Agenda Item #:

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

Meeting Date: October 20, 2015		[ ] Consent	•	
Department		[X] Public Hearin		
Submitted By:	COUNTY ATTORNEY			
Submitted For:	COUNTY ATTORNEY			

## I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to adopt: an Ordinance of the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, establishing the "Civil Citation for Small Quantity Marijuana Possession Ordinance"; providing for a title; providing for providing for definitions; providing for civil citation for certain misdemeanor violations; providing for civil penalties and enforcement; providing for repeal of laws in conflict; providing for severability; providing for inclusion in the code of laws and ordinances; providing for captions; and providing for an effective date.

Summary: The Board of County Commissioners directed staff to research whether Palm Beach County could enact an ordinance similar to those being considered by other local jurisdictions, including Miami-Dade County and West Palm Beach, which provide an alternative penalty for the possession of small amounts of marijuana and/or marijuana drug paraphernalia. This ordinance allows law enforcement the alternative of issuing a civil citation and imposing a civil fine of \$100 on any person, 18 years of age or older, who possesses 20 grams or less of marijuana and/or marijuana drug paraphernalia. Unincorporated County (HH)

Background and Justification: Palm Beach County is not preempted by state law from enacting an ordinance providing for issuance of a civil citation and imposition of a civil fine for possession of a small amount of marijuana and/or marijuana drug paraphernalia, as long as the penalties imposed by such an ordinance do not exceed the penalties imposed by state law. Statistics reported by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) demonstrate that between 2001 and 2010 there were over 8 million marijuana arrests in the United States, marijuana arrests now account for over half of all drug arrests in the United States, and in 2010 states spent combined over \$3.6 billion enforcing marijuana possession laws. An arrest and conviction of marijuana possession can negatively impact public housing and student financial aid eligibility, employment opportunities, child custody determinations, and immigration status.

# Attachments:

1.	Proposed Ordinance	<ul> <li>Strike-thru underlined version</li> </ul>	1
2.	Proposed Ordinance	- Clean version	
Recomm	nended by:	V)/// Onan	10/14/15
Approve		nty Attorney	Date
	Cou	nty Administrator	Date

# II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A.	Five Year Summar	y of Fiscal	Impact:				
	Fiscal Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Opera Exter Progr	al Expenditures ating Costs nal Revenues ram Income (County nd Match (County)	/)					
NET	FISCAL IMPACT	<u>₩</u> -0-		<del></del>			
	DDITIONAL FTE SITIONS (Cumulativ	e)		-			
ls Iter	m Included in Curre	nt Budget	? Ye	es No_			
Budg	et Account No.:	Fund	_ Departme	ent Un	it Obje	ct	
		Reporting	g Category_	valential such management			
B.	Recommended So				Impact:		
C.	Departmental Fisc	al Review:					
		III. <u>R</u> E	EVIEW COMI	<u>MENTS</u>			
A.	OFMB Fiscal and/o	or Contrac	t Developme	ent and Cont	rol <sub>/</sub> Comment	s:	
	OFME	W whis	Co	priract Deve	opment and	) 0 1 1 6   1 2 Control	5
B.	Legal Sufficiency:		$\mathcal{D}_{\ell}$	Wheeler w	15-15	V	
	Assistant Cour	nty Attorne	<b></b>				
C.	Other Department	Review:					
	 Department	Director					

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

## ORDINANCE NO. 2015-\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE "CIVIL CITATION FOR SMALL QUANTITY MARIJUANA POSSESSION ORDINANCE"; PROVIDING FOR A TITLE; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR CIVIL CITATION FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

1	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County is given
2	broad authority to enact ordinances and prescribe penalties for violation of those ordinances by
3	the Florida Constitution, the Florida Statutes, and the Palm Beach County Charter; and
4	WHEREAS, the area of drug abuse control is not preempted by either the Florida
5	Constitution or Florida Statutes, thus local governments may enact ordinances concerning drug
6	abuse control, as long as the ordinance penalty does not exceed that of state law, Edwards v.
7	State, 422 So. 2d 84, 85 (Fla. 2d DCA 1982); and
8	WHEREAS, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) reports that between 2001
9	and 2010 there were over 8 million marijuana arrests in the United States, marijuana arrests
10	now account for over half (56%) of all drug arrests in the United States, and in 2010 states
11	spent combined over \$3.6 billion enforcing marijuana possession laws; and
12	WHEREAS, the ACLU reports that the price paid by those arrested and convicted of
13	marijuana possession can be significant and linger for years, if not a lifetime, including
14	negative impacts on public housing and student financial aid eligibility, employment
15	opportunities, child custody determinations, and immigration status: and
16	WHEREAS, in Palm Beach County between 2010 and 2014, police initiated 7,571
17	cases where the most serious offense was for marijuana possession of 20 grams or less; and the
18	vast majority (90%) of these cases resulted in the custodial arrest of an individual and
19	admission to the local jail, while the remaining cases resulted in the issuance of a citation or
20	notice to appear; and
21	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County has
22	determined that passage of this Ordinance which provides a civil citation alternative to arrest
23	and criminal prosecution for adults who possess 20 grams or less of marijuana or marijuana

- drug paraphernalia, will further the interest of the health, safety and general welfare of the
- 2 public; and
- 3 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, pursuant to
- 4 its authority under Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(g), Section 125.01, Florida
- 5 Statutes, and the Palm Beach County Charter, hereby adopts the Palm Beach County Civil
- 6 Citation for Small Quantity Marijuana Possession Ordinance; and
- WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has conducted a duly noticed public
- 8 hearing to consider this Ordinance in accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes.
- 9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
- 10 **COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA,** that:
- 11 **SECTION 1. TITLE:**
- 12 This Ordinance shall be titled the Palm Beach County Civil Citation for Small Quantity
- 13 Marijuana Possession Ordinance.
- 14 **SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY:**
- 15 This Ordinance shall be applicable within the unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County,
- 16 Florida, and in all municipalities within Palm Beach County that elect to have the provisions of
- this Ordinance apply within their respective jurisdictions.
- 18 **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS:**
- 19 As used in this Ordinance, unless some other meaning is plainly intended:
- 20 <u>Community service means uncompensated labor for a community service agency.</u>
- 21 <u>Community service agency means a not-for-profit corporation, community organization,</u>
- 22 <u>charitable organization, public officer, the state or any political subdivision of the state, or any </u>
- 23 other body the purpose of which is to improve the quality of life or social welfare of the
- 24 <u>community and which agrees to accept community service from persons.</u>
- 25 Marijuana means all parts of any plant of the genus Cannabis, whether growing or not;
- 26 the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound,
- 27 manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin. This
- 28 term does not include "low-THC cannabis," as defined in section 381.986, Florida Statutes
- 29 (2015), if manufactured, possessed, sold, purchased, delivered, distributed, or dispensed, in
- 30 conformance with section 381.986, Florida Statutes.

- 1 Marijuana drug paraphernalia means all equipment, products, and materials of any
- 2 kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise
- 3 introducing marijuana into the human body.

#### 4 SECTION 4. CIVIL CITATION FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR VIOLATIONS:

- 5 The following misdemeanor violations are eligible to receive a civil citation, at the discretion of
- 6 a law enforcement officer, provided that such violations are not charged in conjunction with
- 7 any <u>criminal</u> charge that is a felony, driving under the influence (DUI), incident involving
- 8 domestic violence, or violent crime, as those terms are defined under State law:
- 9 (a) Possession, by a person 18 years of age or older, of marijuana in an amount of 20 grams
- or less, as set forth in section 893.13(6)(d), Florida Statutes, as such may be amended from time
- 11 to time; and
- 12 (b) Possession, by a person 18 years of age or older, of marijuana drug paraphernalia.

## 13 <u>SECTION 5. CIVIL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT:</u>

- 14 (a) This Ordinance is enforceable by all law enforcement officers.
- 15 (b) A person who is issued a civil citation pursuant to this Ordinance shall be subject to a civil fine the following: of \$100.00
- a. On receipt of a first civil citation: a civil fine of \$100 plus court costs; and

  satisfactory completion of an approved substance abuse education class.
- b. On receipt of a second civil citation: a civil fine of \$250 plus court costs; 19 20 satisfactory completion of an approved substance abuse education class; and 4 hours of community service at a community service agency. The community service 21 22 agency supervising the person shall record the number of hours of community 23 service completed and the date the community service hours were completed. The 24 community service agency shall submit the data to the clerk of the court on the 25 letterhead of the community service agency, which must also bear the notarized signature of the person designated to represent the community service agency. 26
- 27 (c) No person may receive more than two civil citations pursuant to this Ordinance.
- 28 (d) The County Court shall have jurisdiction over all violations of this Ordinance.
- 29 (e) The County Clerk shall accept designated fines and issue receipts therefor, accept proof
- 30 of the satisfactory completion of approved substance abuse education class, and accept proof of
- 31 <u>satisfactory completion of community service</u>.

- 1 (f) A person issued a civil citation pursuant to Section 4 shall comply with all directives on
- 2 the citation.
- 3 (g) A person who fails to make payment as provided on the citation, and fails to
- 4 satisfactorily complete an approved substance abuse education class and community service,
- 5 where applicable, within the period specified on the citation, shall be deemed to have waived
- 6 his or her right to pay the civil penalty as set forth on the citation.
- 7 (h) A person who elects to appear before the court to contest the civil citation shall be
- 8 deemed to have waived his or her right to pay the civil penalty. The court, after conducting a
- 9 hearing, shall determine whether a violation has occurred and may impose a civil penalty not to
- 10 exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus court costs.
- 11 (i) If a person fails to pay the civil penalty and fails to satisfactorily complete an approved
- 12 <u>substance abuse education class and community service, where applicable, or fails to appear in</u>
- court to contest the citation, he or she shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to contest
- 14 the citation; and in such case, a default judgment may be entered and the judge shall impose a
- 15 fine at that time. An order to show cause may be issued. If the fine is paid and proof of
- 16 satisfactory completion of an approved substance abuse education class and satisfactory
- 17 completion of community service are provided, where applicable, the case shall be
- 18 <u>disposed dismissed</u>. If the fine is not paid, and no proof of satisfactory completion of an
- 19 approved substance abuse education class and satisfactory completion of community service
- 20 <u>are provided, where applicable, default judgment shallmay</u> be entered up to the maximum civil
- 21 penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus court costs.

## 22 SECTION 6. REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT:

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

#### 25 **SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY:**

29

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

# SECTION 8. INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF LAWS AND ORDINANCES:

- The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Palm Beach
- 31 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.

1	SECTION 9. CAPTIONS:
2	The captions, section headings, and section designations used in this Ordinance are for
.3	convenience only and shall have no effect on the interpretation of the provisions of this
4	Ordinance.
5	SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE:
6	The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the
7	Department of State.
8	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach
9	County, Florida, on this the day of, 2015.
10 11 12 13 14	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK AND COMPTROLLER  PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
15	By:
16 17 18 19	By: By: Shelley Vana, Mayor
20	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
21 22	LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
23 24	By:
25 26	County Attorney
27	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
28	, 2015.
29	G:\WPDATA\ENVIR\HHVIZD\Ordinances\Civil Citation\Civil Citation Ordinance 10.20.15.docx

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- 11 court to contest the citation, he or she shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to contest
- the citation; and in such case, a default judgment may be entered and the judge shall impose a
- 13 fine at that time. If the fine is paid and proof of satisfactory completion of an approved
- 14 substance abuse education class and satisfactory completion of community service are
- provided, where applicable, the case shall be disposed. If the fine is not paid, and no proof of
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9	County, Florida, on this the day of, 2015.
10 11 12 13	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK AND COMPTROLLER  PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
15	By: By: Shelley Vana, Mayor
16 17 18 19	By: By: Shelley Vana, Mayor
20 21	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
22 23 24 25 26	By: Helene C. County Attorney
27	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
28	, 2015.

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