

RESOLUTION NO. 22-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE BRIDGE LIGHTING SEQUENCE REQUESTS FOR THE SUNSHINE SKYWAY BRIDGE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (Skyway Bridge) is a part of the state and federal highway system that spans Tampa Bay, with its northern terminus located in Pinellas County, its southern terminus located in Manatee County, and a portion of the bridge also located within Hillsborough County; and

WHEREAS, the bridge is an asset of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), which recognizes that a bridge asset can be lit in a manner to brighten the everyday lives of residents and visitors by displaying lighting sequences to recognize or commemorate federal or state holidays and events of broad community interest and significance; and

WHEREAS, while the FDOT reserves the right to decide bridge lighting displays and refuse those it deems offensive or not in the best public interest, it is also the policy of FDOT to seek and obtain the approval of local governments within which bridges are located prior to lighting the bridge in such a manner; and

WHEREAS, since the Skyway Bridge traverses Pinellas County, FDOT routinely seeks the approval of Pinellas County in deciding bridge lighting sequences for the Skyway Bridge and now seeks to have such approval accomplished by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners (Board); and

WHEREAS, formal action of the Board, including adoption of resolutions, cannot be accomplished outside of a properly noticed meeting that complies with Florida's sunshine laws; and

WHEREAS, given the time frame within which most, if not all, Skyway Bridge lighting requests are made, coupled with the meeting schedule of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and its agenda deadlines for such meetings, formal resolutions of the Board are not possible in most, if not all, instances.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida, at a duly assembled meeting held on this 12th day of April, 2022, as follows:

Section 1. The Board desires to enable a process whereby Pinellas County may approve requests for bridge lighting sequences in a timely manner to provide for the special lighting sequences for residents and visitors.

Section 2. In order to meet the tight deadlines to express such approval, the Board delegates authority to its Chair, or in the absence of the Chair, its Vice Chair, to express approval for such lighting sequences for the Skyway Bridge.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

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

Ayes: Justice, Long, Eggers, Flowers, Gerard, Peters, and Seel.

Nays: None.

Absent not voting: None.

Approved as to form, Jewel White, County Attorney