RESOLUTION NO. 25-128

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, MAKING THE REQUIRED FINDINGS AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, LIBRARY DIVISION TO RECEIVE A STATE 2025-2026 PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRANT FOR THE EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY EXPANSION PROJECT.

WHEREAS, Pinellas County is submitting a construction grant application in order to receive a $500,000.00 grant and the state grant application process requires that the Board of County Commissioners approve the submittal of the application by resolution or ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("Board") intends to authorize the County Administrator to expedite any certifications and reporting documents required to obtain and expend these grant funds for the East Lake Community Library Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, the project will result in an expansion of the current County-owned library building from 8,900 square feet to 15,000 square feet of space, and provide better usage of the building for ad valorem supported library services and programs in the future, including enlarged Adult Services Department with expanded collections and increased seating; more workspace for staff, ensuring that each employee has access to a dedicated desk or cubicle to support productivity and collaboration; adding dedicated rooms for study, meetings, and quiet reading; a spacious new Children's Department with interactive activity centers and expanded collections; Expanded Community Room to host more events, programs, and larger audiences; an expanded computer lab and business center to support digital literacy and workforce development; a second programming room, primarily for children's programming, and to host simultaneous events; add a museum corner and exhibit space to showcase local history and culture; and build a spacious, enclosed Friends of the Library bookstore, enhancing fundraising and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the East Lake Library property and improvements are owned by Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the Board has available, and intends to utilize, such funds as necessary to match the grant request dollar-for-dollar and ensure the completion of the expansion; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the expansion, sufficient funds will be available to operate the East Lake Community Library, which is supported by a municipal services taxing unit levy for this specific purpose; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the expansion, the East Lake Library will continue to be used exclusively for public library purposes; and

WHEREAS, for the next twenty (20) years, any proposed change in use to the building from library purposes will be submitted to the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services for its approval; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida wishes to apply for the grant for the specified library project by submitting the required application to the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services; and

WHEREAS, these funds are necessary to accomplish the project for the citizens of Pinellas County served by the East Lake Community Library.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, at a duly-assembled meeting held on the 7th day of October, 2025, as follows:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby adopts the recitals set forth above and incorporates them as findings of fact in support of the submittal of the Public Library Construction Grant application.

Section 2. The County Administrator or his designee is authorized to sign the construction grant application and any necessary certifications consistent with the findings set forth herein, and further to expense such revenues in accordance with the Capital Improvement Program, County policies, and assurances and understandings contained in the application.

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 Eggers, and upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes: Scott, Eggers, Flowers, Nowicki, Peters, and Scherer.

Nays: None.

Absent and not voting: Latvala.

APPROVED AS TO FORM

By: *Donald S. Crowell*

Office of the County Attorney