

From: [Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller](#) on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
To: [Comments, BCC Agenda](#)
Date: Friday, February 19, 2021 4:45:40 PM

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Live Form

Topic	Items 36 through 39
BCC Agenda Date	2-23-2021
Your Stand on the Issue	Undecided
Comments	I would like to relate the existence of an abandoned residential property on my street (unincorporated area) to items 36 through 39.
Citizen Name	William Moravec
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From: [Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller](mailto:noreply@mypinellasclerk.org) on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
To: [Comments, BCC Agenda](#)
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:31:05 AM

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Topic Hazardous and unsafe properties
BCC Agenda Date 2-23-2021
Your Stand on the Issue

Comments

I registered to speak via Zoom, but a reaction to a recent Covid vaccination makes me doubt my ability to participate. Thank you for the opportunity to send my concerns in writing. I would like to use a personal situation as background for commenting on Agenda Items 36-39. I live next door to a residential property that has been abandoned since the owner died in March, 2015. The property is in estate, but the owners have done nothing to maintain it, other than occasionally cut the grass. I have contacted Code Enforcement, as well as Commissioner Gerard, to discuss its hazards and violations. I have also written to the estate, using the address on the Property Appraiser's website. That letter was returned to me, unable to be delivered. Items 36 and 37 propose a cap of \$20,000 on existing liens against single-family residences. That may be appropriate if there is evidence of extenuating circumstances or inability to pay. However, if a property's owners cannot be contacted, they cannot provide such evidence, and extenuating circumstances should not be assumed. Capping existing liens at \$20,000, when most properties have a much higher value, would set a precedent for repeated partial forgiveness in the future, despite language to the contrary in both items. This would only prolong a situation that is detrimental to the community. Items 38 and 39 refer to expediting the process of addressing hazardous conditions and unsafe structures. That process begins with repair or rehabilitation of such structures and ends with their possible demolition. Whatever course is determined to be appropriate in a given case, I believe the housing official and the County Attorney should have complete freedom to act in the interest of communities affected by the presence of hazardous, unsafe structures. As I wrote to Commissioner Gerard, the house and lot next door to me present a number of hazards, and have done so for nearly six years. Neither this property nor any other in Pinellas County should be allowed to deteriorate for that long.

Owners should be held responsible for a property's upkeep. If that is not feasible, the problems posed by their negligence should be solved as quickly as possible, without the owners' input, if necessary.

Citizen Name

William Moravec

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