



# Pinellas County

## Staff Report

---

**File #:** 21-1950A, **Version:** 1

---

**Subject:**

Proposed ratification of initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Max Eldon Wysong; County Court Case No. 21-007056-CO-41 - animal seizure.

**Recommended Action:**

Ratification of the Chair's approval of authority to initiate litigation against Max Eldon Wysong.

**Strategic Plan:**

N/A

**Summary:**

On September 16, 2021, an Animal Control Officer was granted permission to enter the defendant's home. Inside the home, they discovered ten living dogs which were cruelly kept in unsanitary conditions. The dogs were underweight and in poor physical condition and seized at that time. The unsanitary conditions in the home partly gave rise to the condemnation and subsequent injunction proceedings against the same defendant.

In accordance with Section 828.073, Florida Statutes, a petition must be filed in County Court within ten (10) days after an animal seizure. Due to the time restraints set by law, approval to initiate litigation from the Board of County Commissioner's Chair was sought pursuant to Resolution No. 21-23. Pinellas County has now filed an action to take custody and ownership of these dogs and to enjoin the defendant from owning animals or, in the alternative, for the Court to enter an Order to Provide Care for the dogs.

**Background Information:**

N/A

**Fiscal Impact:**

Unknown.

**Staff Member Responsible:**

Jewel White, County Attorney

Christy Donovan Pemberton, Managing Assistant County Attorney

**Partners:**

N/A

**Attachments:**

N/A