9. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS RECEIVED FOR FILING:

a. Correspondence from the Florida Department of Revenue regarding the Summary of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget by Appropriation Category for the Tax Collector dated September 12, 2014.

b. Eastlake Oaks Community Development District public meeting schedule for Fiscal Year 2015.


If a copy of a report or CD is desired, please check the web page of the organization/municipality or contact Board Records at 464-3465.
September 5, 2014

The Honorable Karen Seel
Pinellas County Board of Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Dear Commissioner Seel:

Enclosed please find a copy of Resolution No. 2014-53, which was unanimously approved by the Gulfport City Council on September 2, 2014, supporting marriage equality for same-sex couples in the State of Florida.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 893-1012.

Sincerely,

Lesley DeMuth
City Clerk

Enclosure
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, DECLARING
SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY: AND PROVIDING FOR AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that marriage is one of the basic civil rights of the American people, fundamental to our very existence and survival; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, the Supreme Court declared that: “this court has long recognized that freedom of personal choice in matters of marriage and family life is one of the liberties protected by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, marriages that are deemed legally valid by the federal and state governments provide the married couple with federal rights, privileges, economic advantages and legal protections; and

WHEREAS, protections afforded to each spouse in a legal marriage include protection of their parental relationship with their children, protection of the inheritance rights of their spouse and children, ensuring hospital visitation rights and the ability to make medical decisions for their spouse and protection of property rights; and

WHEREAS, without being declared legally valid, the spouses of same-sex marriages cannot receive these rights, privileges, advantages and protections; and

WHEREAS, today, nineteen states plus the District of Columbia have ended discrimination in marriage, so that now 44 percent of Americans live in a state where same-sex couples can marry; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2011, the Barack Obama Administration announced that the US Justice Department would no longer defend in Federal Court the 1996 Federal Law entitled the Defense of Marriage Act and its denial of federal recognition to married same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gulfport is rightfully considered one of the most progressive cities regarding the policies protecting equal rights for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Gulfport Code of Ordinances has numerous non-discrimination provisions that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by businesses, in housing sales and rentals, and by stores, hotels, restaurants and other public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, City Codes also prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in the city’s own employment decisions. The City offers its employees the ability to enroll a domestic partner for coverage under the employee’s health insurance plan.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Gulfport hereby supports marriage equality for same-sex couples.

Section 2. The City Council urges Florida’s political leaders to take the appropriate legal actions to enact laws that will provide for marriage equality while preserving first amendment religious liberty in the State of Florida.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners; the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation; Harold Bazzel, Washington County Clerk of the Court; Craig J. Nichols, Secretary of the Florida Department of Management Services; John H. Armstrong, State Surgeon General and Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida.

Section 4. This resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of September, 2014 by the Council of the City of Gulfport, Florida.

Samuel Henderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk of the City of Gulfport, Florida, do hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2014-53 which was adopted by the City Council and as shown in the Official Records of the City of Gulfport, Florida. Witness, my hand and the Seal of the City of Gulfport, Florida, this 5th day of September, 2014.

Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk
PINELLAS COUNTY VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD
REAL PROPERTY VALUATION
SPECIAL MAGISTRATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

1. Performance of Services

The Special Magistrate whose signature appears below has been appointed to perform the services of a Special Magistrate for the Pinellas County 2014 Value Adjustment Board (VAB), pursuant to the provisions of Section 194.035, Florida Statutes, as directed by the VAB and its legal counsel, under and pursuant to the instructions and procedures furnished to the Special Magistrate.

The Special Magistrate hereby certifies to the Pinellas County VAB:

that the Special Magistrate is fully qualified to perform the functions of a Special Magistrate under the requirements set forth in Section 194.035, Florida Statutes;
that the Special Magistrate is not an elected or appointed official or an employee of Pinellas County;
that the Special Magistrate is a state certified real estate appraiser with not less than five years experience in real property valuation; and
that the Special Magistrate shall not represent a property owner before the VAB in any tax year during the time he or she shall serve as a Special Magistrate; and
that the Special Magistrate has successfully completed the Department of Revenue’s training including updated modules and has provided a statement or certificate of completion.

Hearings before the Special Magistrate shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 194, Florida Statutes, and the rules promulgated by the Department of Revenue as interpreted by the legal counsel to the VAB.

Hearings shall take place as directed by the Clerk to the VAB, and shall begin in October, 2014, and shall continue until all petitions have been heard. Hearings shall be heard Monday through Friday, beginning at 8:20 a.m. with the last scheduled hearing beginning at 4:20 p.m. each day. The Special Magistrate shall notify the Clerk of any scheduling conflicts so that they may be resolved in a timely manner.

The Special Magistrate shall use all reasonable efforts to complete the assigned hearings and to provide written recommendations to the Pinellas County VAB as soon as possible, but no later than 10 business days after completing hearings. Difficult and lengthy petition hearings, holidays, personal emergencies and illness shall be taken into consideration for recommendations that are turned in after the deadline. The Special Magistrate shall not enter into any agreements with a third party to delegate any or all of the responsibilities or functions of the Special Magistrate as set forth in this document. In the event that the Special Magistrate does not provide written recommendations to the Pinellas County VAB within 10 business days of the hearings without good cause shown, the Clerk will reassign any additional scheduled hearings to another magistrate.
2. Compensation

In consideration of the Special Magistrate performing the services referenced above, the VAB shall compensate the Special Magistrate under the provisions of Chapter 194.015, Florida Statutes, and the Florida Prompt Payment Act, Part VII of Chapter 218, Florida Statutes. The rate of compensation shall be $105.00 per hour plus mileage from the Special Magistrate’s office or home to the hearing location and return. Reimbursement for mileage shall be based upon IRS Standard Mileage Rates (currently $.56 per mile) when mileage was incurred.

In the event that all hearings scheduled for a particular day are cancelled less than 48 hours prior to the originally scheduled date and time, the Special Magistrate shall be compensated for two (2) hours.

The Special Magistrate shall correct and revise any errors, omissions, or deficiencies in his or her work product without additional compensation.

3. Accountability of Time

The Special Magistrate shall truthfully and accurately record the time spent hearing petitions and preparing recommendations. Once all recommendations have been completed and accepted by the VAB, the Special Magistrate shall submit an invoice listing dates and times worked and mileage to be reimbursed. Mileage information shall include location travel from and to. The Special Magistrate acknowledges that the Clerk shall review and approve each invoice.

4. Termination

Either the VAB or the Special Magistrate shall terminate the services of the Special Magistrate upon ten (10) days prior written notice. Notice shall be given to the Special Magistrate by delivering written notice to the address listed on the application submitted by the Special Magistrate. Notice shall be given to the VAB by delivering written notice to:

Norman D. Loy, Manager
Board Records Department
315 Court Street, 5th Floor
Clearwater, FL 33756

ACKNOWLEDGED this ___ day of ___ , 2014

By: __________________________

[Signature]

[Printed name]