

RESOLUTION 22-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE CONDITION OF PRIVATE SEWER LATERALS AND COLLECTION SYSTEMS AND REDUCE RELATED IMPACTS TO THE COUNTY SEWER SYSTEM ; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Pinellas County owns and operates wastewater facilities and related collection, transmission, and treatment infrastructure (“System”); and

WHEREAS, in addition to maintaining the System, the Board of County Commissioners also establishes policies governing the use of the System for the purpose of maintaining efficient, economic and safe operation of the System and for the protection of the health, safety and general welfare of the public within Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the Pinellas County Code currently provides, among other provisions, that a purpose of the regulations and requirements currently codified is to prevent and abate pollution through the regulation and control of connections to the county sewer system and to limit the use of the sewer system to the collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of wastewater through appropriate regulation and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect the environment from biological, nutrient, and other types of contaminants, as well as to ensure that financial investment in the System is accurately guided so that rate-payer funds are applied to create an appropriately engineered and functioning System, policies and programs are needed to address the various contributing factors that may cause inappropriate discharges to the System, or to increase the risk of sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) and the potential for regulatory action connected therewith; and

WHEREAS, the risk for adverse impacts to the System as well as of the occurrence of SSOs is increased when stormwater, groundwater or other inappropriate sources of discharge enter the sewer infrastructure, collectively referred to as Inflow and Infiltration (I&I); and

WHEREAS, a known source of I&I exists in portions of private plumbing infrastructure, in particular the portions of private plumbing that transmit wastewater from a building collection system to the System (Sewer Lateral), when Sewer Laterals through causes including material degradation, damage, and age begin to admit unintended discharges; and

WHEREAS, private Sewer Laterals belong to the property owner and are not County-owned infrastructure, but they are connected to and have a significant influence on County owned infrastructure by conveying material into the System; and

WHEREAS, similar issues are presented by privately owned collection systems (Private Systems) that connect to the County System; and

WHEREAS, the Board therefore finds that a public purpose is served by eliminating the risk, to the extent possible, that a defective private Sewer Lateral or Private System can contribute I&I to the System, which could result in SSOs or other burdens and expenses that would become a burden to the rate-payers of the System; and

WHEREAS, it is not only in the best interests of the environment and the residents of Pinellas County that private Sewer Laterals and Private Systems are maintained in a state of good working order, but the Board has already established minimum housing standards that require the maintenance in good repair of private plumbing conveyances, including Sewer Laterals; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to additionally and proactively reduce the amount of I&I originating from defective private Sewer Laterals and Private Systems; and

WHEREAS, certain obstacles exist that make it difficult for home owners or other private property owners who may own a defective Sewer Lateral to make necessary repairs; and

WHEREAS, among those obstacles notice or knowledge of the defect is one, and the expense of making the repair is another; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that policies and programs that address these obstacles to private Sewer Lateral repair support the public purposes described herein; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the expense of needed repairs, which could be prohibitively high for some property owners, does not preclude the improvement of a defective Sewer Lateral that will otherwise continue to burden the System with I&I, the Board finds that funds may appropriately be budgeted and used to make rebates available to eligible property owners and implement the policies described incorporated and adopted by this resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, AT A DULY ASSEMBLED MEETING HELD ON THIS 22 DAY OF February, 2022, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Board makes the legislative findings stated above, which are incorporated herein, and accordingly determines that in furtherance of the public purposes identified, the County Administrator is authorized and directed to implement the Sewer Lateral and Private Systems Policies attached to and incorporated into this Resolution, as further described in Attachments 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Commissioner Long 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 AND NOT VOTING: None.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Miles Belknap
Office of the County Attorney