

4.1.14 #15

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: James L. Bennett, County Attorney *JLB*

SUBJECT: Authority for County Attorney to Initiate Litigation in the Case of
Pinellas County, on Behalf of Pinellas County Animal Services v. Dorothy Yeakle
County Civil Case No. 14-001978-CO

DATE: April 1, 2014

RECOMMENDATION: I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO INITIATE
LITIGATION IN THE ABOVE-STYLED CASE.

DISCUSSION: This authorization will include bringing suit against all defendants that may be,
or become, necessary to fully litigate the claims.

In September 2013, Dorothy Yeakle owned 127 cats at her residence in St. Petersburg, Florida, which she subsequently surrendered to Pinellas County Animal Services. On or about February 25, 2014, Dorothy Yeakle owned at least 20 cats at the same residence and was cited by Pinellas County Animal Services for failure to license the cats, public nuisance - fouling of the air by odor, neglect - confinement without adequate shelter, and neglect - animal hoarding. In accordance with Fla. Stat. § 828.073, Pinellas County has filed an action for compliance with an Order for Care, or in the alternative for custody of all cats in Dorothy Yeakle's possession and enjoinder from her owning the same.

JLB: KLL

H:\USERS\Atykb34\Animal Confiscation\Yeakle\BCC Letter For Approval.Docx