



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 21-499A, **Version:** 1

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**Subject:**

Proposed ratification of initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Cortez Haugabook - action for protection of animals.

**Recommended Action:**

Ratification of the Chair's approval of authority for the County Attorney to initiate litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Cortez Haugabook.

**Strategic Plan:**

N/A

**Summary:**

On March 2, 2021, responding to a citizen complaint, Animal Control Officers discovered seven dogs being kept in two kennels in direct sunlight without shelter or water. Five of the dogs were in visible distress and two of the dogs were deceased. Pursuant to Florida law, the County is seeking custody of the animals, or alternatively court-ordered restrictions on the manner in which the owner can keep dogs in a non-cruel environment.

The County Attorney will bring additional claims against anyone subsequently claiming or determining to be the owner of the dogs at issue.

**Background Information:**

On March 9, 2021, the Chair authorized initiation of litigation to comply with statutory deadlines.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Unknown.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Jewel White, County Attorney

Christy Donovan Pemberton, Managing Assistant County Attorney

**Partners:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

N/A