



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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File #: 18-760A, Version: 1

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**Subject:**

Proposed initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Charlene Thomas-Smith - action to recover property damage costs.

**Recommended Action:**

Approval for the County Attorney to initiate litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Charlene Thomas-Smith.

**Strategic Plan:**

N/A

**Summary:**

This is a civil action to recover property damages sustained by Pinellas County arising from a motor vehicle accident. Ms. Thomas-Smith's car was observed speeding and driving recklessly and was later discovered by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office abandoned on Belcher Road after it had demolished a County traffic sign. It is the County's contention that Ms. Thomas-Smith is liable for the damages sustained by the County on the grounds that she was either driving the vehicle herself, allowed a permissive user to drive it, or negligently left the keys in the car allowing the vehicle to be stolen. In any of these circumstances, Ms. Thomas-Smith is liable for the damages incurred, which total approximately \$7,000.00.

**Background Information:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

N/A

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Jewel White, County Attorney  
John A. Powell, Jr., Sr. Assistant County Attorney

**Partners:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

N/A