

ORDINANCE NO. 22 - 28

AN ORDINANCE OF PINELLAS COUNTY AMENDING THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE SECTION 38-66 TO PROVIDE FOR A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.387, FLORIDA STATUTES; REDUCING THE INCREMENT FROM 95% TO 50% OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BASE YEAR AND THE CURRENT TAX YEAR; MAKING OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EDITS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Safety Harbor has requested (1) to extend the current timeline of the Safety Harbor Community Redevelopment Area for an additional 10 years (to 2032); (2) to extend the associated Redevelopment Trust Fund, also for 10 years and (3) has requested review and approval of a revised CRA Plan; and

WHEREAS, the current Redevelopment Trust Fund will expire on October 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the necessary approvals and processes as set out in F.S. Chapter 163, Part III to enact these changes may require premature actions by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of the Safety Harbor CRA and its continued existence; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that an extension of the current CRA Redevelopment Trust Fund for one year is necessary to prevent expiration until such time that all requests by the City of Safety Harbor have been reviewed and acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, ON THIS 16TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2022, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1: Intent and Purpose.

This ordinance is intended to provide a one-year extension of the Redevelopment Trust Fund of the City of Safety Harbor to prevent expiration of the Redevelopment Trust Fund and “re-setting” of the base year from 1992. This extension is provided to ensure that the Board of County Commissioners has sufficient time to fully consider the requests of the City of Safety Harbor to extend the current CRA timeline and Redevelopment Trust Fund for 10 years.

Section 2: Section 38-69 of the Pinellas County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 38-66. - City of Safety Harbor.

(a) The creation of the redevelopment trust fund by the City of Safety Harbor, Florida, is hereby approved.

(b) The county shall annually pay into the fund approved in this section a sum equal to the increment in the income, process, revenues and funds of the county derived from, or held in connection with, the community redevelopment project area, for the use of the community redevelopment agency of the City of Safety Harbor in its undertaking and carrying out of the community redevelopment project plan. The increment shall be determined and appropriated annually and shall be that amount equal to 50 percent of the difference between:

(1) The amount of ad valorem taxes levied each year by or for the county, exclusive of any amount from debt service millage, on taxable real property contained within the geographic boundaries of the redevelopment area (the “current year”); and

(2) The amount of ad valorem taxes which would have been produced by the rate upon which the tax is levied each year by or for the county, exclusive of any debt service millage, upon the total of the assessed value of the taxable real property in the redevelopment area as shown upon the most recent assessment roll used in connection with the taxation of such property by each such taxing authority prior to the effective date of Ordinance No. 92-24 of the City of Safety Harbor providing for the funding redevelopment trust fund described above (the “base year”).

In calculating the increment, the amount of the ad valorem taxes levied based on the countywide debt service on county bonds shall be totally excluded from the calculation. All increments in this amount shall continue to be used for its voter-approved purpose and shall not be appropriated in any part to the fund. Any adjustments made in the appropriation will be based upon the final extended tax roll.

(c) The county shall annually pay to the fund the tax increment due the fund on January 1 of each taxable year. The county's obligation to annually appropriate to the fund on or before October 1 of each year shall commence immediately upon the effective date of this section and continue until all loans, advances and indebtedness incurred as a result of the community redevelopment project have been paid, which period shall end on October 6, 2023 unless subsequently extended. Nothing in this section, however, shall require the City of Safety Harbor or the City of Safety Harbor's community redevelopment agency to issue bonds or incur loans or other indebtedness as a condition precedent to the county depositing into the fund the amounts set forth in subsection (b) of this section. In no year shall the county's obligation to the fund exceed the amount of that year's tax increment as determined in subsection (b) of this section. Beginning in 2022, no new sale of bond or indebtedness supported by the county's tax increment may occur nor may existing indebtedness so supported be refunded without prior approval of the board of county commissioners. The county's increment contributions are to be accounted for as separate revenue within the fund but may be combined with other revenues for the purpose of paying debt service.

(d) Copies of reports of audits required by F.S. § 163.387(8) shall be provided to the board of county commissioners each fiscal year.

Section 3. 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 4. Inclusion in Code.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall be included and incorporated in the Pinellas County Code, as an amendment thereto, and shall be appropriately renumbered to conform to the uniform numbering system of the Pinellas County Code

Section 5. Filing of Ordinance; Effective Date.

Pursuant to Section 125.66, Florida Statutes, 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 with the Department of State.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: Amanda S. Coffey

Office of the County Attorney