

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 9, 2007

☒ **Consent** ☐ **Regular**
☐ **Public Hearing**

Department

Submitted By: ADMINISTRATION

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to receive and file: Resolution No. 07-60 by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida regarding the extreme insurance rate increases imposed upon the residents and business owners in Florida and strongly urging the Florida State Legislature to address the issues in the special session called for in January 2007.

Summary: None

Background and Justification: N/A

Attachments:

Original Documents

Recommended By:

Patty Hiddle
Agenda Coordinator

12/20/06
Date

Approved By:

N/A
Assistant County Administrator

Date

DEC 15 2006



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- ☐ 37918 Meridian Avenue - Dade City, Florida 33525
(352) 521-4111 - FAX (352) 521-4105
- ☐ 7530 Little Road - New Port Richey, Florida 34654
(727) 847-8100 - FAX (727) 847-8969

Ann Hildebrand
Chairman
Ted Schrader
Vice-Chairman
Pat Mulieri, Ed. D.
Michael Cox, CFP®
Jack Mariano

December 12, 2006

Dear Chairman Green:

Recently the Pasco County Board of Commissioners adopted the enclosed Resolution strongly urging the Florida Legislature to address certain issues pertaining to the Florida insurance crisis in its January 2007 special legislative session. The Resolution also requests that your County, by its commission adopting a similar resolution, join Pasco in imploring the Legislature to address certain insurance issues during the special session.

Foremost, our Resolution requests the Legislature to focus on repealing the requirement of the 2006 insurance legislation (Senate Bill 1980) that Citizens Property Insurance Corporation charge policy holders its reinsurance costs at the 70 year storm event. Of particular importance to Pasco and several other counties in the Tampa Bay Region, and, to a lesser extent statewide, is the definition of sinkholes. We are requesting that the Legislature adopt a new sinkhole definition that precludes the ability to classify settling and cracking as sinkhole damage. This will reduce the perceived sinkhole risks in the Tampa Bay Region and statewide. Finally, implementation of at least some of the Governor's Property and Casualty Reform Committee Recommendations is also of great importance statewide as those Recommendations are intended to lower property insurance rates through a combination of reducing risks and revitalizing the insurance market.

Please review the enclosed Resolution and bring it to the attention of your colleagues. Please adopt a similar Resolution and join Pasco County in urging the Florida Legislature to address these insurance matters in the 2007 special session.

Sincerely,

Ann Hildebrand
Chairman

Enclosure

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING THE EXTREME INSURANCE RATE INCREASES IMPOSED UPON THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN FLORIDA AND STRONGLY URGING THE FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES IN THE SPECIAL SESSION CALLED FOR IN JANUARY 2007.

WHEREAS, Pasco County residents and business owners bear a burden of insurance rate increases that affect the economic welfare of the County; and

WHEREAS, residents and business owners throughout the State of Florida are struggling under similar circumstances relating to the current insurance crisis; and

WHEREAS, particularly senior citizens on fixed incomes and young families are facing extraordinary challenges as homeowners with possibilities of foregoing insurance or even losing their homes, while business owners are faced with decreasing profits and potential closings; and

WHEREAS, Pasco County, and to a lesser extent neighboring counties in the Tampa Bay Region, are subject to additional insurance rate increases due to perceived sinkhole risks; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Florida Legislature, through Senate Bill 1980, addressed some of the insurance rate increases associated with the perceived sinkhole risks, and imposed a requirement on Citizens Property Insurance Corporation for rates to be calculated including charges for reinsurance to cover the 70 year storm event; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Property and Casualty Insurance Reform Committee has proposed recommendations for consideration by the Florida Legislature to address the insurance crisis; and

WHEREAS, a legislative special session on the insurance crisis to amend SB 1980 and to adopt the Committee's recommendations is necessary so as to provide expeditious relief to the residents and business owners of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida, in regular session, duly assembled, that:

The Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida, requests that all other Florida Counties join with Pasco in urging the Florida Legislature, in the special session called for in January 2007, to amend SB 1980 to further address the definition of sinkholes so as to address perceived sinkhole risks, the excessive burdensome requirement for Citizens to charge rates that include reinsurance to cover the 70 year storm event, and to adopt the recommendations of the Governor's Property and Casualty Insurance Reform Committee.

DONE AND RESOLVED this 5th day of December, 2006.



Jed Pittman
JED PITTMAN, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Ann Hildebrand
ANN HILDEBRAND, CHAIRMAN

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM AND SUFFICIENCY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

APPROVED

DEC 05 2006

BY: *W. Elizabeth Bas*

Attorney