

ORDINANCE NO. 19- _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF PINELLAS AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V OF THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE (“CODE”) RELATING TO COMPETITIVE PURCHASES; AMENDING SECTION 2-165 OF THE CODE RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR AREAS EMBRACED; AND PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE PINELLAS COUNTY CODE.

WHEREAS, Small businesses make up 95% of all business establishments in Pinellas County and employ half of all workers; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses contribute to the unique community identity, including through sponsorship of community activities and donations to charitable causes and non-profits providing services beneficial to Pinellas County’s community; and

WHEREAS, County purchases from small and local businesses result in benefits to the local economy when firms hire area residents and purchase supplies from other local vendors; and

WHEREAS, the County endorses the utilization of small business in the procurement of goods and services for the County, and endorses a program and procedures fostering utilization; and

WHEREAS, these increases in local economic activity generate more local tax dollars, which in turn allow the County to continue to provide services to the citizens of Pinellas County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida that:

Section 1. Section 2-165 of the Pinellas County Code is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-165. - ~~Affirmative assistance to small and disadvantaged businesses.~~ Small Business Enterprises

~~The board of county commissioners recognizes that the county's growth and prosperity depends on the full participation of all its citizens, and is firmly committed to the principles of equal opportunity, recognizes the need and is desirous of improving the opportunities and participation of minority and female-owned businesses. The county endorses the utilization of minority and female-owned businesses in the purchasing of goods and services for the county whenever possible and shall establish, through an affirmative program, procedures fostering utilization.~~

In order to increase the impact of County purchases on the growth and prosperity of the Pinellas County community, the Director is authorized to develop and implement programs to increase the access and participation of regional small businesses. A program established pursuant to this provision may depart from otherwise applicable provisions governing bidder eligibility and contract award, provided that such departures are related to the goals of maximizing small business participation, ensuring County expenditures are retained within a defined region, and promoting economic development in Pinellas County.

Section 2. 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, to the extent practicable.

Section 3. Filing of Ordinance: Effective Date.

Pursuant to Section 125.66(2), 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 of the Ordinance with the Department of State.

Section 4. Areas Embraced.

This Ordinance shall be in effect in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Pinellas County.

Section 5. Codification.

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Pinellas County Code; and that the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered, and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section”, “article”, or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intentions.