Agenda Item #:

70-1

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: February 26, 2008 [] Consent [X] Regular [] Ordinance [] Public Hearing

Department: Facilities Development & Operations

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve on preliminary reading and advertise for Public Hearing on March 11, 2008 at 9:30 am: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (ORDINANCE 03-030) PERTAINING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS; AMENDING SECTION 2-373 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (DEFINITIONS); AMENDING SECTION 2-375 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS); AMENDING SECTION 2-377 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (ENFORCEMENT); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Summary: The Criminal History Record Check Ordinance (Ord. No. 03-030) established the County's program for conducting criminal history record checks on contractors, vendors, repair and delivery persons who require unescorted access to County facilities determined to be critical to public safety or security and established a list of disqualifying criminal offenses. The Ordinance defined a disqualifying criminal offense as a conviction of certain crimes unless the person convicted had been pardoned or had their civil rights restored. At the time, felons were only restored their civil rights after an individual application and hearing. In April 2007, however, Florida's Rules of Executive Clemency were changed to provide for automatic restoration of civil rights for most felons upon completion of their sentences. Given the change, the Ordinance needs to be amended so that the automatic restoration of civil rights by the State does not affect the County's ability to consider a conviction a disqualifying offense. (FDO Admin) Countywide (JM)

Background & Policy Issues: This amendment to the Criminal History Record Check Ordinance is necessary to allow the County to continue to consider the conviction of certain crimes as disqualifying offenses which will prohibit unescorted access in County facilities by convicted felons.

Attachments:

Amendment to the Criminal History Record Check Ordinance
 Criminal History Record Check Ordinance (Ord. No. 03-030)

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Recommended by:	the May Work	1/25/08	
	Department Director	Date	
Approved by:	County Administrator	Date	

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Fiscal Years 2008 2009 2010 2011 201 Capital Expenditures -0-						
Operating Costs -0-	12					
External Revenues -0000000000	<u> -</u>					
Program Income (County))-					
In-Kind Match (County) <u>-0-</u> -0- <u>-0-</u> -0-	-					
	<u> -</u>					
NET FLOORI INCOACT)_					
NET FISCAL IMPACT0000-)_					
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)						
Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes No						
Budget Account No: Fund Department Unit Object						
B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:						
C. Departmental Fiscal Review:						
III. REVIEW COMMENTS:						
A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development & Control Comments: No Fiscal Impact	OP					
C. Other Department Review:						

Т		ORDINANCE NO.
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14		AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (ORDINANCE 03-030) PERTAINING TO CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS; AMENDING SECTION 2-373 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (DEFINITIONS); AMENDING SECTION 2-375 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS); AMENDING SECTION 2-377 OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (ENFORCEMENT); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
16		WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County ("Board") adopted
17		the Palm Beach County Criminal History Record Check Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2003-030) on
18		August 19, 2003 with an effective date of October 1, 2003; and
19		WHEREAS, Florida's Rules of Executive Clemency were changed in April of 2007 to
20		provide for automatic restoration of civil rights for most felons upon completion of their sentences;
21		and
22		WHEREAS, the current version of the Ordinance was based on the premise that civil rights
23		would only be restored upon application and a hearing; and
24		WHEREAS, it has become apparent since the adoption of the Ordinance that certain types
25		of offenses and certain types of contractors were not addressed by the Ordinance; and
26		WHEREAS, the Board desires to improve safety within County facilities by making the
27		Ordinance more complete; and
28		WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County desires to amend
29		Ordinance No. 2003-030.
30		NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
31		COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:
32		Section 1. Chapter 2, Section 2-373 of the Palm Beach County Code entitled Definitions is
33		hereby amended as follows:
34		A. "Applicant" means the individual who applies for a criminal history record
35		check.
36	35	A. "Board" means the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County.
37		B. "Contractor" means any person who is not employed by the County and
38		provides or delivers goods or services for, to or on behalf of the County,
39		which shall include, but shall not be limited to, employees and subcontractors
40		of contractors, unpaid contractors or volunteers, vendors, repair persons and
41		delivery persons. "Contractor" shall also mean any non-governmental tenant
42		of a County owned building, except tenants of County general aviation
43		airports, including the employees and subcontractors of such tenants. The
44		term "contractor" shall not include any local, State or Federal employees, or
45		any persons employed by any mail, courier, postal or other similar delivery
46		services.
47		C. "County" means the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County

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and its authorized representatives.

- D. "Criminal History Record Check" means a fingerprint-based State and national criminal history record check.
- E. "Critical Facility" means those facilities or areas owned, operated or leased by the County that have been determined by resolution of the Board to be critical to security or public safety pursuant to section 4 of this Ordinance.
- F. "Disqualifying Criminal Offense" means a conviction of or a plea of nolo contendre or guilty to any of those criminal offenses listed in Appendix "A" to this Ordinance: in any jurisdiction during the ten (10) years prior to the date of the criminal history record check. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any conviction for which a full pardon has been granted or for which a person has had his or her civil rights restored or any adjudication of delinquency shall not be considered a disqualifying criminal offense.
- G. "Existing Contractor" means a contractor who required access to a critical facility prior to the effective date of this Ordinance and will continue to require access to the critical facility after the effective date of this Ordinance.
- H. "New Contractor" means a contractor who will require access to a critical facility for the first time on or after the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 2. Chapter 2, Section 2-375 of Palm Beach County Code entitled *Criminal history* record checks is hereby amended as follows:

All contractors shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check conducted by or on behalf of the County in order to retain or be granted unescorted access to any critical facility. Existing contractors shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Ordinance. New contractors shall be required to undergo a criminal history check prior to being granted unescorted access to any critical facility. Any contractor found to have a disqualifying criminal offense or who fails to provide the information necessary to complete a criminal history record check shall, when acting in his or her capacity as a contractor for or on behalf of the County, be denied access to critical facilities or be required to be accompanied by an escort designated by the County in critical facilities. The decision as to whether to deny access or require an escort in critical facilities shall be at the discretion of the County. Any contractor found to have an arrest for any offense involving juveniles shall, when acting in his or her capacity as a contractor for or on behalf of the County, be denied access to critical facilities where children are located including aquatic centers, Head Start facilities, community centers and the High Ridge Family Center. Any contractor found to have an arrest for any offense involving animals shall, when acting in his or her capacity as a contractor for or on behalf of the County, be denied access to critical facilities where animals are located including animal care and control facilities. The decision of whether to deny access or require an escort in critical facilities shall be at the discretion of the County.

- B. Prior to submitting a request for a criminal history record check pursuant to this Ordinance, the County shall notify each contractor applicant to be fingerprinted that his or her fingerprints will be sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for a state criminal history record check and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.
 - C. The County shall notify any contractor applicant found to have a disqualifying

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criminal offense in writing that he or she has been found to have a disqualifying criminal offense and will be denied access to critical facilities or be required to be accompanied by an escort designated by the County in critical facilities unless the contractor provides the County with verifiable evidence that he or she does not have a disqualifying criminal offense. The notification shall also state that the contractor has the right to: (1) obtain a copy of his or her criminal history records; (2) to challenge the completeness and accuracy of the criminal history records pursuant to State and Federal law; and (3) to request a correction, change or update to the criminal history records pursuant to State and Federal law. The written notification, sent by certified mail, shall not include specific information regarding the contractor's criminal history records or the nature of the disqualifying criminal offense. The County shall verify the identity of the contractor prior to releasing the criminal history records to the contractor.

- D. The County shall notify any applicant found to have an outstanding warrant in writing by mail. The notification shall identify the jurisdiction of the outstanding warrant so that the applicant may make arrangements to address the outstanding warrant. The County shall also notify the jurisdiction which issued the warrant that the warrant appeared on the criminal history record check of the applicant.
- E. The County shall notify in writing any applicant found to have a prior arrest, without a disposition on record, for the criminal offenses listed on Appendix "A" to this Ordinance. If the arrest still has no disposition six months after the date of the notice to the contractor, the contractor shall be denied access to critical facilities or be required to be accompanied by an escort designated by the County in critical facilities until the contractor provides the County with verifiable evidence that the prior arrest has been resolved without a conviction or plea of nolo contendre or guilty to any of the criminal offenses listed on Appendix "A" to this Ordinance.
- D.F. The County Administrator may establish procedures for the implementation of this Ordinance, which may include, but shall not be limited to, procedures for obtaining and processing criminal history record check information, standardizing information to be included in solicitations issued by the County and notifying contractors of the requirements of this Ordinance.
- E.G. Notwithstanding any provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, the access restrictions set forth in this Ordinance shall only apply when a person is acting in his or her capacity as a contractor for or on behalf of the County.
- F.H. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as prohibiting or preventing the County from conducting any other background screening that the County may lawfully undertake.

<u>Section 3.</u> Chapter 2, Section 2-377 of the Palm Beach County Code entitled *Enforcement* is hereby amended as follows:

23. Any felony involving violence.

Section 4. Repeal of Laws in Conflict.

All local laws and ordinances in conflict with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 5. Severability.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason

1		held by the Court to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void, such holding shall not affect th	
2		remainder of this Ordinance.	
3		Section 6. Inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances.	
4		The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Laws and	
5		Ordinances of Palm Beach County, Florida. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or	
6		relettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or	
7		other appropriate word.	
8		Section 7. Effective Date.	
9		The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of	
10		State.	
11 12 13 14 15	exer	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, on this the day of, 20 PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	
16 17 18 19 20		By: Addie L. Greene, Chairperson APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY	
21 22		By: County Attorney	
23		Filed with the Department of State on theday of, 20	

ARTICLE IX. CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK

Sec. 2-371. Title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Palm Beach County Criminal History Record Check Ordinance."

(Ord. No. 03-030, § 1, 8-19-03)

Sec. 2-372. Authority.

This article is enacted pursuant to the authority vested in the county by F.S. § 125.5801. (Ord. No. 03-030, § 2, 8-19-03)

Sec. 2-373. Definitions.

Board means the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County.

Contractor means any person who is not employed by the county and provides or delivers goods or services for, to or on behalf of the county, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, employees and subcontractors of contractors, vendors, repair persons and delivery persons. The term "contractor" shall not include any local, state or federal employees, or any persons employed by any mail, courier, postal or other similar delivery services.

County means the board of county commissioners of the county and its authorized representatives.

Criminal history record check means a fingerprint-based state and national criminal history record check.

Critical facility means those facilities or areas owned, operated or leased by the county that have been determined by resolution of the board to be critical to security or public safety pursuant to section 2-354 of this article.

Disqualifying criminal offense means a conviction of or a plea of nolo contendre or guilty to any of those criminal offenses listed in Appendix "A" to this article. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any conviction for which a full pardon has been granted or for which a person has had his or her civil rights restored shall not be considered a disqualifying criminal offense.

Existing contractor means a contractor who required access to a critical facility prior to the effective date of this article and will continue to require access to the critical facility after the effective date of this article.

New contractor means a contractor who will require access to a critical facility for the first time on or after the effective date of this article. (Ord. No. 03-030, § 3, 8-19-03)

Sec. 2-374. Critical facilities determination.

The board shall identify by resolution those facilities or areas owned, operated or leased by the county that the board determines to be critical to security or public safety, which resolution may be amended, replaced or supplemented by the board from time to time. (Ord. No. 03-030, § 4, 8-19-03)

Sec. 2-375. Criminal history record checks.

(a) All contractors shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check conducted by or on behalf of the county in order to retain or be granted unescorted access to any critical facility. Existing contractors shall be required to undergo a criminal history record check within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this article. New contractors shall be required to undergo a criminal history check prior to being granted unescorted access to any critical facility. Any contractor found to have a disqualifying criminal offense or who fails to provide the information necessary to complete a criminal history record check shall, when acting in his or her capacity as a contractor for or on behalf of the county, be denied access to critical facilities or be required to be accompanied by an escort designated by the county in critical facilities. The decision of whether to deny access or require an escort in critical facilities shall be at the discretion of the county.

- (b) Prior to submitting a request for a criminal history record check pursuant to this article, the county shall notify each contractor to be fingerprinted that his or her fingerprints will be sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for a state criminal history record check and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.
- (c) The county shall notify any contractor found to have a disqualifying criminal offense in writing that he or she has been found to have a disqualifying criminal offense and will be denied access to critical facilities or be required to be accompanied by an escort designated by the county in critical facilities unless the contractor provides the county with verifiable evidence that he or she does not have a disqualifying criminal offense. The notification shall also state that the contractor has the right to:
- (1) Obtain a copy of his or her criminal history records;
- (2) To challenge the completeness and accuracy of the criminal history records pursuant to state and federal law; and
- (3) To request a correction, change or update to the criminal history records pursuant to state and federal law.

The written notification shall not include specific information regarding the contractor's criminal history records or the nature of the disqualifying criminal offense. The county shall verify the identity of the contractor prior to releasing the criminal history records to the contractor.

- (d) The county administrator may establish procedures for the implementation of this article, which may include, but shall not be limited to, procedures for obtaining and processing criminal history record check information, standardizing information to be included in solicitations issued by the county and notifying contractors of the requirements of this article.
- (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, the access restrictions set forth in this article shall only apply when a person is acting in his or her capacity as a contractor for or on behalf of the county.
- (f) Nothing in this article shall be construed as prohibiting or preventing the county from conducting any other background screening that the county may lawfully undertake. (Ord. No. 03-030, § 5, 8-19-03)

Sec. 2-376. Alternative compliance.

A contractor shall be exempt from the requirements of this article if the contractor is subject to and in compliance with the criminal history record check requirements of:

- (1) Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500 et al., as may be amended from time to time or any successor regulation or other federal regulation establishing criminal history record check requirements for public-use airports; or
- (2) Any other federal, state or local law, which are equal to or more stringent than the requirements of this article.

(Ord. No. 03-030, § 6, 8-19-03)

Sec. 2-377. Enforcement.

This article shall be enforceable by all remedies available at law, but shall not be enforced as a misdemeanor in accordance with F.S. § 125.69(1). (03-030, § 7, 8-19-03)

APPENDIX A. DISQUALIFYING CRIMINAL OFFENSES

- 1. Carrying a weapon or explosive into building where same is posted as prohibited.
- 2. Destruction or vandalism to a public buildings or property.
- 3. Conveying false information and threats.
- 4. Murder.
- 5. Assault with the intent to murder.
- 6. Espionage.
- 7. Sedition.
- 8. Kidnapping or hostage taking.
- Treason.
- 10. Rape or aggravated sexual abuse.

ANTS Loan Agreement

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- 11. Unlawful possession, use, sale, distribution or manufacture of an explosive, weapon or weapon of mass destruction.
- 12. Terrorism.
- 13. Hate crimes.
- 14. Extortion.
- 15. Armed or felony unarmed robbery.
- 16. Distribution of, or intent to distribute, a controlled substance.
- 17. Felony arson.
- 18. Felony involving a threat.
- 19. Felony involving:
- A. Willful destruction of property.
- B. Importation or manufacture of a controlled substance.
- C. Burglary.D. Theft.
- E. Dishonesty, fraud or misrepresentation.
- F. Possession or distribution of stolen property.
- G. Aggravated assault.
- H. Bribery.
- I. Illegal possession of a controlled substance punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of more than one year.
- J. Violence at any public airport.
- K. Information technology crimes including, but not limited to, unlawful use of protected information or hacking.
- 20. Conspiracy or attempt to commit any of the criminal acts listed in this Appendix A.
- 21. Any offense involving animals when the access requirement is a critical facility/area within an animal care and control facility.
- 22. Any offense involving juveniles when the access requirement is an aquatic center, gymnasium HeadStart facility, community center or High Ridge Family Center.

(Ord. No. 03-030, 8-19-03)

Secs. 2-378--2-390. Reserved