PHILANTHROPIC NAMING RIGHTS POLICY

I. SCOPE OF POLICY:

The Board of County Commissioners establishes the following naming rights policy to provide guidance in approving philanthropic naming rights for County owned or controlled property or facilities, recognizing financial contributions by any individual or entity. This policy shall not apply to corporate naming rights, which are addressed as provided in the Pinellas County Sponsorship Policy, or honorary naming rights, which are addressed as provided in the Pinellas County Honorary Naming Rights Policy.

II. DEFINITIONS:

The following words will have the meaning ascribed to them herein:

A. “civic or charitable group” shall mean a nonprofit entity, family, or group that has made a substantial contribution to the community, either through civic involvement, involvement in historic events relevant to specific County property, or to the geographical location of specific County property; or made a financial and/or in-kind donation to support a specific public service or County property. For-profit entities of any type shall not be considered a civic or charitable group.

B. “individual” shall mean a person who has made a financial and/or in-kind donation to support a specific public service or County property.

C. “honorary naming rights” shall mean the naming of County property to honor the service, commitment, or other type of participation by an individual, or civic or charitable group. Honorary naming rights are addressed as provided in the Pinellas County Honorary Naming Rights Policy.

D. “philanthropic naming rights” shall mean the naming of County property due to a charitable donation from an individual, civic or charitable group, or other entity or organization that is intended to enhance the community by financial and/or in-kind support for a specific public service or County property.

E. “corporate naming rights” shall mean a mutually beneficial business arrangement between the County and an external entity (individual, for-profit, or not-for-profit organization), wherein the external entity provides goods, services, or financial support to the County in return for access to the commercial and/or marketing potential associated with the public display of the external entity’s name on Pinellas County property. Corporate naming rights are addressed as provided in the Pinellas County Sponsorship Policy.

F. “County property” shall mean County owned or controlled real property, public facilities such as buildings or parks, features or attributes of a facility such as a bench, tree, bridge, walkway, hallway or room, or other public venue.
III. PROCESS: The process to establish philanthropic naming rights for County property shall be as follows:

County departments, boards or agencies may develop philanthropic naming rights opportunity plans, in conjunction with the County Administrator or his/her designee, to be implemented as approved by the County Commission by resolution. For philanthropic naming rights not covered by an approved naming rights opportunity plan, a philanthropic naming rights plan shall be developed. In developing said plans, or in reviewing nominations for philanthropic naming rights as provided herein, the following criteria shall be complied with:

A. Philanthropic naming rights opportunity plans shall establish an aggregate campaign goal. Factors to be considered in development of the goal shall include, but not be limited to, capital costs, annual operating and maintenance costs, and desirability and marketability of the opportunity. Each campaign goal shall be developed on a case-by-case basis.

B. All assets for which naming opportunities will be offered shall be valued as a function of the aggregate campaign goal within the philanthropic naming rights opportunity plan. Factors to be considered in the valuation of each asset shall include desirability and marketability, exposure associated with the naming of the asset, and relative value as compared with other assets that are part of the campaign.

C. In-kind donations of real property shall be valued at the fair market value of the real property. In-kind donations of personal property shall be valued at 50% of the retail cost of the personal property; provided, however, if the property donated was budgeted for acquisition by the County, the personal property shall be valued at the County’s cost to acquire the personal property.

D. All naming rights shall be approved for a specific term, which shall not be longer than the useful life of the property or facility, as determined by the County, unless otherwise established in the naming rights opportunity plan or in a donor contract approved by the County and the donor.

E. Naming rights opportunity plans shall establish a review process either by a standing committee (the composition shall be identified in the plan) or by department employee(s), and shall be approved by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution before implementation of the plan.

F. The review committee established in the plan shall consider compliance with the established naming rights policy; whether the donation is from a potentially controversial source (e.g. tobacco, alcohol, etc.); appropriate signage; compliance with the required approval process for accepting
donations; whether a donor contract is appropriate, and if so, the terms thereof; citizen input; and any other relevant factors. In addition, upon notice to the County Commission, the County Administrator may refuse any financial and/or in-kind donation if it is deemed to not be in the best interests of the County.