CODE ENFORCEMENT



BDRS – Code Enforcement Jude Reazin Division Manager

Housing Official







Provide relative information and examples of compliance timelines for code enforcement cases at each level of the enforcement process.

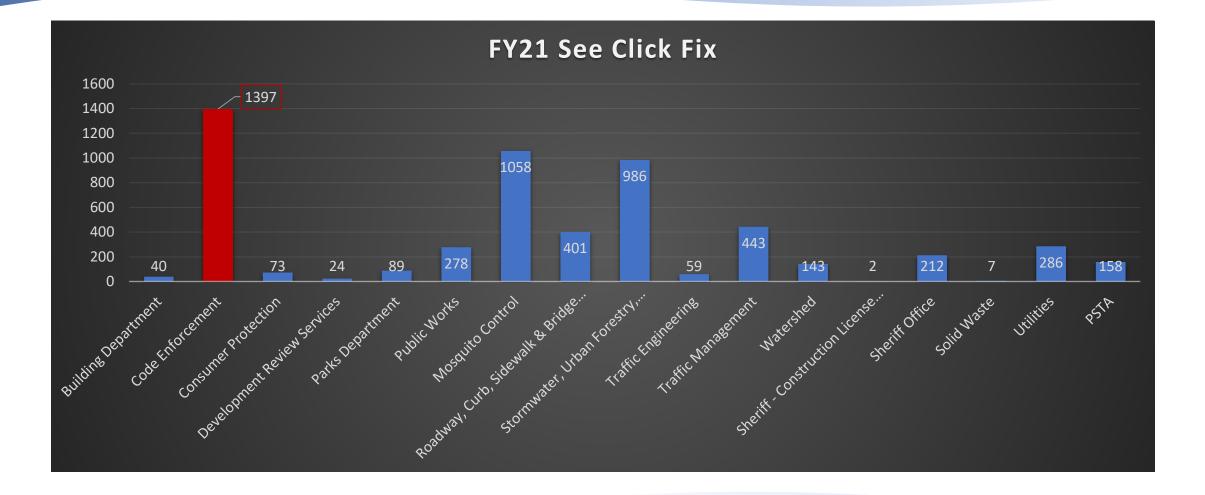
Demonstrate improvements in our process

Annual Statistics









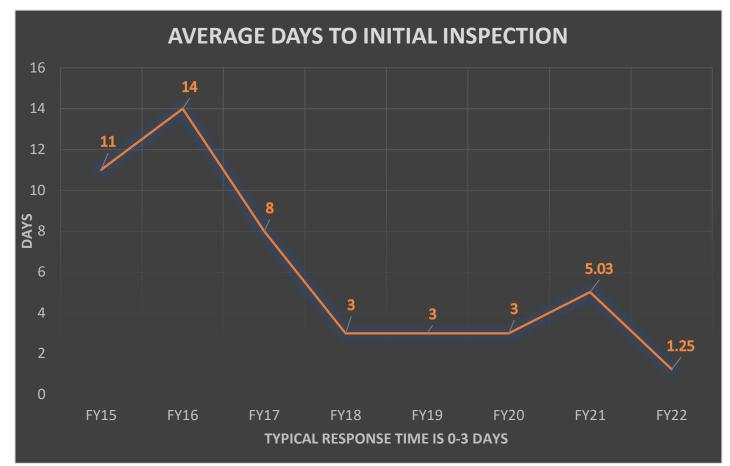
Our Vision: To Be the Standard for Public Service in America

Pinella: Count

Improved Response Times

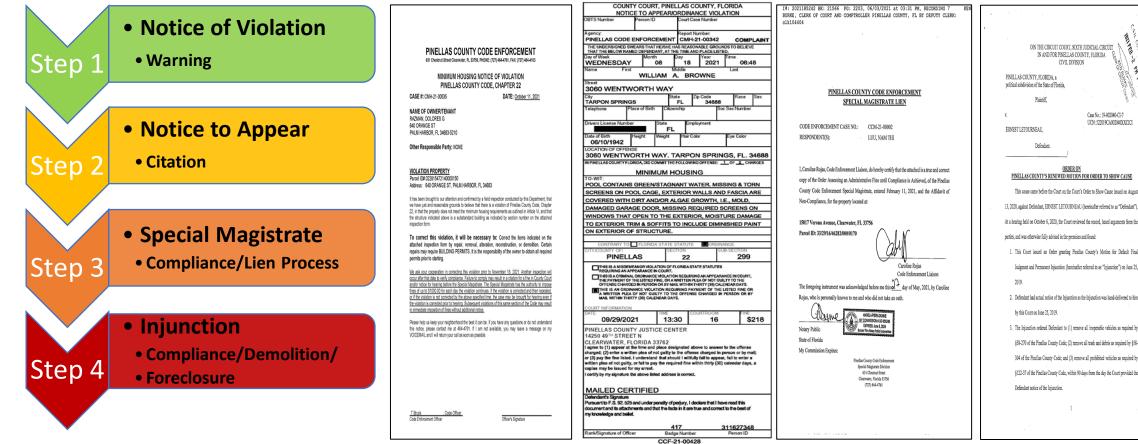


- Prior to FY14 approx. 30 days.
- From FY18 FY20 approx. 3 days.
 - Change in management structure
 - E-citation program
 - General Policies and Provisions



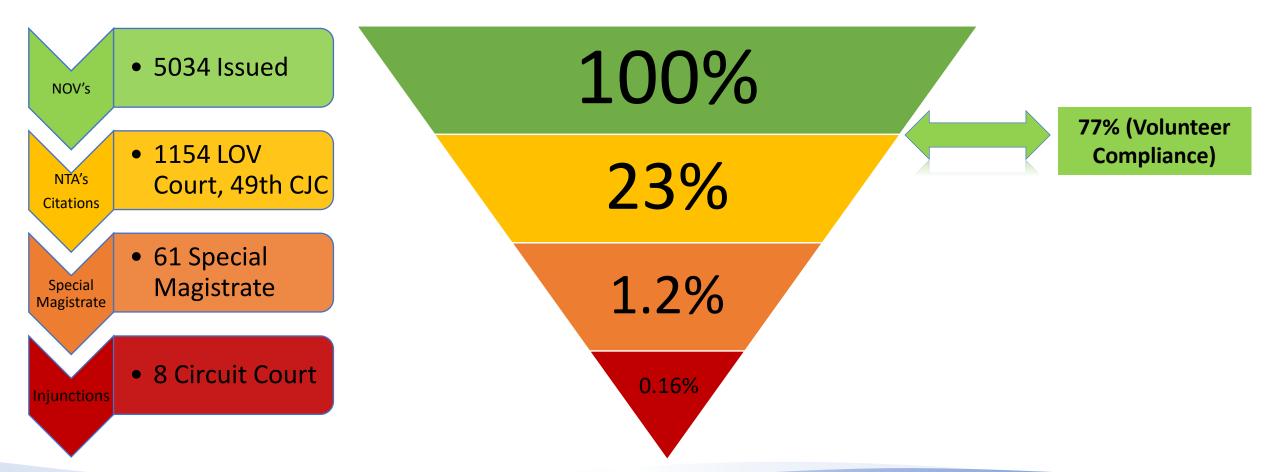
Levels of Enforcement





Revised 10/2014

FY20 Compliance Enforcement Stats



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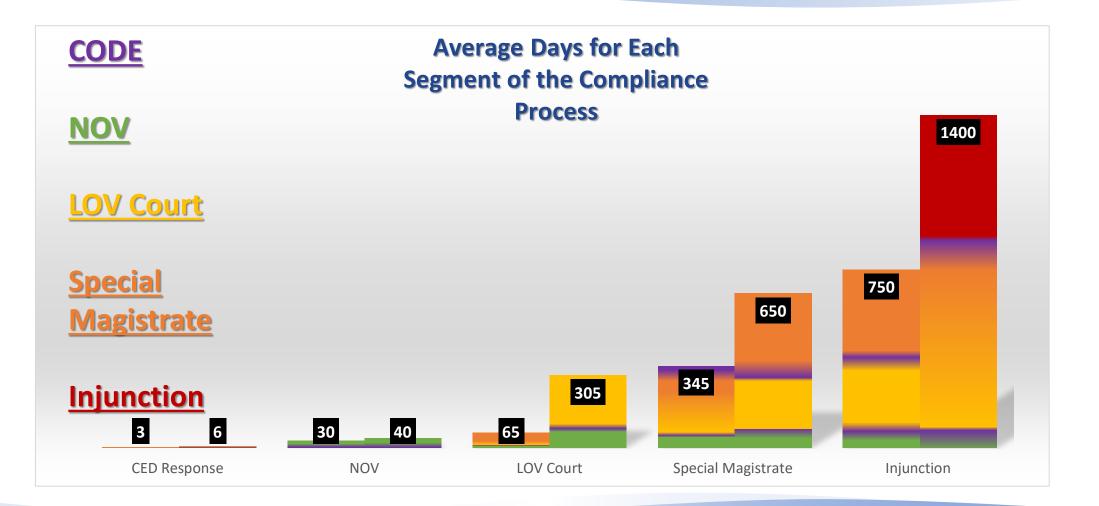
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Case Workflow





Enforcement Timeline (Approx. Days)



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Notice of Violation Timeline



- NOV's are issued in all cases
- NOV' typically allow a 7–30 day period to correct violations
- In some cases, there are extensions
- If the property is complied during the NOV phase, no fines are issued
- Most Compliance is Achieved
 During the NOV Process



Notice to Appear Timeline



- NTA's Issued at the expiration of the NOV without compliance
- NTA process includes:
 - Arraignment 35 days
 +
 - Pre-trial 30 days
 - Continuance(s) 90-180 days
 - Trial 30 days
- NTA's are subject to the court scheduling and fines



Special Magistrate Timeline



- Cases are typically referred to the Special Magistrate if LOV court is unsuccessful.
- Special Magistrate process includes:
 - Referral/Hearing 45 days
 +
 - Compliance Period 30-90 days
 +
 - Extension(s) 30-90 days
 - +

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- Lien 30 days
- Foreclosure Eligibility 90 days
- Homestead No Foreclosure
- Extensions and Compliance time is subject to the Magistrate discretion.



Injunction Timeline



- Injunction process includes:
 - CAO/ BCC Hearing 40 days +
 - Filed with Court 45 days
 +
 - Court Time 12-24
 Mos
- Extensions and Compliance time is subject to the Magistrate discretion.



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Foreclosure Process (Florida Statute 162)



Pursuant to Florida State Statute 162.

All Code Enforcement Entities must follow a standard process to achieve compliance To foreclose code enforcement liens on a property, the property (a) must not be homesteaded, and (b) must have outstanding, legally enforceable County liens.

- → The lien upon which the foreclosure is being initiated must be more than three (3) months old and less than 5 years and three (3) months old.
- → *note: there is persuasive authority that code enforcement liens can be foreclosed anytime within 20 years of recording.

Prior to foreclosing a Special Magistrate County lien, Code Enforcement must move the Special Magistrate to authorize the County Attorney (with the Board of County Commissioner's approval) to foreclose on the lien (or to sue to recover a money judgment for the amount of the lien, plus any accrued interest). Please Note: this cannot be done until the lien has been recorded for at least three (3) months, but once recorded, the lien can thereafter be foreclosed upon anytime within its twenty (20) year duration. See Fla. Stat. 162.09–10; City of Riviera Beach v. J & B Motel Corp., 213 So. 3d 1102 (Fla. 4th DCA 2017).

- → This must be noticed and heard just like a violation hearing. Get with your departmental attorney to get a form Motion and Order drafted.
- Once the Special Magistrate has signed an Order approving foreclosure, send the memorandum of request to County Attorney's Office, as well as all information required in section II in this guide regarding the subject property and the Special Magistrate's Order(s).

Foreclosure Process



Determine property and owner status (Codes)
 Foreclosure is not an option on homestead property
 Determine property ownership
 If owner is deceased and a probate case not opened in Pinellas, conduct an heir search

Determine lien status (Codes with CAO)
Lien must be a valid lien
Lien must be within the time foreclosure is authorized

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

Special Magistrate to authorize foreclosure (Codes)
Must provide property owner with notice and opportunity to be heard

Obtain ownership and encumbrance (title) search (Codes)
Have vendor conduct a title search to identify all persons/entities with interests in the property

•For deceased owners, must also have a heir search

•Send packet with liens, order authorizing foreclosure, title search, and heir search (if applicable) to the CAO (Codes)

•Request authority to foreclose from BCC (CAO) Step 6

Step 7

Step 8

Step 5

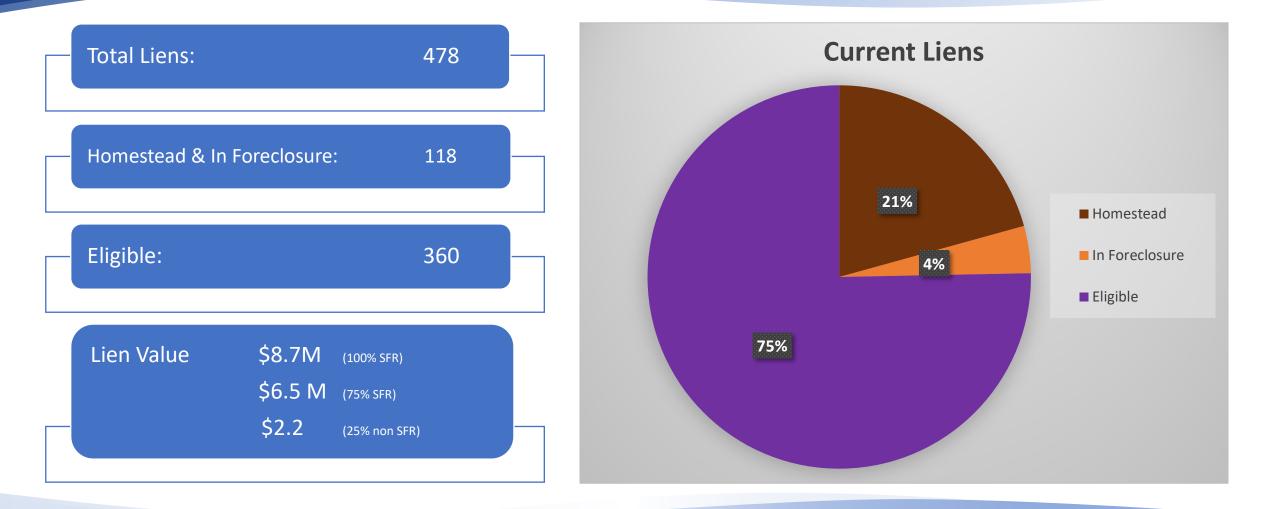
File Petition for Foreclosure and Lis Pendens (CAO)
Parties have 30 days to answer once service is effectuated
Timing of service depends upon ability to locate interested parties
Service by publication will slow process

•Litigate (CAO with Codes as necessary)

• Timing of litigation after service is influenced by responses, if any, of Defendants after service

Current Liens In Pinellas County





Other Municipalities



| | Pinellas County | Largo | St. Pete |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Lien Payment or Foreclosure | Х | X | Х |
| Force Sale at Auction | | Х | Х |
| Acquire & Manage Property | | | X (Neighborhood Stabilization Program) |
| Dispose of Property | | | X (Affordable Housing Lot Disposition Program) |
| Repurpose Funds | | X (Angel Fund) | Х |

Questions?

