#### PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

51.72

Meeting Date:	September 9, 2014	[] Consent [] Ordinance			
			L 1	Fublic Hearing	

Department: Palm Tran

#### I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve on preliminary reading and to advertise for public hearing on October 21, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.: an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, to be known as the Palm Beach County Palm Tran Trespass Ordinance; providing for a short title; providing for definitions; providing for authorization to issue Palm Tran trespass notices as to Palm Tran personnel and property; providing for appeal of such trespass notices; providing for inclusion in the Code of Laws and Ordinances; providing for repeal of laws in conflict; providing for severability; providing for enforcement; providing for penalty; providing for captions; and providing for an effective date.

Summary: Current State laws and County code and ordinances prohibit certain actions or activities that endanger, interfere with, or threaten Palm Tran's operations and the safety of its drivers, passengers, employees and the citizens of and visitors to Palm Beach County. These laws and ordinances do not provide a mechanism to temporarily enjoin individuals who have damaged property, violated certain laws, harmed or threatened others, or interfered with Palm Tran's operations, from returning to or entering upon property used for Palm Tran public transportation fixed route services. The continuing presence of an individual who has damaged or destroyed property, assaulted or battered a driver or passenger, violated certain laws, or endangered or interfered with Palm Tran's operations poses a danger to the security of others, the safe operations of Palm Tran and to property used for Palm Tran purposes. Temporarily enjoining such individuals from access to property used for Palm Tran purposes will promote the public safety and welfare and protect Palm Tran's drivers, passengers, employees, and other members of the public, and property used for Palm Tran purposes. The ordinance also establishes a process by which individuals may appeal the issuance of a trespass notice. <u>Countywide</u> (DR/PK)

**Background and Policy Issues:** The Board of County Commissioners owns various real and personal property used to provide public transportation fixed route service throughout Palm Beach County ("County"). The adoption of the Palm Tran Trespass Ordinance is in the best interest of the employees, citizens and visitors to the County who use or access property used by Palm Tran for fixed route public transportation services. The ordinance creates a mechanism by which the access of individuals who have violated certain laws or endangered or interfered with Palm Tran's operations may be temporarily enjoined. The ordinance also establishes an appeal process under which a recipient of a trespass notice may challenge the validity of the notice.

#### Attachment:

1. Proposed Ordinance

Recommended by:	(ImD. Di	8/29/14
	Assistant Director	Date,
Approved by:	/h/un	
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

# II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

## A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Capital Expenditures Operating Costs External Revenues Program Income (County)	\$0 0 0 0	\$0 0 0 0	\$0 0 0	\$0 0 0 0	\$0 0 0 0
In-Kind Match (County)	0	0	0	0	0
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
# Additional FTE Positions (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0
ls Item Included in Current Budget:	٢	/es		No	

Budget Account No:

Reporting Category \_\_\_\_\_

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Departmental Fiscal Review: \_

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS** 

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development & Control Comments:

OFMB

)/4 ontract Develop ment & Control

A. Legal Sufficiency:

and F. 9/3/14

A. Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.

1	
2	ORDINANCE NO. 2014
3	
4	AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
5	COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY,
6	FLORIDA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE PALM BEACH
7	COUNTY PALM TRAN TRESPASS ORDINANCE;
8	<b>PROVIDING FOR A SHORT TITLE; PROVIDING FOR</b>
9	<b>DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO</b>
10	ISSUE PALM TRAN TRESPASS NOTICES AS TO PALM
11	TRAN PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY; PROVIDING FOR
12	APPEAL OF SUCH TRESPASS NOTICES; PROVIDING
13	FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND
14	<b>ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN</b>
15	CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY;
16	<b>PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR</b>
17	PENALTY; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND
18	PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
19	
20	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida

("County") created Palm Tran, Inc., as an agency and instrumentality of the County, to operate
County's public transit system (also known as "Palm Tran") and to provide day to day
managerial and administrative services; and

WHEREAS, the County owns various facilities, buildings, conveyances and other property used to provide Palm Tran public transportation fixed route service throughout Palm Beach County; and

WHEREAS, current State laws and County codes and ordinances prohibit certain actions and activities that interfere with Palm Tran's operations and/or threaten the safety of others, but do not provide a mechanism to temporarily enjoin violators from returning to or entering upon property owned by County and/or used to provide Palm Tran public transportation service; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that the presence of individuals who have violated certain County ordinances, rules or regulations, certain State laws, or notices, on property owned by the County and/or used to provide Palm Tran public transportation service, poses a continuing threat to the safety and welfare of Palm Tran's bus operators, employees and passengers, and the County's citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, temporarily enjoining such individuals from access to property owned by
 the County and/or used to provide Palm Tran public transportation services will promote and
 protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to establish a mechanism to issue Palm Tran trespass notices to individuals who violate County ordinances, rules or regulations, State laws or notices, while on property owned by the County and/or used for Palm Tran purposes, and pose a continuing threat to the safety of others and Palm Tran's operations; and

6 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners wishes to establish procedures to be
7 followed when Palm Tran trespass notices are issued, including a process to appeal the issuance
8 of a Palm Tran trespass notice; and

9 WHEREAS, adopting a Palm Tran trespass ordinance is in the best interest of the 10 County's fixed route public transportation system, Palm Tran's employees and passengers, and 11 the visitors and citizens who visit facilities, buildings, or other property owned by the County 12 and/or used to provide Palm Tran public transportation service.

# NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

#### 15 Section 1. TITLE; APPLICABILITY:

16 (a) This Ordinance shall be known as the Palm Beach County Palm Tran Trespass Ordinance.

17 (b) All provisions of this Ordinance shall be applicable to Palm Tran County Property, as

18 defined below, within the unincorporated and incorporated areas of Palm Beach County.

### 19 Section 2. DEFINITIONS:

(a) <u>Palm Tran County Property</u> shall mean any vehicle, facility, building, shelter, bench,
easement or other real or personal property owned or used by the Palm Beach County Board of
County Commissioners or Palm Tran, Inc. to provide Palm Tran fixed route public
transportation service in the County.

(b) Applicable State Law consists of the following: Chapter 782 (Homicide), Chapter 784 24 (Assault; Battery; Culpable Negligence), Chapter 787 (Kidnapping, False Imprisonment; 25 26 Luring or Enticing a Child; Custody Offenses, Chapter 790 (Weapons and Firearms), Chapter 27 794 (Sexual Battery), Chapter 796 (Prostitution), Chapter 800 (Lewdness; Indecent Exposure), Chapter 806, (Arson and Criminal Mischief), Chapter 810 (Burglary and Trespass), Chapter 28 29 812 (Theft, Robbery, and Related Crimes), Chapter 823 (Public Nuisance) Chapter 825, (Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly Persons and Disabled Adults, Chapter 827 (Abuse 30 31 of Children), Chapter 828 (Animals: Cruelty, Sales, Animal Enterprise Protection), Chapter 847 (Obscenity), Chapter 856 (Drunkenness; Open House Parties; Loitering; Prowling 32

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Desertion), Chapter 859 (Poisons; Adulterated Drugs), and Chapter 893 (Drug Abuse
 Prevention and Control).

- 3 (c) <u>Palm Tran Trespass Regulations</u> consist of the following:
- 4 (1) assaulting or battering a bus operator or any other Palm Tran employee or other 5 individual;

6 (2) possessing a weapon (defined as: firearms, knives or other cutting or stabbing 7 instruments, electric weapons or devices, any type of flammable liquid, explosive, acid, 8 or other article or material likely to cause harm to others), except that nothing herein 9 shall prevent a person from carrying a cigarette, cigar, or pipe lighter on any Palm Tran 10 vehicle, or prohibit weapons in the possession of a law enforcement officer or a 11 concealed firearm possessed by a person having a concealed weapons permit issued by 12 the State of Florida;

(3) causing a disturbance on a Palm Tran vehicle, distracting a Palm Tran vehicle
operator, or interfering with the safe operation of a Palm Tran vehicle;

15 (4) vandalizing Palm Tran County Property;

16 (5) failing to pay the appropriate fare; and

17 (6) loitering or entering upon Palm Tran County Property not authorized for access by18 the public.

#### 19 Section 3. TRESPASS NOTICE; AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE:

(a) Palm Beach County Sheriff's Deputies, law enforcement officers acting within their
jurisdictions, and those Palm Tran supervisory personnel or officials designated by the Palm
Tran Executive Director are authorized to issue a Palm Tran Trespass Notice to any individual
who, while on Palm Tran County Property, violates Applicable State Law or Palm Tran
Trespass Regulations, as defined in Section 2 of this Ordinance, as determined by the person
issuing the Palm Tran Trespass Notice.

- 26 (b) Any person issued a Palm Tran Trespass Notice for violating Section 2(b), Section (2)(c)(1)
- 27 or Section 2(c)(2) of this Ordinance shall be prohibited from returning to or entering upon the
- 28 Palm Tran County Property specified in that Palm Tran Trespass Notice as follows:
- 29 (1) For the first Palm Tran Trespass Notice, for a period of up to ninety (90) days.
- 30 (2) For the second Palm Tran Trespass Notice issued within a period of one (1) year
- from the first Palm Tran Trespass Notice, for a period of up to one hundred eighty (180)
- days.

(3) For the third or subsequent Palm Tran Trespass Notice issued within a period of
 three (3) years from the last Palm Tran Trespass Notice, for a period of up to two (2)
 years.

4 (c) Any person issued a Palm Tran Trespass Notice for violating any other provision of Section
5 2(c) of this Ordinance shall be prohibited from returning to or entering upon the Palm Tran
6 County Property specified in the Palm Tran Trespass Notice as follows:

7

(1) For the first Palm Tran Trespass Notice, for a period of up to thirty (30) days.

8 (2) For the second Palm Tran Trespass Notice issued within a period of one hundred
9 and eighty (180) days from the first Palm Tran Trespass Notice, for a period of up to
10 ninety (90) days.

(3) For the third or subsequent Palm Tran Trespass Notice issued within a period of one
(1) year from the last Palm Tran Trespass Notice, for a period of up to one (1) year.

(d) A copy of the Palm Tran Trespass Notice shall be provided by mail or hand delivery to the 13 14 Palm Tran Trespass Notice recipient and to the Palm Tran Executive Director. The Palm Tran 15 Trespass Notice shall include the name and address of the Palm Tran Trespass Notice recipient 16 if available, or alternatively, a photograph of the recipient, the date, the provision of Applicable 17 State Law or Palm Tran Trespass Regulation that the Palm Tran Trespass Notice recipient has violated, a brief description of the offending conduct, the location of the offence, the name of 18 19 the person issuing the Palm Tran Trespass Notice and a description of the Palm Tran County 20 Property to which the Palm Tran Trespass Notice recipient shall not return during the Palm 21 Tran Trespass Notice period described in subsections (b) or (c) above. The Palm Tran Trespass 22 Notice shall advise of the right to appeal and the address and telephone number for filing the 23 appeal. The Palm Tran Trespass Notice shall include a warning of the consequences for failure 24 to comply.

25 (e) Notwithstanding any provision of this Ordinance, the Palm Tran Executive Director may 26 rescind a Palm Tran Trespass Notice or shorten its duration, as appropriate, if the Palm Tran Executive Director determines that the Palm Tran Trespass Notice was issued to the wrong 27 28 person or otherwise improperly issued, that there are additional facts that should have been 29 taken into account when the Palm Tran Trespass Notice was issued, or that there are mitigating 30 circumstances or newly discovered facts that warrant its rescission or a reduction in its 31 duration. The time a Palm Tran Trespass Notice recipient has to file an appeal as provided in Section 4 of the Ordinance shall be calculated from the date the Palm Tran Trespass Notice was 32

issued and not from the date the duration of the Palm Tran Trespass Notice was reduced by the
Palm Tran Executive Director. The Palm Tran Executive Director shall advise the recipient of
a Palm Tran Trespass Notice of his or her determination, and that such determination does not
modify or extend the time provided to file an appeal under Section 4 of this Ordinance.

5 Section 4. APPEAL:

6 (a) The Palm Tran Trespass Notice recipient shall have the right to appeal as follows:

7 (1) An appeal of a Palm Tran Trespass Notice must be filed, in writing, at the address 8 listed on the Palm Tran Trespass Notice within ten (10) days of the issuance of the Palm 9 Tran Trespass Notice. The appeal shall include the Palm Tran Trespass Notice 10 recipient's (appellant's) name and address; telephone number, electronic mail address and facsimile number, if any; a copy of the Palm Tran Trespass Notice; and a statement 11 12 of the basis for the appeal. Failure to file a written appeal within ten (10) days of issuance of the Palm Tran Trespass Notice shall be deemed a waiver of the right to 13 14 appeal.

(2) A filing fee in the amount of Twenty Dollars (\$20) shall accompany the appeal of a
Palm Tran Trespass Notice.

17 (3) The Palm Tran Executive Director may appoint one or more special masters to hear 18 and decide appeals from Palm Tran Trespass Notices, from a pool selected by the Board 19 of County Commissioners to hear and consider matters as required by any provision of the Palm Beach County Code or any Palm Beach County ordinance, including but not 20 limited to the provisions of Article 2.G of the Palm Beach County Unified Land 21 22 Development Code. Any special master appointed to hear and decide Palm Tran 23 Trespass Notice appeals shall satisfy the minimum qualifications established in Article 24 2.G.2 of the Palm Beach County Unified Land Development Code and shall serve, in an ex officio capacity, at the pleasure of the appointing authority for such period as is 25 26 determined by the appointing authority. Whoever shall accept an appointment as a special master to hear and decide appeals from Palm Tran Trespass Notices shall, for a 27 28 period of one (1) year from the date of termination of the holder's ex officio office, not 29 act as an attorney or agent in any proceeding or matter before any decision making body 30 of Palm Beach County that is related to or the subject of a Palm Tran Trespass Notice 31 which the special master considered.

(4) Within thirty (30) days following the filing of the appeal, a hearing shall be held in
 front of a special master. Notice of the hearing shall be sent to the address provided by
 the appellant through the U.S. mail, electronic mail, facsimile, certified mail or hand
 delivery.

5 (5) The hearing shall be open to the public and shall be recorded.

6 (6) At the hearing, the burden of proof shall be on the County to demonstrate by clear
7 and convincing evidence that a violation of Applicable State Law or Palm Tran
8 Trespass Regulation on Palm Tran County Property has occurred.

9 (7) If the appellant fails to attend a scheduled hearing, the special master shall review
10 the evidence presented and determine if the Palm Tran Trespass Notice was properly
11 issued pursuant to the criteria of this Ordinance.

12 (8) All testimony shall be under oath and shall be recorded. The formal rules of 13 evidence shall not apply but fundamental due process shall be observed and shall 14 govern the proceedings. Upon determination of the special master, irrelevant, 15 immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded, but all other evidence of a 16 type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs 17 shall be admissible, whether or not such evidence would be admissible in a trial in the 18 courts of the State of Florida.

(9) The special master may inquire of or question any witness present at the hearing.
The appellant or his/her attorney and the employee or attorney representing Palm Tran
shall be permitted to inquire of or question any witness present at the hearing. The
special master may consider testimony presented by any witness at the hearing.

23 (10) At the conclusion of the hearing, the special master shall orally render his or her decision (order) upholding or overruling the Palm Tran Trespass Notice based on 24 evidence entered into the record. Within five (5) days of the hearing, the special master 25 26 shall transmit his or her decision to the Palm Tran Executive Director in the form of a written order including findings of fact and conclusions of law consistent with the 27 28 record. The order shall be transmitted by the Palm Tran Executive Director to the 29 appellant by mail or hand delivery, within five (5) days of receipt of the order from the 30 special master.

(11) Any aggrieved party may appeal an order of the special master to the Circuit Court
 of Palm Beach County. Such appeal shall not be a hearing de novo but shall be limited

to appellate review of the record created before the special master. Any appeal filed
pursuant to this Ordinance shall be considered timely if filed within thirty (30) days of
the execution of the order to be appealed. Palm Tran may assess a reasonable charge for
the preparation of the record to be paid by the appellant in accordance with Section
119.07, Florida Statutes.

6 (12) The Palm Tran Trespass Notice shall remain in effect during the appeal and review
7 process, including any judicial review.

8 (b) The Palm Tran Executive Director, or designee, may authorize an individual who has 9 received a Palm Tran Trespass Notice to enter specific Palm Tran County Property to exercise 10 that individual's First Amendment rights if there is no other reasonable alternative location to 11 exercise such rights or to conduct necessary Palm Tran business. Such authorization must be in 12 writing, shall specify the duration of the authorization and any conditions thereof, and shall not 13 be unreasonably denied.

- (c) Any person found on Palm Tran County Property in violation of a Palm Tran TrespassNotice may be arrested for trespassing, except when authorized to be on Palm Tran County
- 16 Property as provided in Section 4.(b) of this Ordinance.
- (d) This Ordinance shall not be construed to limit the authority of any law enforcement officerto take any other enforcement action authorized by law.

# 19 Section 5. INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES:

The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Palm Beach County Code. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such, and the word ordinance may be changed to section, article, or other appropriate word.

- 23 Section 6. 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.

#### 26 Section 7. SEVERABILITY:

If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any
reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, inoperative, or void,
such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

1	Section 8.	<b>ENFORCEMENT:</b>

2	This Ordinance is enforceable by all means provided by law. Additionally, the County
3	or Palm Tran may choose to enforce this Ordinance by seeking injunctive relief in the Circuit
4	Court of Palm Beach County.
5	Section 9. PENALTY:
6	Any violation of any portion of this Ordinance shall be punishable as provided by law.
7	Section 10. CAPTIONS:
8	The captions, section headings, and section designations used in this Ordinance are for
9	convenience only and shall have no effect on the interpretation of the provisions of this
10	Ordinance.
11	Section 11. EFFECTIVE DATE:
12	The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the
13	Department of State.
14	
15	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach
16	County, Florida, on this the day of, 20
17	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS
18 19	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
20	By: By:
21	Deputy Clerk Priscilla A. Taylor, Mayor
22 23 24 25	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
25 26	Bv:
27 28	By: County Attorney
28 29	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
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