to as a resident, and potentially violates the Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Lealman Special Fire Control District that this Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality or fire district, without contacting or dispatching the District's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the District's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners clearly does not agree with Phase Three of priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the authority and the District have had the opportunity to discuss it and resolve the issues raised.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Fire Commissioner *LINDA CAMPBELL* who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Fire Commissioner *VIVIAN CAMPBELL* and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Fire Commissioner Kathleen Litton Aye Nay
Fire Commissioner Diana Campbell Aye Nay
Fire Commissioner Virginia Cook Campbell Aye Nay
Fire Commissioner Rebecca Harrison Aye Nay
Fire Commissioner _____ Aye Nay

The Chairman thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 6th day of August, 2012

LEALMAN SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT,
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

By: Kathleen Litton
Kathleen Litton, Chairman

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE PALM HARBOR SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the District supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement Phase Three of priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement Phase Three of priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unity to a citizen request for service within the District; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the District's First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality or District's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the District opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the District and the District does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the District's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the District clearly does not agree with Phase Three of priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the District and Authority have discussed it; and

WHEREAS, Phase Three of priority dispatch denies Palm Harbor residents the level of emergency response that they are accustomed and entitled to as a resident of the Palm Harbor Special Fire and Control District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Palm Harbor Special Fire Control and Rescue District, that this Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

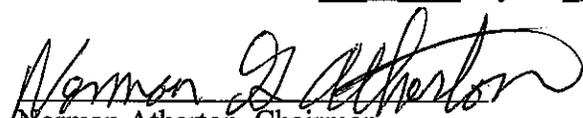
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the District's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

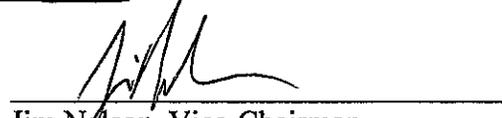
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the District's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners clearly does not agree with Phase Three of priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the Authority and the District have had the opportunity to discuss it.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this 12 day of December, 2011.


Norman Atherton, Chairman


Jim Nelson, Vice-Chairman


Joseph Petrillo, Secretary-Treasurer


Julie Peluso, Commissioner


Robert Shatanoff, Commissioner

RESOLUTION NO. 12-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PINELLAS PARK, FL, IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; NOTIFYING THE AUTHORITY THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PINELLAS PARK DOES NOT CONSENT TO AN ACTION WHICH MAY EFFECT THE CITY'S STATUS AS AN EXISTING MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS SET FORTH BY LAW; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First

Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the City; and

WHEREAS, Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, recognized that no existing municipal emergency medical services (EMS) department within Pinellas County may be abolished without the express consent of the governing body of that department; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the municipal First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the City opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the City and the City does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the City's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the City clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before this matter is made final, until the City and Authority have discussed it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PINELLAS PARK, PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The City Council of the City of Pinellas Park opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

SECTION TWO: The City Council of the City of Pinellas Park opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the City's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

SECTION THREE: The City Council of the City of Pinellas Park does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the City's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the City.

SECTION FOUR: The City Council of the City of Pinellas Park clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before this matter is made final, until the Authority and City have had the opportunity to discuss it.

SECTION FIVE: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption and approval in the manner provided by law.

ADOPTED THIS 26th DAY OF July, 2012.

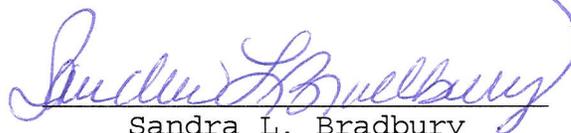
AYES: (5) Council Members; Butler, Johnson, Mullins, Taylor, and Mayor Bradbury

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

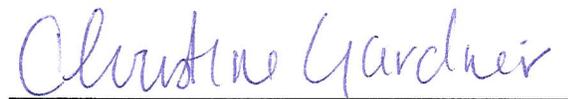
ABSTAIN: (0)

APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF July, 2012.


Sandra L. Bradbury

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Christine Gardner, MMC
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

RESOLUTION 2012-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PINELLAS SUNCOAST FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE THREE PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION AND RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (District) has been established by Charter and the Charter provides that the District is the sole provider of fire, rescue and emergency medical services within its boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the District supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement Phase Three of priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement Phase Three of priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the District; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the District's First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls and potentially violating the Charter; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality or District's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the District opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the District and the District does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolition, in part or in total, of the District's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the District clearly does not agree with Phase Three of priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the District and Authority have discussed it and resolved the issues raised; and

WHEREAS, Phase Three of priority dispatch denies Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District residents the level of emergency response that they are accustomed and entitled to as a resident, and potentially violates the Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District that this Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners opposes the manner in which the implementation of Phase Three of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the District's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the District's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the District.

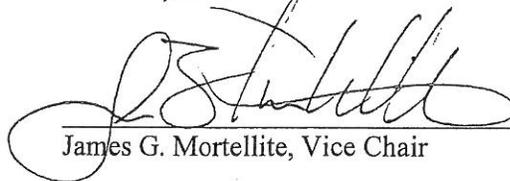
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Board of Commissioners clearly does not agree with Phase Three of priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the authority and the District have had the opportunity to discuss it and resolve the issues raised.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

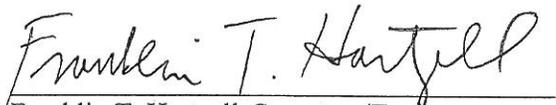
PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 17th day of July, 2012.



Lawrence G. Shear, Chair



James G. Mortellite, Vice Chair



Franklin T. Hartzell, Secretary/Treasurer



Thomas H. Hafner, Commissioner



James C. Terry, Commissioner



City of Safety Harbor Florida

HOME OF ESPIRITU SANTO MINERAL SPRINGS

750 Main Street † Safety Harbor, Florida 34695
(727) 724-1555 † Fax (727) 724-1566
www.cityofsafetyharbor.com

Mr. Robert S. LaSala
County Administrator
315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

RE: Resolution No. 2012-21

Dear Mr. LaSala:

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 2012-21, passed and adopted by the City Commission of the City of Safety Harbor on October 15, 2012. The Resolution is in opposition to the implementation of priority dispatch as proposed by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Sammons".

Karen Sammons, CMC
City Clerk

Enclosure

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; NOTIFYING THE AUTHORITY THAT THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR DOES NOT CONSENT TO AN ACTION WHICH MAY EFFECT THE CITY'S STATUS AS AN EXISTING MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS SET FORTH BY LAW; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the City; and

WHEREAS, Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, recognized that no existing municipal emergency medical services (EMS) department within Pinellas County may be

abolished without the express consent of the governing body of that department; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the municipal First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the City opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the City and the City does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the City's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the City clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the City and Authority have discussed it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Safety Harbor, that this Commission opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

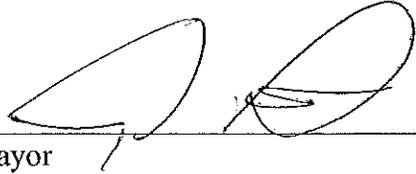
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the City's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the City's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the City.

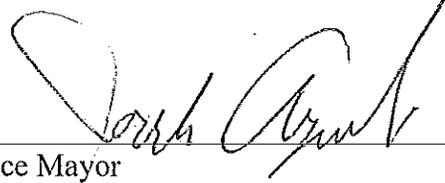
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the Authority and City have had the opportunity to discuss it.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

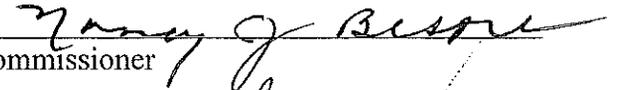
PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR THIS 15th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2012



Mayor



Vice Mayor

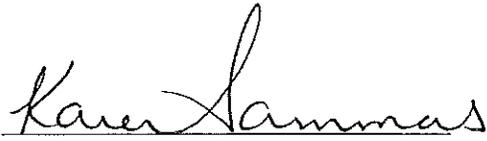


Commissioner

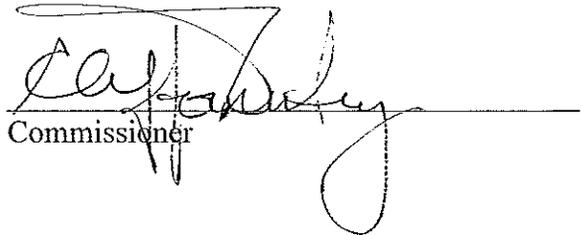


Commissioner

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Commissioner



CITY OF SEMINOLE

Achieving Service Through Dedication

September 18, 2012

Honorable John Morroni
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Chairman ~~Morroni~~,

I am writing to express my support for the continued implementation of priority dispatch. It is my understanding the Board of County Commissioners acting in their role as the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority, is contemplating the implementation of Phase III priority dispatch.

While the Seminole City Council has not voted on this specific matter, it is my opinion the City Council supports the Board's continuing efforts to make the Emergency Medical Services more efficient and effective. We support your efforts in this regard. The implementation of Phase III priority dispatch is another step in the right direction to reduce EMS service delivery duplication and provide greater system efficiency. I trust the Board will sort through the facts and fiction associated with this matter and take action that is in the best interest of all the citizens within Pinellas County.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely,


Jimmy Johnson
Mayor, City of Seminole

cc: Seminole City Council
Board of County Commissioners
Robert LaSala, County Administrator



City of St. Pete Beach
155 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706-1839
727-367-2735
www.stpetebeach.org

September 18, 2012

Bob LaSala
Pinellas County Administrator
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Mr. LaSala:

The City of St. Pete Beach fully recognizes the financial challenges facing the current EMS delivery system. Medical Priority Dispatch is a very important tool to reach the maximum efficient use of our limited tax dollars and will be critical when making any comparison to potentially new delivery systems or other changes needed to achieve long term sustainability. We are confident that following established national protocols should not impact level of service; however, like all changes, there may need to be adjustments in the future based upon our experiences.

I support Pinellas County moving forward with implementing the next phase of Medical Priority Dispatch by only dispatching a SUNSTAR unit to calls that do not require a Fire Department EMS vehicle.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Bonfield
City Manager
City of St. Pete Beach

cc: St. Pete Beach City Commission
Fire Chief Dan Graves



A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; NOTIFYING THE AUTHORITY THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG DOES NOT CONSENT TO AN ACTION WHICH MAY EFFECT THE CITY'S STATUS AS AN EXISTING MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS SET FORTH BY LAW; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to the citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the City; and

WHEREAS, Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, recognized that no existing municipal emergency medical services (EMS) department within Pinellas County may be abolished without the express consent of the governing body of that department; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the municipal First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent a municipality's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, issues related to privatization of EMS were litigated between the City and the Authority in 1988; and

WHEREAS, the City has previously objected to privatization of EMS; and

WHEREAS, the City opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the City and the City does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the City's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the City clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the City and Authority have discussed it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, that this Council opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the City's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the City's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before it is made final, until the Authority and City have had the opportunity to discuss it.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 20th day of October, 2011.



Karl Nurse, Vice Chair-Councilmember
Presiding Officer of the City Council

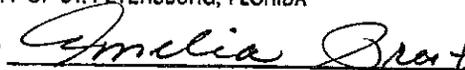
ATTEST:

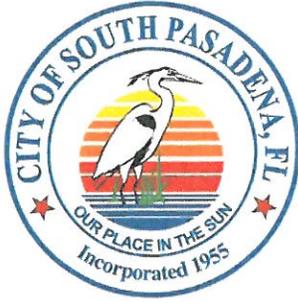

Eva Andujar City Clerk

I, EVA ANDUJAR, CITY CLERK HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE AND FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL AS IT APPEARS IN THE OFFICIAL FILES OF THE CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE CITY THIS 24th DAY OF October A.D., 2011

EVA ANDUJAR, CITY CLERK
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

BY





City of South Pasadena

7047 SUNSET DRIVE SOUTH
SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA 33707-2819
PH: (727) 347-4171 FAX: (727) 345-0518
www.ci.south-pasadena.fl.us

August 29, 2012

Mr. Craig Hare, EMS Division Manager
Department of Public Safety Services
12490 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774

Dear Mr. Hare:

The City Commission at their August 28, 2012 Regular Commission meeting passed Resolution No. 2012-09, in opposition to the implementation of priority dispatch as proposed by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority.

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution No. 2012-09 for your reference.

Sincerely,

Mary Braisted, MMC
City Clerk

Encl.

MB/cl

cc: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
Robert LaSala, County Administrator

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, FLORIDA, IN OPPOSITION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS PROPOSED BY PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY; NOTIFYING THE AUTHORITY THAT THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA DOES NOT CONSENT TO AN ACTION WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CITY'S STATUS AS AN EXISTING MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT AS SET FORTH BY LAW; REQUESTING THAT THE PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY DEFER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY DISPATCH AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH PENDING DISCUSSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, priority dispatch governs an emergency medical services system's response to different types of service calls; and

WHEREAS, the City supports the concept of priority dispatch as a mechanism to provide an efficient response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, however, the manner in which the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority (Authority) proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls could result in a delay in dispatching a First Responder Unit to a citizen's emergency call; and

WHEREAS, this delay in response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations; and

WHEREAS, the manner in which the Authority proposes to implement priority dispatch in Pinellas County in response to service calls would result in instances where the dispatch of a private ambulance to a citizen of a municipality would occur without contacting or dispatching the municipality's First Responder Unit to a citizen request for service within the City; and

WHEREAS, Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, recognized that no existing municipal emergency medical services (EMS) department within Pinellas County may be abolished without the express consent of the governing body of that department; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of only a private ambulance to service calls removes the municipal First Responder from providing service to its own citizens, thereby privatizing the response to service calls; and

WHEREAS, the dispatch of a private ambulance to a call, absent of a municipality's First Responder Unit, erodes the protections for existing municipal EMS departments which are set forth in the Laws of Florida, Chapter 80-585, as amended, because a private ambulance would respond to a call without the municipal EMS department providing any service, thereby abolishing, at least in part, some of that EMS department's service; and

WHEREAS, the City opposes the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a service call when requested by a citizen of the City and the City does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to an action that could result in the abolishment, in part or in total, of the City's EMS service and their EMS department; and

WHEREAS, the City clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed, and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before this matter is made final, until the City and Authority have discussed it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of South Pasadena, Florida as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Commission of the City of South Pasadena opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which response could significantly affect the result of treatment in life threatening situations.

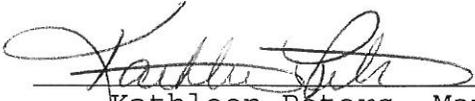
SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of South Pasadena opposes the manner in which the implementation of priority dispatch has been proposed by the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority which would result in instances where only a private ambulance would be utilized to respond to service calls in a municipality, without contacting or dispatching the City's First Responder Unit, thereby privatizing a portion of EMS.

SECTION 3. The City Commission of the City of South Pasadena does not consent, expressly or otherwise, to any action by Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services Authority that abolishes the City's EMS service or EMS department, in part or total, including the dispatch of only a private ambulance to a citizen request for service within the City.

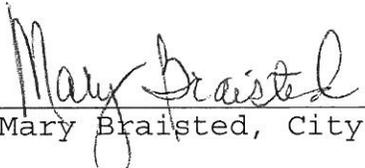
SECTION 4. The City Commission of the City of South Pasadena clearly does not agree with priority dispatch as proposed and asks that the Authority defer implementation of priority dispatch, as a sign of good faith and before this matter is made final, until the Authority and City have had the opportunity to discuss it.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF AUGUST 2012.


Kathleen Peters, Mayor

ATTEST:


Mary Braisted, City Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION HAS BEEN APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT BY THE CITY ATTORNEY. *YMH*

**Emergency Medical Services Priority Dispatch Phase 3
Public Information and Media Plan
August 2, 2012**

To educate the public about Medical Priority Dispatch, we will partner with the media to tell the story in order to reach the greatest number of people. On the forefront of the issue, we will provide accurate information with which the media can frame their stories, thus giving the media the opportunity to use the facts and the background as they develop their features.

By partnering with the media we are able to make the announcement that the third phase of Medical Priority Dispatch will be implemented, if the resolution is approved by the Board of County Commissioners. If it is not approved, the educational materials will still be used as background to the media's inquiries, as we expect media attention, and we expect media to attend the BCC meeting when the resolution will be considered.

By making the factual information immediately accessible to the media and public, we can address any questions and concerns upfront and proceed to implementation if the resolution is approved. Public discussion, then, can continue with the information we have relayed.

The approach to the stakeholders will be the same, accomplished by a letter to inform and educate them and to notify them that the issue will be discussed at an upcoming meeting to give everyone the best opportunity to join in the discussion.

Action Plan

Prior to the scheduled BCC meeting:

- Prepare a Public Information / Media Plan (Pages 1- 2).
- Prepare a Fact Sheet (Pages 3-5).
- Prepare and send a Letter to Stakeholders (Pages 6-7).
- Inform stakeholders via a letter, mailed and emailed, to city managers, fire chiefs, hospital administrators, skilled nursing facilities, etc., from the Pinellas County Public Safety Services interim director. Include copy of, or attach, the fact sheet.
- Prepare a Press Release (Pages 8-9).

At the BCC meeting, following the vote:

- Dr. Laurie Romig, EMS Medical Director, Mike Cooksey, Interim Director of Public Safety Services and Craig Hare, EMS Division Manager to be available for questions and interviews after the vote and on request.

- **If approved:**

Distribute

- News release (
- Fact sheet
- Copy of resolution

Go live with webpage, link off of EMS website. Material will include news release, fact sheet, resolution and letter to stakeholders at

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/publicsafety/dispatch.htm>

- Post on county homepage

- **If not approved**

Distribute fact sheet

Actions

- Draft letter to stakeholders.
- Draft fact sheet
- Distribute letter to stakeholders and fact sheet via email and mail
- Draft press release
- Provide copies of materials at BCC workshop meeting
- Distribute news release, fact sheet and resolution to media
- Conduct interviews
- Post on website

Deliverables:

- Stakeholder letter
- News release
- Fact sheet
- Web posting
- Distribution
- Facebook/Twitter
- County website homepage “news”

**Emergency Medical Services Priority Dispatch Phase 3
Fact Sheet
August 2, 2012**

The first priority of the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services continues to be quality care for each citizen. We are dedicated to this goal.

Medical Priority Dispatch is a method to effectively utilize resources in the ongoing effort to improve the quality and efficiency of the Emergency Medical System that serves Pinellas County.

Citizens will continue to receive the highest level of care that they require.

What is Medical Priority Dispatch?

Medical Priority Dispatch determines the appropriate response to each emergency and non-emergency medical 9-1-1 call.

Specially trained 9-1-1 operators, certified by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch, will dispatch units according to national guidelines and local protocol.

In the majority of cases, dual response emergency vehicles – a first responder (defined as a paramedic on a fire engine or rescue unit) and an ambulance (with a paramedic on the unit) - will respond to a medical 9-1-1 emergency. 98% of the largest Cities in the United States utilize a dual response (First Responder and Ambulance) approach. This approach ensures enough personnel are on scene to rapidly assess, provide treatment and safely move the patient and equipment.

In potentially life-threatening situations, both responders will use lights and sirens.

In many non-emergency situations, a dual response is not necessary and multiple medical emergency vehicles do not need to respond. In many cases, one emergency vehicle can handle the call safely and effectively.

Three Phases:

This is the third phase of Medical Priority Dispatch implementation. Each phase has been approved by the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council and Medical Control Board. We are currently looking at the implementation of the third phase.

1. April 2009, first phase:

Goal: Improve the efficiency of dispatch

Emergency Medical Dispatch was transferred to the 9-1-1 Center. Formerly, a 9-1-1 dispatcher would route a medical call to Sunstar Paramedics for emergency medical dispatch. Consolidation of emergency communications functions has made the system more efficient.

2. December 2010, second phase

Goal: Improve the efficiency of ambulance response

The number of dual responses – first responder and ambulance - was reduced. In many non-emergency calls, the ambulance is not automatically called to respond.

3. Proposed third phase, implementation to be determined

Goal: Improve the efficiency of first response

The response to a 9-1-1 call will be appropriate to the situation. The 9-1-1 operator will follow protocol to quickly determine if the situation requires a first responder, an ambulance or both.

How It Works:

The 9-1-1 dispatcher takes the call from a citizen.

In many cases, one emergency paramedic vehicle can handle the call safely and effectively. Rigorous protocols are followed to determine if a first responder and ambulance should be dispatched.

There are guidelines for which injuries or conditions warrant a particular response. The 9-1-1 operator will assess each and every case on an individual basis.

Two emergency vehicles – a first responder (paramedic on a fire engine or rescue unit) and an ambulance (a paramedic on the unit) – will be sent if there is a high-level emergency or if the situation is unknown.

The dispatcher will upgrade the call if the caller says that the situation is getting worse.

Once on the scene, the first arriving unit quickly assesses the situation and the call can be “upgraded” (additional resources requested) or “downgraded” (resources that are not needed are canceled).

An emergency vehicle will always respond to a medically related 9-1-1 call. Citizens will continue to receive the quality care to which they are accustomed.

Effective Date: The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners will consider the approval of a Resolution at regular Board of County Commissioner meeting at a future date.

Background:

Pinellas County was originally served by a patchwork of fire department rescue and independent ambulance services (including funeral homes that used hearses for transport). People experiencing a medical emergency received one kind of medical treatment if they were located in a municipality and another kind of response if they lived in an unincorporated area.

On Jan. 16, 1978, Ronnie Redwine was involved in an accident that occurred outside of city limits. As a result, the city rescue unit did not respond. By the time an independent ambulance provider arrived, it was too late and the young man died. The public demanded that the system be replaced.

In 1980, voters overwhelmingly approved the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services Authority and a tax to fund a countywide emergency medical response system for the county's 18 fire protection agencies. The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners sits as the Emergency Medical Services Authority.

The countywide EMS has operated under a dual-response system since the 1980s. For every 9-1-1 medical emergency, a fire unit and an EMS ambulance have been dispatched simultaneously with lights and sirens.

In 1990, the Emergency Medical System adopted the use of emergency medical dispatch guidelines from the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch to follow a structured protocol to receive 9-1-1 calls and dispatch units.

A protocol was set up to discontinue the use of lights and sirens for non-emergency calls. The protocol continued to develop over time, with improvements and refinements made to the process.

With Medical Priority Dispatch, a determination is made about the urgency of a call and the appropriate response. This ensures that emergency response vehicles are available for other calls, improving response times to life-threatening emergencies.



Immediate Release

XX, 2012

Media Contact

Mary Burrell

Operations Manager

(727) 453-3065/ cell (727) 366-3602

FINAL DRAFT
(SEND OUT WHEN APPROVED)

EMS Authority approves third phase of Medical Priority Dispatch

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution to implement the third phase of Medical Priority Dispatch at its **DATE** meeting.

With Medical Priority Dispatch, a determination is made about the urgency of a call and the appropriate response. This ensures that emergency response vehicles are available for other calls, improving response times to life-threatening emergencies.

Pinellas County EMS has followed priority dispatch since 1990, when it adopted the use of emergency medical dispatch guidelines from the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch. Priority dispatch follows a structured protocol to receive 9-1-1 calls and dispatch units.

During the initial phase, implemented in April 2009, the emergency medical dispatch function was transferred to the 9-1-1 Center. All 9-1-1 operators were certified by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch as Emergency Medical Dispatchers.

The second phase, implemented in December 2010, involved the assessment of medical emergency 9-1-1 calls to dispatch only fire department units in certain non-emergency situations, when a dual response with multiple emergency vehicles was not appropriate.

With the implementation of the third phase of Medical Priority Dispatch, only an ambulance unit will be dispatched to specified non-emergency medical calls. The dual response from a fire unit and ambulance, as well lights and sirens, will continue to be used for high-level emergencies.

Each stage has been approved by the Emergency Services Advisory Council and the Medical Control Board.

For more information on Pinellas County services and programs, visit www.pinellascounty.org, now with LiveChat, or create a shortcut to www.pinellascounty.org/mobile on any smartphone. Pinellas County government is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

###

**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

Nancy Bostock
Neil Brickfield
Susan Latvala
John Morrone
Norm Roche
Karen Williams Seel
Kenneth T. Welch



**Bruce Moeller
Bureau Director**

November 20, 2012

To Our Pinellas County EMS System Stakeholders:

Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) utilizes the Emergency Medical Dispatch system established by the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch. This system provides a structured procedure for triaging and processing medical 9-1-1 calls. The protocol itself has evolved over time with continual improvements and refinements to the processes over the years.

We operate a dual-response system, which consists of a local Fire Department unit and a County Ambulance (Sunstar Paramedics) responding to medical emergencies. This approach is appropriate and necessary for life threatening and potentially life threatening situations. The dual response system will continue to be used for the high-level emergencies.

However, the dual response system needs to be refined to reduce multiple emergency vehicle responses when not necessary for the nature and severity of the problem reported. Multiple responders are a costly and inefficient use of resources for non-emergency calls that require either a Fire Department Unit or an ambulance for transportation of a patient.

Over the last few years, the Medical Priority Dispatch System has been improved to dispatch the most appropriate resources to each emergency type. In fact, in 2010, an improvement was implemented to dispatch only a local Fire Department unit to certain non-emergency situations that don't typically result in patient transport by Ambulance. This greatly reduced the number of unnecessary Ambulance responses.

With that successful efficiency achieved in Medical Priority Dispatch, we are now moving to dispatch only an ambulance unit to those non-emergency medical calls that typically result in transport by Ambulance and do not require a Fire Department unit to respond.

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Department of Public Safety Services
12490 Ulmerton Road
Largo, Florida 33774
TELEPHONES:
Administration: (727) 582-2037
9-1-1 Systems (727) 464-3852
9-1-1 Computer Support (727) 464-3879
Radio and Data Systems (727) 582-2509
EMS Division (727) 582-2041
Fire Division: (727) 582-2437
EMS and Fire Finance (727) 582-2177

Page 2, Pinellas County EMS System Stakeholders

An appropriate response will be dispatched to every medical call ensuring both our high quality of care and that emergency resources are properly utilized and available for high level emergencies.

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners will discuss 9-1-1- Call Processing and Medical Priority Dispatch during a workshop on December 6, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the fifth-floor assembly room of the Pinellas County Courthouse – 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida. An agenda will be posted on the Thursday prior to the meeting at www.pinellascounty.org/angenda.

Comments may be emailed, faxed or mailed. Contact information is available on the Pinellas County website at www.pinellascounty.org. Pinellas County complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. At least seven days prior to the meeting, please contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Suite 500, Clearwater, FL 33756, (727) 464-4062 (Voice/TDD).

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Hare'.

Craig A. Hare, MBA, Paramedic
EMS Division Manager

12.6.12 #3**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Members of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

FROM:  Robert S. LaSala, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Boards, Councils and Committees Project Overview

DATE: December 6, 2012

At the direction of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, county staff reviewed current documentation and policies for appointments to a board, council or committee, and researched the practices of other counties. This information was then formatted as a menu of options for consideration by the BCC.

This information, presentation and discussion applies to citizens who are appointed to boards, councils or committees under the purview of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners by individual county commissioners or the county commission as a whole. It does not apply to appointments of elected officials or government employees, appointments to boards, councils or committees that are independent of county government, or if a different appointment process is established by statute, ordinance or other enabling legislation or authority.

This report and presentation is a joint effort by multiple departments that include Business Technology Services, County Administration, the Communications Department, the County Attorney's Office and the BCC Assistants.

Attachments:

Boards, Councils and Committees PowerPoint Presentation

Boards, Councils and Committees Overview

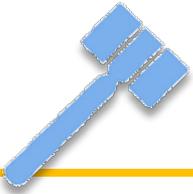
- Board, Council and Committee Liaison Responsibilities
- Board, Council and Committee Vacancies
- Advertising Instructions
- BCC Memo Template
- Applicant Appointment Worksheet
- Application
- List of Boards, Councils and Committees



Boards, Councils and Committees

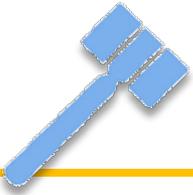
presented by **Tim Closterman**
Communications Department Director
December 6, 2012





Outline

- At the direction of the BCC, we:
 - Reviewed current documentation and policies
 - Researched practices of other counties
- Put forth findings with the purpose of providing BCC with “menu” of options
 - Draft *Policies and Procedures* for consideration
 - Draft *Pinellas County Boards, Councils and Committees* web presence for consideration
- Consider how this would be implemented by BCC staff if adopted (various impacts and time commitments)



What other counties are doing

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

miamidade.gov | Departments | Government | Site Search

Text Size: Reset Big Bigger

Home | Office of the Chair | Newsroom | BCC Divisions | Contact Us |

Office of the Chair

- [Chairman's Biography](#)
- [Biografía](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Committee Agendas](#)
- [Sponsored Legislation](#)
- [Vice Chair](#)
- [District 11](#)

Newsroom

- [News Releases](#)
- [Webcast Library](#)
- [BCC Media](#)

Committees

The committee structure and assignments were prepared after obtaining input from every Commissioner during the Committee of the Whole, and after receiving their written input on their desire to engage in specific areas of jurisdiction as well as their involvement within committees that paralleled their areas of interest.

As listed in Rule 4.01 (c) of the Rules of Procedure, committee Chairs and Vice Chairs are appointed for two years. All committee Chairs and Vice Chairs shall serve at the discretion of the Chairman. The Chairman reserves the right to rotate committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members at any time. Furthermore, he reserves the right to increase the number of committee members at any time. If a vacancy occurs in any committee for any reason, the Chairman will make the appropriate appointment.

Contact Information

Office of the Chair
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220

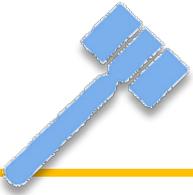
Phone:
305-375-5511

Fax:
305-375-5883

Email:
officeofthechair@miamidade.gov

[> more](#)

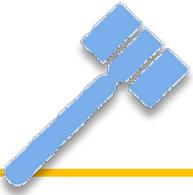
Miami-Dade County
Committees web page
www.miamidade.gov



What other counties are doing

The image shows a screenshot of the Hillsborough County Florida website on the left and a questionnaire form on the right. A yellow arrow points from the 'Applications' section on the website to the questionnaire. The website header includes 'Hillsborough County Florida GOVERNMENT' and navigation links for Services, Departments, Residents, Business, and Government. The 'Boards & Committees' section is highlighted with a red circle. The questionnaire is titled 'QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COUNTY APPOINTMENTS' and contains the following text: 'Information from this questionnaire will be used by the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County when considering appointments to advisory boards and councils.' It includes a 'BOARD OF INTEREST' section with a note '(Applicant must list a board of interest)'. The questionnaire has five numbered sections: 1. Name (with fields for LAST, FIRST, and MIDDLE/MAIDEN); 2. Place of Employment (with Job Title); 3. Business Address (with fields for STREET, P.O. BOX/SUITE, CITY, STATE, ZIP, and PHONE NUMBER); 4. Residence Address (with fields for STREET, P.O. BOX/SUITE, CITY, STATE, ZIP, and PHONE NUMBER); 5. SEX (with fields for Male and Female).

Hillsborough County
Boards and Committees application questionnaire
www.hillsboroughcounty.org



What other counties are doing

scgov.net home Sarasota County Government Online
Call Center: 941-554-3333



Advisory Boards and Councils

- [Community Action Agency Board](#)
- [Development Services Advisory Committee](#)
- [Food Community Redevelopment Area Advisory Board](#)
- [Environmental Policy Task Force](#)
- [Historically Sensitive Lands Oversight Committee \(ESLOC\)](#)
- [Professional Licensing & Examining Board](#)
- [Transportation Planning Board of SW Florida](#)
- [Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail Advisory Committee](#)
- [Zoning Appeals](#)
- [Building Code Board of Adjustments & Appeals](#)
- [Tax Oversight Committee](#)
- [Public Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-025

RE: POLICY RELATING TO MANDATORY USE BY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF COUNTY-PROVIDED E-MAIL ACCOUNTS

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, all email correspondence made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official county business is a public record and must be made available to the public upon request for viewing and/or copying for the duration of the statutory retention period; and

WHEREAS, email correspondence made or received by Sarasota County ("County") advisory council members that is related to the business of that member's advisory council, whether written or received on an advisory council member's personal computer, is a public record subject to the requirements of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that all email made or received by County advisory council members related to the business of their particular advisory council is readily available to the public upon request and in an effort to protect the personal email accounts of County advisory council members from public inspection, the County has issued County domain email accounts to all County advisory council members to be used for sending or receiving emails related to the business of their particular advisory council.

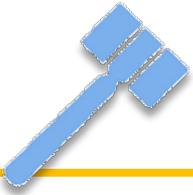
2009 MAR 17 PM 2:08
BOARD RECORDS
FILED FOR RECORD

Meeting

Sarasota County

Policy relating to mandatory use by Advisory Council members of county-provided e-mail accounts

www.scgov.net

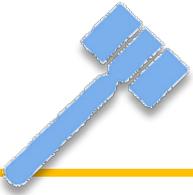


What other counties are doing

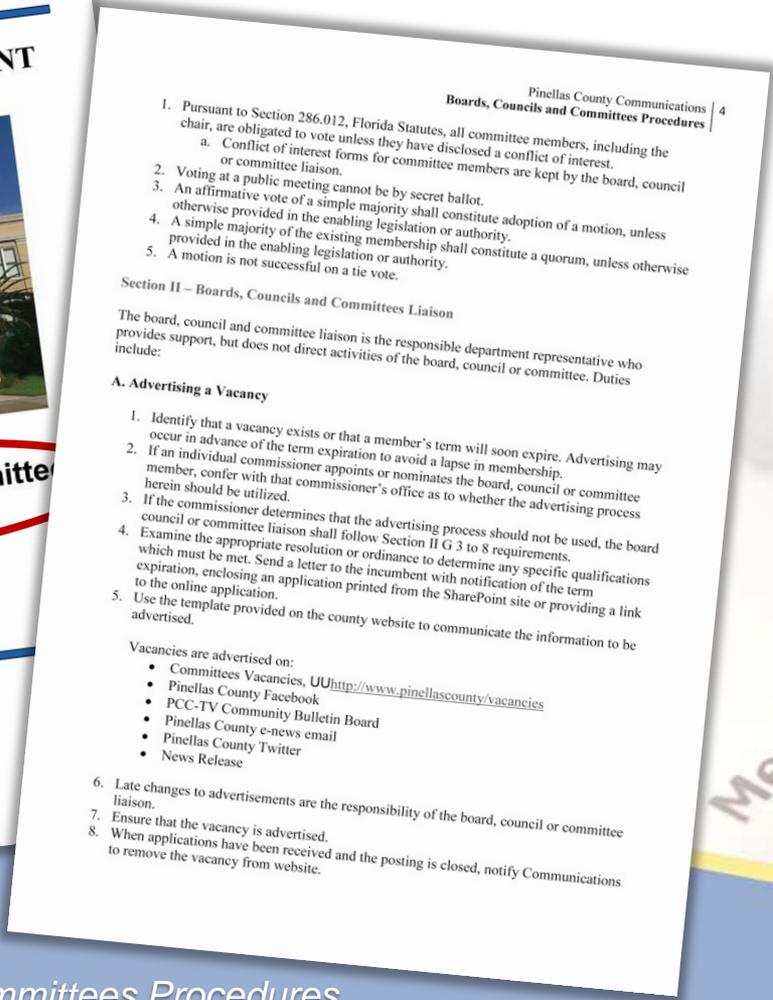
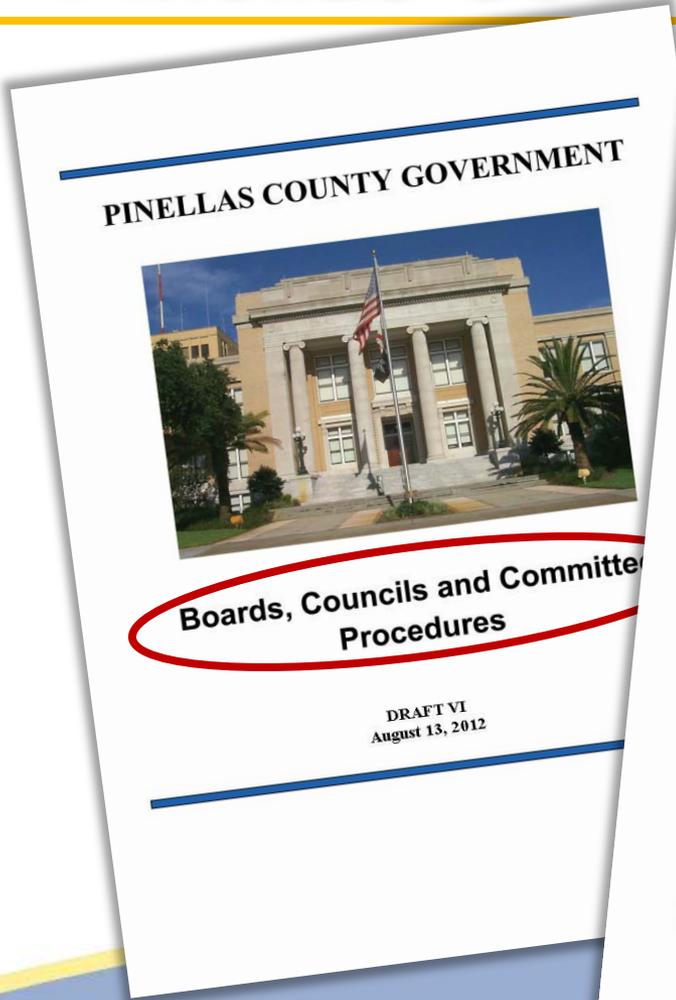
The screenshot shows the Pasco County website navigation menu with links for GOVERNMENT, RESIDENTS, BUSINESS, and HOW DO I... A search bar is visible on the left. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Government > Local Government > Citizens Advisory Boards & Committees > Vacancy List. The 'Vacancy List' link is circled in red. Below the breadcrumb, a list of advisory boards is shown, including 'Construction / Licensing Board of Electrical Contractors', 'Pasadena Hills Planning and Po...', and 'Suncoast Health Council'.

The screenshot shows the 'Parks Advisory Board' page on the Pasco County website. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Government > Local Government > Citizens Advisory Boards & Committees > Citizens Advisory Boards & Committees L - Z > Parks Advisory Board. The 'Parks Advisory Board' link is circled in red. The page content includes sections for 'Meetings', 'Members', 'Membership Terms', and 'Purpose'. The 'Members' section lists seven members, including two appointed by majority vote and five at-large members. The 'Purpose' section states that the PAB was established to regulate county parks and preserve natural features.

Pasco County
Vacancy list and committee information web pages
www.pascocountyfl.net



Pinellas County Procedures

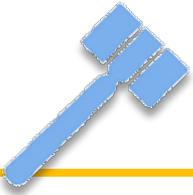


Pinellas County

Proposed Boards, Councils and Committees Procedures

www.pinellascounty.org/boards

Meeting Agenda



Pinellas County Web Proposal

Pinellas County
FLORIDA

Fort De Soto Park
Official Government Website

News | Media | Mobile | SHARE | August 30, 2012

Contact Us | Calendar | How Do I? |

Online Services
pay taxes, renew driver licenses, park shelter reservations

Business
building permits, vendor application, explore international opportunities

Government
elected officials, courts, administrator, departments, meetings and agendas

Top Searches
9-1-1 Active Calls
BCC Meeting
Jobs
Parks & Recreation
Permits
Pet Adoptions
Property Appraiser
Public Records
Utilities

Special Interest
Online Citizen Values Survey
Phone Citizen Values Survey
Beach Nourishment
Beach Parking Fees
Information

Public Meetings
schedules and agendas
watch board meetings live!

Emergency Info
look up evacuation zone, 9-1-1 calls, hurricane preparedness

Committees
learn about boards, committees and councils, how to participate

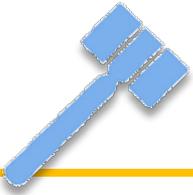
Upcoming Events
events, programs and classes sponsored by the County

MapIt
find what's near you, GIS info, look up evacuation levels, more

Volunteer Today
get involved and share your cost-saving ideas

Pinellas County

Proposed Committees web button on home page
www.pinellascounty.org/boards



Pinellas County Web Proposal



-  [List of Boards/
Councils/Committees](#)
-  [Current / Upcoming
Vacancies](#)
-  [Application
& Resume](#)
-  [General
Procedures](#)

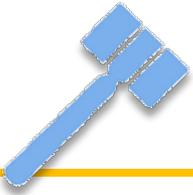
Boards, Councils and Committees

Pinellas County Commissioners value volunteers who take their time to participate in their Government. The BCC makes appointments to boards, committees and councils throughout the year.

-  [List of Boards/
Councils/Committees](#) Find out what boards, committees and councils serve under the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.
-  [Current / Upcoming
Vacancies](#) See the openings that are currently available to citizens with an interest in serving.
-  [Application
& Resume](#) Complete the application and submit your resume to be considered for an appointment.
-  [General
Procedures](#) Boards, committees and council procedures.

Pinellas County

Proposed Boards, Councils and Committees main web page
www.pinellascounty.org/boards



Pinellas County Web Proposal

Pinellas County
FLORIDA
Your County Connection

Official Government Website

News | Media | | September 12, 2012

Contact Us | Calendar | **How Do I?**

Resident Information
Community Outreach
Meetings & Agendas
Multimedia
Quick Find
Special Interest

Boards, Councils and Committees

[Boards & Committees Home](#)
[List of Boards & Committees](#)
[Current Vacancies](#)
[Application](#)
[General Procedures](#)

List of Boards, Councils and Committees:

- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
- Building Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals
- Construction Licensing Board
- Downtown Palm Harbor Review Committee
- Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas
- East Lake Community Library Advisory Board, Inc.
- Educational Facilities Authority
- Electrical Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals
- Gas Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals
- Health Facilities Authority
- Historic Preservation Advisory Board
- Historical Commission
- Housing Finance Authority
- Local Planning Agency (LPA)
- Parks & Conservation Resources Board
- Plumbing and Mechanical Board for Examining and Installation Committee
- ...ing Advisory Board
- ... for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals

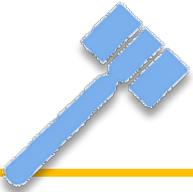
Communications
333 Chestnut St.
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-4600
E-mail - Parking - gmap

County Information Desk
(727) 464-3000
Contact Us

Pinellas County

Proposed Boards, Councils and Committees listings web page

www.pinellascounty.org/boards



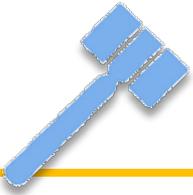
Pinellas County Web Proposal

The screenshot shows the Pinellas County Florida website. At the top left is the logo with the text 'Pinellas County FLORIDA' and 'Your County Connection'. Below the logo are three images: a winding road, a beach with a bird, and a government building. A navigation bar includes 'Contact Us | Calendar | How Do I?', 'News | Media | SHARE', and the date 'September 4, 2012'. A left sidebar lists categories like 'Resident Information', 'Community Outreach', 'Meetings & Agendas', 'Multimedia', 'Quick Find', and 'Special Interest'. A yellow box on the right contains links: 'Boards & Committees Home', 'List of Boards & Committees', 'Current Vacancies', 'Application', and 'General Procedures'. The main content area features a news item titled 'Tourist Development Council announces open seat' with a deadline of 4-20-12. The text describes the application process for a seat on the council, mentioning that interested parties must be registered to vote in Pinellas County and submit a bio/resume and a letter of interest. It also states that applications must be received by Friday, April 20, and provides contact information for D.T. Minich at Visit St. Petersburg/Clearwater.

Pinellas County

Proposed Boards, Councils and Committees vacancies web page

www.pinellascounty.org/boards



Pinellas County Web Proposal

Pinellas County
FLORIDA
Your County Connection

Official Government Website

News | Media | | September 5, 2012

Contact Us | Calendar | **How Do I?**

- Resident Information
- Community Outreach
- Meetings & Agendas
- Multimedia
- Quick Find
- Special Interest

Title of Committee

- **Purpose:**
- **Any relevant**
 - how the board was created
 - governance structure
- **Meeting schedule:**
- **Location:**
- **Time:**
- **Committee Members:**
- **Contact information:**

Boards & Committees Home ▶
List of Boards & Committees ▶
Current Vacancies ▶
Application ▶
General Procedures ▶

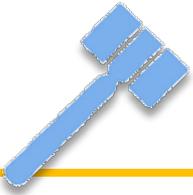
Communications
333 Chestnut St.
Clearwater, FL 33756
(727) 464-4600
E-mail - Parking - gmap

County Information Desk
(727) 464-3000
Contact Us



Pinellas County

Proposed Committee descriptions web page
www.pinellascounty.org/boards

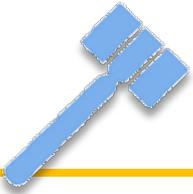


“Menu” of Options

- *Policies and Procedures*
- Committee member nominations & appointments
- Advertising vacancies
- Standardized application
- Formal process
- Web presence

Meeting Agenda

Reception



Summary

- Next steps
 - Feedback
 - Follow-up meeting and discussion if necessary
 - BCC review of current boards, councils and committees inventory to determine if future appointments by the BCC are appropriate



Boards, Councils and Committees

PINELLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

December 6, 2012

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Section I – Boards, Councils and Committees

These procedures apply to citizens that are appointed to boards, councils or committees under the purview of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners by individual county commissioners or the County Commission as a whole. It does not apply to appointments of elected officials or government employees, appointments to boards, councils or committees that are independent of county government, or if a different appointment process is established by statute, ordinance or other enabling legislation or authority. Unless otherwise established in the enabling legislation or authority for the board, council or committee, qualifications and service requirements shall include:

A. Appointments/Terms

1. A member cannot be employed by Pinellas County government at any time during the term.
2. Unless specifically authorized in the enabling legislation or authority, a member cannot hold elective office. Elected officials currently serving may continue to serve through the end of the current term unless otherwise stated in the enabling legislation.
3. Service is limited to (XX) years, although the member can serve through the end of the current term if it extends beyond (XX) years. After an absence of one year, a member may apply for reappointment.
4. Youth Advisory Committee appointments are for a period of one year. A member may be considered for reappointment if still a high school student.

B. Orientation

1. New members must participate in an orientation within six months of appointment.
 - a. Orientation is scheduled through the board, council or committee liaison.
 - b. The county attorney's office provides information on compliance with Florida's Sunshine Law, Public Records laws and the Code of Ethics for public representatives.

C. Meetings

1. Meetings shall be open to the public and must be properly advertised.
2. Agendas shall be prepared and distributed in advance of each scheduled meeting by the committee chair or designee. Agendas must include an Open-to-the-Public portion.
3. Minutes shall be produced in accordance with Pinellas County standards, typed and retained by the board, council or committee liaison.
4. Participation in meetings remotely by telephone is allowed only if:
 - a. a quorum is present in person at the meeting location, and
 - b. the member's absence is due to circumstances beyond the control of the member as approved by the committee.

D. Committee Responsibilities

1. The committee shall:
 - a. have only the authority and responsibilities specifically granted in the enabling legislation or authority, and shall be subject to all applicable Pinellas County policies, as may be amended in the future.
 - b. comply with all applicable requirements of Florida's Sunshine Law, Public Records laws and the Code of Ethics.
 - c. appoint subcommittees as necessary. Subcommittees must meet in accordance with the Sunshine Law.
 - d. adopt additional procedures of operation (bylaws) provided no conflict exists with Florida Law or authority.

E. Member Responsibilities

1. A member is expected to:
 - a. meet the County Commission's attendance requirement.
 - b. file financial disclosure when required.
 - c. stay current and participate on issues before the committee.
 - d. be self-reliant.

F. Board, Council or Committee Liaison Responsibilities

1. The board, council or committee liaison shall:
 - a. advertise vacancies.
 - b. track attendance.
 - c. maintain files.
 - d. interact with applicants and prepare appointment applications for the County Commission agenda.
 - e. advise new members of appointment.
 1. Provide information about the committee to new members.
 2. Schedule new member's attendance at the committee orientation.
 - f. assist with preparation and distribution of agendas and related documents.
 - g. ensure appropriate staff is involved to provide advice and guidance as needed.
 - h. record meetings.
 - i. prepare summary minutes in the absence of different Pinellas County standards.

G. Email

1. Use of personal emails, texts or social media for official county business is prohibited, except when communicating directly with county staff or officials on the Pinellas County email system.

2. Personal emails, texts or social media cannot be used to communicate with fellow committee members about public business in which foreseeable action may be taken by that committee.

H. Voting

1. Pursuant to Section 286.012, Florida Statutes, all committee members, including the chair, are obligated to vote unless they have disclosed a conflict of interest.
 - a. Conflict of interest forms for committee members are kept by the board, council or committee liaison.
 - b. Committee members may not participate in any matter by attempting to influence a decision by oral or written communications whether made by the member or at the member's direction when the member has a conflict of interest.
2. Voting at a public meeting cannot be by secret ballot.
3. An affirmative vote of a simple majority shall constitute adoption of a motion, unless otherwise provided in the enabling legislation or authority.
4. A simple majority of the existing membership shall constitute a quorum, unless otherwise provided in the enabling legislation or authority.
5. A motion is not successful on a tie vote.

Section II – Board, Council or Committee Liaison

The board, council and committee liaison is the responsible department representative who provides support, but does not direct activities of the board, council or committee. The liaison shall:

A. Advertise a Vacancy

1. Identify that a vacancy exists or that a member's term will soon expire. Advertising may occur in advance of the term expiration to avoid a lapse in membership.
2. If an individual commissioner appoints or nominates the board, council or committee member, confer with that commissioner's office as to whether the advertising process herein should be utilized.
3. If the commissioner determines that the advertising process should not be used, the board council or committee liaison shall follow Section II – G.3. to G.8. requirements.
4. Examine the appropriate resolution or ordinance to determine any specific qualifications which must be met. Send a letter to the incumbent with notification of the term expiration, enclosing an application printed from the SharePoint site or providing a link to the online application.
5. Use the template provided on the county website to communicate the information to be advertised.

Vacancies are advertised on:

- Pinellas County website at:
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/boards/current-vacancies>
 - Pinellas County Facebook
 - Pinellas County Twitter
 - PCC-TV Community Bulletin Board
 - Pinellas County E-News
 - News Release
6. Facilitate late changes to advertisements.
 7. Ensure that the vacancy is advertised for three consecutive weeks, and then advertise as "Open until filled."
 8. When applications have been received and the posting is closed, notify Communications to remove the vacancy from the county website.
 9. If no qualified applications are received, the board, council or committee liaison shall communicate with either the Commission chair or the appointing chair to determine the need for additional advertising and recruitment efforts.

B. Track Appointments

1. Notify the board, council or committee member that the term is expiring, include an application to complete and return if still interested in serving.
2. Notify the board, council or committee member that the term limit has been met.

C. Track Attendance

1. Contact the member by email, telephone or other appropriate method when an attendance problem may be developing. Document the contact.
2. If attendance does not improve, send a letter by the committee chair or designee reminding the member of the attendance requirement, and that members who are unable to fulfill their commitment must resign.
3. If the member has not responded to the letter by the next regularly scheduled meeting, send an email or memo to the Board of County Commissioners chair requesting that the Board consider removal of the member due to poor attendance.
 - a. No agenda packet necessary.
 - b. Provide attendance records.
4. Send a letter advising the committee member of their removal after Board of County Commissioners' action.

D. Certificates of Appreciation

1. Certificates of Appreciation are sent to committee members:
 - a. when the term expires.
 - b. upon resignation from the committee.
 - c. when the member is not reappointed.
 - d. when a committee sunsets or is dissolved
 - i. Send letter advising member of sunset or dissolution.
2. Send completed text by email to the Board of County Commissioners chair's administrative assistant.
3. Return the printed and signed certificate to the board, council or committee liaison.

E. Manage Files

1. Retain copy of applications. Remind applicants that it is the applicant's responsibility to keep the information on the application current.
2. Retain copies of advertisements.
3. Retain copies of summary minutes.
4. Retain copies of all enabling legislation.
5. Board Records will maintain the agenda packet files to meet the requirement. However, if an applicant is deemed not qualified and not included in the agenda packet, all records as outlined above must be retained in the board, council or committee liaison's files for four years.

F. Assist in Filling Vacancies

1. Take calls from potential applicants.
 - a. Explain specific qualifications for the vacancy.
 - b. Send application printed from the SharePoint site.
2. Collect and review applications submitted for qualification including:
 - a. Conflicts of interest
 - b. Specific requirements
3. Prepare an agenda packet containing the following information:
 - a. Memo to Board of County Commissioners [refer to page 14] to include:
 - i. Motion, with the following information:
 - Length of term
 - Category being filled (if applicable)
 - A separate motion for each category of vacancy
 - The effective ending date of the term (wording should state “through” month and year)
 - Name of the applicant being recommended for appointment **only** when there is just one applicant per vacancy. It is not appropriate for staff to make recommendations regarding appointments.
 - ii. Include the name of the staff person who verified all pertinent and required information.
 - iii. Advise the Board of County Commissioners if an applicant has indicated a conflict of interest, giving them the opportunity to vote on whether to approve a waiver if that applicant is selected.
 - b. Applicant Appointment Worksheet [refer to page 15]
 - i. Attach as though page two of the memo.
 - ii. List the membership category(ies) indicating the number of vacancies, e.g., general membership (two vacancies).
 - iii. List the names of all qualified applicants for each vacancy.
 - iv. If applicants are qualified for more than one vacancy, list their name under each vacancy, and put an asterisk after their name denoting that they are qualified for multiple categories.
 - v. Identify whether an applicant is seeking reappointment by placing a **Y** or **N** in the reappointment column.
 - vi. Leave the comments column blank for the Commissioners’ use.
 - c. Committee Rosters
 - i. Print from the county website listing.
 - ii. Ensure online roster is up-to-date.
 - iii. To update a roster, make changes on printed copy, scan and send to Communications.
 - d. Application [refer to page 16]
 - i. Include new application for incumbent if member still wishes to serve and has not reached term limit.
 - ii. Include applications received in the past year after verification that applicants are still interested in serving.

- iii. Include applications received during the advertisement period.
- iv. **Remove home address, phone number and email address on a Youth Advisory Committee application.**
- e. Attendance Records
 - i. Include attendance records for the current year and previous year, current year first.
 - ii. Insert the number of meetings held that year.
 - iii. Record attendance rates as percentages.
 - iv. Use **X** for present; **A** for absent; **C** for meeting cancelled, **M** for a medical leave of absence.
 - v. Do not add or change categories.
- 4. Work with the agenda coordinator to schedule vacancy appointments on a Board of County Commissioners agenda:
 - a. Schedule as a *Consent* item when there is only one qualified applicant per vacancy.
 - b. Schedule as a *Discussion* item when there are multiple applicants for a vacancy(ies).
- 5. Notify applicants by telephone, email or mail of the date the agenda item is scheduled to be heard by the Board of County Commissioners.
- 6. Attend the Board meeting for the agenda item.
- 7. Send new board, council or committee member(s) a welcome letter and new member packet including:
 - a. Purpose
 - b. Meeting dates and times
 - c. Meeting locations
 - d. Attendance policy
 - e. Current roster
 - f. Minutes of last two board, council or committee meetings
 - g. A copy of the *Rules of Procedures* for board, council or committee member(s)
 - h. Any other information deemed beneficial
- 8. Follow up with an email or telephone call to new member(s) offering assistance
- 9. Update the website roster by sending Communications the new information within ten days of Board of County Commissioners' action.
- 10. Send letters to applicants not selected.
 - a. Include lists of volunteer opportunities.
 - i. Lists are available from Human Resources volunteer coordinator.

G. Respond to all Inquiries about board, council or committee positions

1. Send an application to be completed and returned even if there are no vacancies.
2. Determine immediately upon receipt of the application whether the minimum membership requirements have been met.
3. If applicant is not qualified, advise the applicant in writing.
4. When a vacancy occurs, contact all applicants on file to confirm continued interest.
5. Keep applications on file for a period of one year, to be considered when vacancies occur.
6. Retain all records, including but not limited to applications, letters of recommendation, other related correspondence and supporting documentation in liaison's files for four years, if an applicant is deemed not qualified and not included in the agenda packet for a BCC meeting.

H. Handle Medical Leave of Absence

1. Members may request a medical leave of absence in writing to the committee chair to include:
 - a. Reason for request.
 - b. Length of time needed (not to exceed 90 consecutive days per term).
2. The committee chair considers requests on a case-by-case basis.

I. Properly Notice Meetings

1. Properly advertise
 - a. Send notifications to Business Technology Services and Communications to update advertisements.
 - b. Access the shared committee file and provide the following information:
 - i. Name of board, council or committee
 - ii. Number of vacancies
 - iii. Purpose
 - iv. Requirements
 - v. Terms
 - vi. Date and time of meeting
 - vii. Room, floor, building, street address, city
 - viii. Contact name, email address and telephone number
 - c. For agencies which cannot access the shared file, send meeting notices to Communications via email. Information will be included on the County Calendar.

- d. Other meetings
 - i. If two or more members of a committee are present at a meeting and will discuss matters which will likely come before them, the meeting must be advertised.
 - ii. If committee members are only going to a meeting as attendees and will not be participating in the discussion (other than asking questions of the panel or moderator), the meeting does not have to be advertised.
2. Agendas
 - a. Assist with preparation of an agenda.
 - b. Send a copy of the agenda electronically to Business Technology Services.
Subject line of email should read:
BOARD, COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE AGENDA
3. Minutes
 - a. Record meetings.
 - b. Retain official minutes to comply with state law.
 - c. Prepare summary minutes.
 - i. Send a copy of the approved minutes electronically to Business Technology Services
 - ii. Subject line of email should read:
BOARD, COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE MINUTES
 - d. Send one printed copy to Board Records to be filed.
4. Open-to-the-Public Requirement
 - a. Ensure that all meetings allow a minimum of one-half hour for public comment (Open-to-the-Public) for individuals other than committee members.
 - b. Allot three minutes to each individual to address the committee.
5. Schedule of Meetings
 - a. Maintain a list of regularly scheduled meetings.
 - b. Update list annually.

J. Schedule Orientations

1. Schedule a new member's attendance at a regularly scheduled Committee Orientation within six months of appointment.
 - a. Contact Board of County Commissioners for schedule of classes.
 - b. Advise County Attorney's representative when scheduling a committee member's attendance.
2. Orientation includes the following information:
 - a. Florida Sunshine Law
 - b. Public Records Law
 - c. Code of Ethics for public representatives
 - Conflict of interest and parliamentary procedures
3. Committee liaisons are encouraged to attend orientation sessions to become familiar with laws and requirements.

K. Maintain Website

1. Provide Business Technology Services and Communications with information to keep website listings up-to-date.
2. Reflect action taken by the Board of County Commissioners on the website within ten business days following the Board of County Commissioners' meeting at which the action was taken.
3. Keep the following information current:
 - a. Addition and deletion of members
 - b. Initial appointment date
 - c. Term expiration date
 - d. Committee liaison contact information
 - e. Any change to enabling legislation

Section III – Board, Council or Committee Vacancies

Advertising a Vacancy

The board, council and committee liaison is the responsible department representative who provides support, but does not direct activities of the board, council or committee.

1. Identify that a vacancy exists or that a member's term will soon expire. Advertising may occur in advance of the term expiration to avoid a lapse in membership.
2. If an individual commissioner appoints or nominates the board, council or committee member, confer with that commissioner's office as to whether the advertising process herein should be utilized.
3. If the commissioner determines that the advertising process should not be used, the board council or committee liaison shall follow Section II – G.3. to G.8. requirements.
4. Examine the appropriate resolution or ordinance to determine any specific qualifications which must be met. Send a letter to the incumbent with notification of the term expiration, enclosing an application printed from the SharePoint site or providing a link to the online application.
5. Use the template provided on the county website to communicate the information to be advertised.

Vacancies are advertised on:

- Pinellas County website at:
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/boards/current-vacancies>
 - Pinellas County Facebook
 - Pinellas County Twitter
 - PCC-TV Community Bulletin Board
 - Pinellas County E-News
 - News Release
6. Late changes to advertisements are the responsibility of the board, council or committee liaison.
 7. Ensure that the vacancy is advertised for three consecutive weeks, and then advertise as "Open until filled."
 8. When applications have been received and the posting is closed, notify Communications to remove the vacancy from the county website.
 9. If no qualified applications are received, the board, council or committee liaison shall communicate with either the commission chair or the appointing chair to determine the need for additional advertising and recruitments efforts.



PINELLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

(727) 464-3377 • FAX (727) 464-3022 • 315 COURT STREET • CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33756

TO: Pinellas County Commissioners

FROM: Commissioner

DATE: (Month Day, Year)

SUBJECT: Appointments to (Name of board, council or committee)

Recommended Motion(s) or Action(s):

See Exhibit X for motions

Summary:

Due to the (term expiration or resignation) of (name), (#) vacancies exist on the (name of board, council or committee).

Vacancies were advertised soliciting interested citizens for appointment. Applicants are listed on the attached Applicant Appointment Worksheet. (Unfilled positions will continue to be advertised until filled.)

The individual(s) listed is/are qualified to in accordance with the governing document.

Attachments: Applicant Appointment Worksheet
Committee Roster
Application

Boards, Councils and Committees Application

This application applies to citizens that are appointed to boards, councils or committees under the purview of the Board of County Commissioners by individual county commissioners or the County Commission as a whole.

Please read the **Important Information** section at the end of this application. If you agree to the terms, you may fill out the form electronically, print the hard copy form and submit with your signature and date. You may also submit by email.

I am applying for membership on the _____ .
(If applicable, refer to qualifications.)

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Home Fax: _____

Home Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Are you currently a Pinellas County resident? Yes___ No___ If yes, for how long? _____

Are you registered to vote in Pinellas County? Yes___ No___

Gender: Male ___ Female ___

Occupation: _____

Title: _____

Name of Business: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Business Fax: _____

Business Email: _____

- Are you currently serving on any Pinellas County boards, councils or committees?
Yes ___ No ___ If yes, please name:
- How did you hear about this vacancy?
- Please state your background, including your education and work experience; explain how this applies to the function of the board, council or committee:
- List any of your professional credentials, licenses or certificates that would be useful:
- List any membership(s) in civic or community organizations:
- Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Pinellas County? Yes ___ No___ If yes, please explain:
- Why do you want to serve on this board, council or committee?
- Do you serve on any state, regional or local government boards, councils or committees?
If yes, please list:

The Pinellas County Commission strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting accommodation, please indicate below:

Important Information

Be advised that:

1. Membership on certain boards, councils or committees may have specific membership requirements, require an invoice of financial disclosure and/or require the submission of other information.
2. This application form, when completed and filed with Pinellas County, is a [public record under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes](#) and is open to public inspection.
3. Resumes may be included, but the application **must** be completed in order to be considered. You may use additional pages if necessary. The applicant is responsible for keeping the information on the application current.

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Pinellas County board, council or committee.

By clicking and submitting by email you have electronically signed this application and confirmed that the information provided is true and factual. If printing and mailing, please sign and date the application.

Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for your interest in serving on a board, council or committee for Pinellas County government. All board, council and committee meetings are open to the public. You are encouraged to attend a meeting to learn more about the duties of a member or the work of the board, council or committee in which you are interested.

If you have any questions regarding the completion and submission of this application or the duties and scope of responsibilities of the specific board, council or committee in which you are interested, contact the staff representative mentioned in the advertisement or listed in the committee listing.

Section IV – Board, Council and Committee Listings

The membership of the following Boards, Councils and Committees includes citizens appointed by the BCC, and the Boards, Councils or Committees are under the purview of the Board of County Commissioners.				
Board (subject to procedures)	BCC Appoints	Individual Commissioner Nominates/ BCC Appoints	Individual Commissioner Appoints	Other
Affordable Housing Committee (11 members)	X			
Board of Adjustment (7 members)		X		
Building Board of Examining, Adjustments and Appeals (7 members)		X		
Educational Facilities Authority (5 members)	X			
Electrical Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals (7 members)		X		
Gas Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals (7 members)		X		
Health Facilities Authority (5 members)	X			
Historical Commission (9 members; 7 appointed by individual commissioners)			X	
Historic Preservation Board (9 members; 7 nominated by individual commissioners, 2 at-large appointments)		X		
Housing Finance Authority (5 members)	X			
Local Planning Agency (7 members)		X		
Parks & Conservation Resources Board (8 members; 7 nominated by individual commissioners)		X		
Plumbing and Mechanical Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals (7 members)		X		
Pre-Qualification Committee (3 members; appointed by Admin, confirmed by BCC)				X
Swimming Pool Board for Examining, Adjustments and Appeals (7 members)		X		
Tourist Development Council (12 members; 5 elected officials, 7 tourist industry members)	X			
Unified Personnel Board (7 members; BCC appoints 2)	X			
Youth Advisory Committee (15 members)	X			

The following boards, councils and committees are: 1) independent; or 2) county members are either elected officials, government staff, subject matter experts/professionals, or have to meet specified qualifications to serve; or 3) are not appointed by the BCC, and therefore are not subject to procedures.

Affirmative Action Committee	Pinellas County Community Foundation
Area Agency on Aging Pasco-Pinellas, Inc.	Pinellas County Economic Development Council
Business Technology Services Board	Pinellas County Law Library
Charter Review Commission	Pinellas County Public Employees Relations Committee
Construction Licensing Board	Pinellas Opportunity Council
Disaster Advisory Committee	Pinellas Park Water Management District
East Lake Community Library Advisory Board, Inc.	Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.
Election Canvassing Board	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Emergency Medical Services Authority	Prescription Drug Advisory Board
Feathersound Community Services District, Inc.	Public Safety Coordinating Council
Fire Protection Authority	Sheriff's Civil Service Board
Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc.	Solid Waste Technical Management Committee
Greater Seminole Area Special Recreation District	Substance Abuse Advisory Board
Health & Human Services Coordinating Council	Suncoast Health Council
Historical Preservation Advisory Board	Tampa Bay Area Regional Planning Council
Industrial Development Authority d/b/a the Economic Development Authority	Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority
Juvenile Welfare Board	Tampa Bay Estuary Program
License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes	Tampa Bay Partnership
Medical Control Board	Tampa Bay Water
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	Value Adjustment Board
Noise Abatement Task Force	Worknet Pinellas Board
Palm Harbor Community Services Agency, Inc.	

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