



## Pinellas County Office of Human Rights

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Clearwater, FL 33756  
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To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: County Administrator Burton

CC: Jewel White, County Attorney

From: Paul Valenti, Director of Human Rights

Date: September 30, 2019

**Re: Proposed Amendments to Wage Theft/Recovery Ordinance**

Pinellas County's Wage Theft/Recovery Ordinance<sup>1</sup> was adopted on November 10, 2015. Since its effective date of January 1, 2016, approximately \$350,000.00 in unpaid wages have been recovered and paid to employees for uncompensated work performed.

When adopted, the Board of County Commissioners requested staff from Pinellas County's Office of Human Rights return with suggested revisions to the ordinance as gleaned through its administration, and these amendments were adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in January of 2019.

At present, the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights enforces the City of St. Petersburg's Wage Theft Ordinance pursuant to an inter-local agreement. Adoption of the proposed amendments to Pinellas County's Wage Theft/Recovery Ordinance would incorporate provisions relating to notices to be provided to employees identifying their employer, and the agreed upon rate of pay/manner of compensation, and require posting of rights under the ordinance for the benefit of employees. Inclusion of these provisions would render Pinellas County's Wage Theft/Recovery Ordinance substantially similar to the City of St. Petersburg's Wage Theft Ordinance. This, in turn, may allow the City of St. Petersburg to repeal their ordinance, leaving in place one county-wide ordinance to be enforced by the Pinellas County Office of Human Rights.

I remain available at (727) 464-4880 to answer any questions you may have.

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<sup>1</sup> Codified as Article IV, Chapter 70, of the Pinellas County Codes relating to Human Relations.