Agenda Item #:

## PALM BEACH COUNTY **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

#### AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: A	pril 15, 2014		Consent Ordinance		Regular Public Hearing
Department		r 1	Oramanoc	[7/]	r ubile ricaring
Cubmitted Du	Consider Attamazania Office				

County Attorney's Office

Submitted For: Department of Public Safety Consumer Affairs Division

# I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to continue from April 15,2014 at 9:30 AM to July 22,2014 at 9:30 AM: an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, amending Chapter 17, Article I (Ordinance No. 1980-12); Relating to Licenses, Taxation and Miscellaneous Business Regulations, to be known as the "Palm Beach County Motor Vehicle Fuel Price Posting Ordinance"; providing for Fuel Price Signs; providing for Repeal of Laws in Conflict; providing for a Savings Clause; providing for Severability; providing for Inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances; providing for Captions; and providing for an Effective Date.

Summary: On February 4, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners held a preliminary reading of this Ordinance and authorized advertising for public hearing on March 11, 2014. On March 11, 2014, the Board of County Commissioners continued the public hearing until April 15, 2014. The current Motor Vehicle Fuel Price Posting Ordinance requires gasoline stations to prominently and continuously display specific signage indicating the type of motor vehicle fuel available for sale, the minimum price per gallon in numerals at least six (6) inches tall, and the type of service offered for the displayed price, but it does not require the seller to display the maximum price per gallon a consumer will be charged for each type of fuel for sale or require the seller to indicate on the sign whether the displayed price is a "discounted" price for cash sales. Amending the current Ordinance to require gasoline retailers to post the highest price a customer would be required to pay and to prominently indicate on the same sign whether the advertised price is discounted for cash sales, will prevent consumers from being misled at the pump. Staff has met with the industry and the industry has requested a one year time period in order to come into compliance. Accordingly, the Ordinance has been amended so that the sellers would be allowed up to one (1) year to retrofit signs to meet the requirements. During the interim, if cash discounts are offered, the sellers shall place a sign at the pump. The League of Cities has no opposition to the proposed Ordinance amendments. Countywide (PGE)

Background and Policy Issues: The proposed amendments address consumer concerns that some gasoline stations in the County advertise the minimum price per gallon of gasoline without indicating that the displayed price is being offered for "cash only" sales; consumers are therefore not informed of the higher price they will be charged for using a credit card until the gasoline is pumped. In addition to posting the maximum price per gallon and indicating "cash only" designations, the proposed amendments also include requirements for nighttime illumination, freedom from vegetation obstruction and a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for the first violation and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each repeat violation.

# Attachments:

- 1. Proposed Fuel Price Posting Ordinance (without delineations)
- 2. Proposed Fuel Price Posting Ordinance (with delineations)

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Recommended by:		Mum	4/3/14	Ĺ
	County Att	orney	Date	100

# II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Fi	ve Year Summary of Fi	scal Impact				
F	iscal Years	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	2016	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Opera Exter Progr	al Expenditures ating Costs nal Revenues ram Income (County) nd Match (County)					
Net	Fiscal Impact	**				
POSI	DITIONAL FTE TIONS (Cumulative) m Included In Current I	Budget? Yes	No			
Budg	et Account Exp No: Fu Rev No: Fu	nd Depar nd Depar	tment Unit tment Unit	Object		
B.	Recommended Source	es of Funds/Sเ	ımmary of Fisc	cal Impact:		
	**Although the propose for the first violation and indeterminable at this ti	d a \$500 fine for	to the ordinance a repeat violati	e include a pr ion, the fiscal	ovision for a \$2 impact is	250 fine
C.	Departmental Fiscal F	deview:		······································		
		III. REVIEW C	OMMENTS			
A.	OFMB Fiscal and/or C	ontract Dev. ar	A-3	nments:		114
В.	Legal Sufficiency:	•				
	Assistant County Att	Mey 2	18/14			
C.	Other Department Rev	view:				
	Department Dire	ector				

(THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT)

1	ORDINANCE NO. 2014
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE I OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (ORDINANCE NO. 1980-12) RELATING TO LICENSES, TAXATION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PALM BEACH COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE FUEL PRICE POSTING ORDINANCE"; PROVIDING FOR FUEL PRICE SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
18 19	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County finds and
20	declares that the public welfare and safety of the existing and future residents requires the
21	regulation and control of retail sales of motor vehicle fuel to the general public; and
22	WHEREAS, Palm Beach County regulates the display of signs on the premises of motor
23	vehicle fuel service stations that operate in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the
24	County; and
25	WHEREAS, it is now necessary to amend Article I of Chapter 17 Sec. 2, of the Palm
26	Beach County Code to address consumers' concerns and prevent consumers from being misled,
27	to require retailers of motor vehicle fuel to post the highest price a customer would be required to
28	pay; and
29	WHEREAS, it is also necessary to amend Article I of Chapter 17 Sec. 2, of the Palm
30	Beach County Code to further protect consumers and ensure they are not misled, to require
31	retailers of motor vehicle fuel selling fuel at a discounted price to customers paying cash, to
32	prominently post on the signage displaying the price that it is a "cash only" sales price.
33 34 35 36 37	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:
38	Section 1. Fuel Price Signs.
39 40	Chapter 17, Article I Section 17 - 2 of the Palm Beach County Code is amended to read as
41	follows:

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- 1 Every person that engages in the retail sales of motor vehicle fuel to the general public shall
- 2 prominently and continuously display signs on the premises according to Standard I or Standard

#### 3 II and Standard III:

#### (1) Standard I:

- a. At least one (1) sign shall be displayed which is a minimum of ten (10) square feet and a maximum of fifteen (15) square feet on its usable face.
- b. The sign shall be prominently placed and readable by motorists traveling on the abutting streets.
  - c. The sign shall clearly indicate the types of motor vehicle fuel available for sale (i.e., leaded, unleaded, diesel, gasohol, etc.) in full or abbreviated form.
  - d. The sign shall indicate the maximum retail price per gallon, or other unit, to the nearest tenth of a cent inclusive of all taxes, in numerals at least six (6) inches tall, for each kind of motor vehicle fuel available for sale. If prices are indicated in units other than "price/U.S. gallon," the unit must be indicated in lettering not less than three (3) inches tall.
  - e. If the prices displayed are for self-service or other limited type of service, the sign must clearly indicate the type of service.
  - f. All fuels and services displayed on the signs must be available at the posted prices.

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# (2) Standard II:

- a. Pump topper signs placed on the top of each pump.
- b. The signs must be placed so they are easily readable by motorists traveling on the abutting streets.
- c. The sign shall indicate the maximum retail price per gallon, or other unit, to the nearest tenth of a cent inclusive of all taxes, in numerals at least six (6) inches tall for the motor vehicle fuels available at that pump. If prices are indicated in units other than "price/U.S. gallon," the unit must be indicated in lettering not less than three (3) inches tall.
- d. If the prices posted are for self-service or other limited type of service, the sign must clearly indicate the type of service.
- e. All fuels and types of service displayed on the signs must be available at the posted prices.
- f. Either the sign, or the pump it is attached to, must indicate the type of fuel available at that pump (i.e., leaded, unleaded, diesel, gasohol, etc.) in full or abbreviated form, easily readable from the abutting streets.

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#### (3) Standard III:

- a. Any conditions of sale to obtain motor vehicle fuel for a discounted cash price shall be prominently displayed in lettering at least six (6) inches tall, for each kind of motor vehicle fuel available for sale on the sign as a "cash only" price. The "cash only" designation shall be positioned adjacent to the discounted price for each type of motor vehicle fuel sold at the discounted price.
- b. The size of the discounted price sign shall conform to the requirements in Standards I and II (at least six (6) inches tall). Such sign shall be clearly visible and legible to motorists of approaching motor vehicles on the abutting streets, and shall be illuminated in a manner that makes the sign visible at night to a person of average visual acuity.

- 1 c. The sign(s) shall be kept free from vegetation or other obstructions that may block
  2 the view of the advertised price on the sign from the adjacent street or roadway or
  3 otherwise camouflage the motor fuel pricing.
  - d. Any person engaging in the retail sales of motor vehicle fuel found to be in violation of this Section of the Palm Beach Code shall be required to pay to Palm Beach County a civil penalty of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first violation and Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each repeat violation.
  - e. Persons that engage in the retail sales of motor vehicle fuel to the general public shall have one year from the effective date of this ordinance to come into compliance with signage requirements pertaining to maximum prices per gallon. During the one year period, if a person engaging in the retail sale of motor vehicle fuel to the general public offers a cash discount, they shall place a sign at the pump indicating the type of fuel available from the discounted price.

## Section 2. Repeal of laws in conflict.

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16 All local laws and ordinances applying to the unincorporated area of Palm Beach County in

conflict with any provision of this article are hereby repealed to the extent of any conflict.

# 18 Section 3. Scope of Ordinance.

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- This Ordinance shall be applicable in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Palm
  Beach County, except that it shall not apply in any municipality that has adopted and maintains
- 22 in effect ordinances or regulations governing the same matters.

#### Section 4. Savings clause.

Notwithstanding the section of this Ordinance regarding the repeal of laws in conflict, all administrative and court orders, fines, and pending enforcement issued pursuant to this authority and procedures established by Chapter 17, Article I, Section 17-2, of the Palm Beach County

# 3031 <u>Section 5. Severability.</u>

Code, shall remain in full force and effect.

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held by the Court to be unconstitutional, inoperative or void, it is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners that such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

# Section 6. Inclusion in the a Code of Laws and Ordinances.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the code of laws and ordinances of Palm Beach County, Florida. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered

1	of re-lettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section,"
2	"article," or any other appropriate word.
3 4 5 6	Section 7. Captions.  The captions, section headings, and section designations used in this Ordinance are for
7	convenience only and shall have no effect on the interpretation of the provisions of this
8	Ordinance.
9 10 11 12	Section 8. Effective Date  The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of
13	State.
14	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach
15	County, Florida, on this the day of, 2014.
16 17 18 19 20	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK  PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
21 22 23 24	By: By: Deputy Clerk Priscilla A. Taylor, Mayor
25 26 27 28 29	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
30 31 32 33	By: County Attorney
34	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
35	, 2014.

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5	FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE I OF THE
6	PALM BEACH COUNTY CODE (ORDINANCE NO. 1980-
7 8	12) RELATING TO LICENSES, TAXATION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS REGULATIONS, TO BE
9	KNOWN AS THE PALM BEACH COUNTY MOTOR
10	VEHICLE FUEL PRICE POSTING ORDINANCE";
11	PROVIDING FOR FUEL PRICE SIGNS; PROVIDING FOR
12	REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR A
13 14	SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS
15	AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND
16	PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
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20	declares that the public welfare and safety of the existing and future residents requires the
21	regulation and control of retail sales of motor vehicle fuel to the general public; and
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23	vehicle fuel service stations that operate in the unincorporated and incorporated areas of the
24	County; and
25	WHEREAS, it is now necessary to amend Article I of Chapter 17 Sec. 2, of the Palm
26	Beach County Code to address consumers' concerns and prevent consumers from being misled,
27	to require retailers of motor vehicle fuel to post the highest price a customer would be required to
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35 36 37	COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:
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- c. The sign shall clearly indicate the types of motor vehicle fuel available for sale (i.e., leaded, unleaded, diesel, gasohol, etc.) in full or abbreviated form.
- d. The sign shall indicate the minimum maximum retail price per gallon, or other unit, to the nearest tenth of a cent inclusive of all taxes, in numerals at least six (6) inches tall, for each kind of motor vehicle fuel available for sale. If prices are indicated in units other than "price/U.S. gallon," the unit must be indicated in lettering not less than three (3) inches tall.
- e. If the prices displayed are for self-service or other limited type of service, the sign must clearly indicate the type of service.
- f. All fuels and services displayed on the signs must be available at the posted prices.

# (2) Standard II:

- a. Pump topper signs placed on the top of each pump.
- b. The signs must be placed so they are easily readable by motorists traveling on the abutting streets.
- c. The sign shall indicate the <u>minimum maximum</u> retail price per gallon, or other unit, to the nearest tenth of a cent inclusive of all taxes, in numerals at least six (6) inches tall for the motor vehicle fuels available at that pump. If prices are indicated in units other than "price/U.S. gallon," the unit must be indicated in lettering not less than three (3) inches tall.
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#### (3) Standard III:

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1	c. The sign(s) shall be kept free from vegetation or other obstructions that may block
2	the view of the advertised price on the sign from the adjacent street or roadway or
3	otherwise camouflage the motor fuel pricing.
4	4.d. Any person engaging in the retail sales of motor vehicle fuel found to be in
5	violation of this Section of the Palm Beach Code shall be required to pay to Palm
6	Beach County a civil penalty of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for the first
7	violation and Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each repeat violation.
8	e. Persons that engage in the retail sales of motor vehicle fuel to the general public
9	shall have one year from the effective date of this ordinance to come into
10	compliance with signage requirements pertaining to maximum prices per gallon.
11	During the one year period, if a person engaging in the retail sale of motor vehicle
12	fuel to the general public offers a cash discount, they shall place a sign at the
13	pump indicating the type of fuel available from the discounted price.
14	Section 2. Repeal of laws in conflict.
15 16	
	All local laws and ordinances applying to the unincorporated area of Palm Beach County in
17	conflict with any provision of this article are hereby repealed to the extent of any conflict.
1.0	
18 19	Section 3. Scope of Ordinance.
20	This Ordinance shall be applicable in both the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Palm
21	Beach County, except that it shall not apply in any municipality that has adopted and maintains
22	in effect ordinances or regulations governing the same matters.
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24 25	Section 4. Savings clause.
25 26	Notwithstanding the section of this Ordinance regarding the repeal of laws in conflict, all
27	administrative and court orders, fines, and pending enforcement issued pursuant to this authority
28	and procedures established by Chapter 17, Article I, Section 17-2, of the Palm Beach County
29	Code, shall remain in full force and effect.
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31	Section 5. Severability.
32 33	If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason
34	held by the Court to be unconstitutional, inoperative or void, it is the intent of the Board of
35	County Commissioners that such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.
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37	Section 6. Inclusion in the a Code of Laws and Ordinances.
38 39	The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the code of laws and

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1	or re-lettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section,"			
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8	Ordinance.			
9 10 11 12	Section 8. Effective Date  The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the Department of			
13	State.			
14	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach			
15	County, Florida, on this the day of, 2014.			
16 17 18 19 20	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK  PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS			
21 22 23 24 25	By:By:			
26 27 28 29	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY			
30 31 32 33	County Attorney			
34 35	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of, 2014.			