



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 18-760A, **Version:** 1

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