



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 22-1250A, **Version:** 1

Subject:

Proposed ratification of initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Matthew and Ashley Isel (injunctive relief).

Recommended Action:

Ratification of the Chair's approval of authority to initiate litigation against Matthew and Ashley Isel.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Summary:

Matthew and Ashley Isel own and reside at 850 Seaview Drive in Crystal Beach. Their property abuts a County-owned property which includes Lake Chautauqua. Both properties contain mangroves. On July 5, 2022, the Isels offered the County sixty days (ending September 3) to seek injunctive relief before they trim mangroves on Lake Chautauqua. Staff objects to the mangroves being trimmed.

Pinellas County has been delegated authority by the State of Florida to administer the State Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act. Due to the deadline imposed by the Isels, approval to initiate litigation from the Board of County Commissioner's Chair was sought pursuant to Resolution No. 21-23. This authority included seeking relief from any other defendants determined to be necessary to obtain resolution of this matter.

Background Information:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

Unknown.

Staff Member Responsible:

Jewel White, County Attorney

Christy Donovan Pemberton, Managing Assistant County Attorney

Partners:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A