

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PINELLAS COUNTY

CODE OF ORDINANCES

The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners proposes to adopt the following Ordinance creating Article XIX of Chapter 58 entitled "Tree Protection," providing for tree protection, permitting, mitigation, and enforcement procedures.

A public hearing on the Ordinance will be held on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 9:30 A.M.** or as soon thereafter as may be accommodated by the completion of the rest of the Board agenda, in the Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida 33756. Members of the public wishing to address the body are encouraged to attend in person, but may also attend virtually utilizing Communications Media Technology (CMT) on the Zoom platform or provide comments in advance.

The County makes its best efforts to ensure that public hearings will be streamed live at <https://youtube.com/pcctv1> and <https://pinellas.gov/pinellas-county-connection-television-pcc-tv>, and broadcast on the Pinellas County cable public access channels:

Spectrum Channel 637 Frontier Channel 44 WOW! Channel 18

To address the County Commission in person, members of the public are encouraged to preregister at <https://comment.pinellas.gov>. Preregistration is encouraged but not required if individuals plan to attend the meeting at the Palm Room. Those who have not preregistered may register in person when they arrive.

Members of the public wishing to address the body virtually via Zoom or by phone are required to preregister by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting by visiting <https://comment.pinellas.gov>. The registration form requires full name, address and telephone number if joining by phone, along with the topic or agenda item to be addressed. Members of the public who cannot access the registration form via the internet may call (727) 464-3000 to request assistance preregistering. Only members of the public who have preregistered by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting will be recognized and unmuted to offer comments. If a member of the public does not log in with the same Zoom name or phone number provided in the registration form, they may not be recognized to speak. In person appearances for comment, or advance comments as noted below, are preferred. The County will use its best efforts to facilitate virtual comment, but citizens using technology to comment virtually are cautioned that this mechanism is being offered by the County as a courtesy and the County does not guarantee the proper functioning of technology involved.

Members of the public wishing to provide comments in advance may call the Agenda Comment Line at (727) 464-4400 or complete the online comment form <https://www.mypinellasclerk.gov/Home/Finance#127688-bcc-meetings>. Comments on any agenda item must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting.

Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may provide public input on any agenda item through use of the State of Florida's relay service at 7-1-1 or for more information see <https://www.ftri.org/relay/faqs>.

All comments on any agenda item received by 5:00 P.M. the day before the meeting will be included as part of the official record for this meeting and will be available to be considered by the County Commission prior to any action taken.

The agenda for this meeting and information about participation options can be found at <https://pinellas.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>.

Interested parties may appear at the hearing or use one of the other methods above to be heard regarding the proposed Ordinance:

A. PROPOSED ORDINANCE:

CHAPTER 58, ARTICLE XIX – TREE PROTECTION

PROVIDING FOR TREE PROTECTION, PERMITTING, AND MITIGATION; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN CHAPTER 58 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

In review of the Ordinance above, there may be modifications that arise at the public hearing and/or with other responsible parties. Certain matters heard by the Board of County Commissioners are quasi-judicial in nature. Please note that only competent, substantial, fact-based testimony or evidence may be considered by the boards in deciding the matters before them. Pure speculation or opinion, not based on competent facts, cannot be legally considered by the boards. Lay testimony with fact-based support (including but not limited to meeting minutes, surveys, engineering reports, etc.) may be considered competent and substantial evidence. Please note the County Attorney's Office represents and advises the Board and County staff but cannot give legal advice to the applicant or other interested parties.

The proposed Ordinance can be viewed at the Pinellas County Building & Development Review Services Department, Zoning Section, located at 440 Court Street, Fourth Floor, Clearwater, Florida 33756. Send comments to this email address, BDRSEnvGroup@pinellas.gov or call (727) 464-3888.

Persons are advised that if they decide to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WHO NEED REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING ARE ASKED TO CONTACT PINELLAS COUNTY'S OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY E-MAILING SUCH REQUESTS TO ACCOMODATIONS@PINELLAS.GOV AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEED FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION. YOU MAY ALSO CALL (727) 464-4882 (VOICE) OR (727) 464-4062 (TDD). MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADA, AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION, MAY BE FOUND AT <https://pinellas.gov/americans-with-disabilities-act-public-accommodations/>.

KEN BURKE, CLERK TO
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
By: Derelynn Revie, Deputy Clerk