



Pinellas County

Staff Report

File #: 23-0608A, **Version:** 1

Subject:

Proposed ratification of initiation of litigation in the case of Pinellas County v. Brie Towers; County Civil Case No. 23-002564-CO - petition for custody of cruelly or neglectfully treated animals.

Recommended Action:

Ratification of the Chair's approval of authority to initiate litigation against Brie Towers.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Summary:

In June of 2022, following a complaint from the Tarpon Springs Police Department, Animal Services began performing welfare checks and counseling Brie Towers on caring for her two dogs. On March 28, 2023, one dog was found wandering on US 19 and brought to Animal Services by a citizen. The following day, while conducting a welfare check, Animal Services seized another dog. Both animals exhibited signs of neglect and demonstrated a need for medical care.

Due to the owner's inability to adequately care for the dogs, Animal Services requested litigation be initiated in accordance with Section 828.073, Florida Statutes. Pursuant to Resolution No. 21-23, Pinellas County has filed an action seeking custody and ownership of the dogs and to enjoin the respondent from owning animals.

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