Agenda Item #:

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PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS <u>AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY</u>

Meeting Date: October 20, 2015

[] Consent [] Regular [X] Public Hearing

Department

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 "Home Caregiver Ordinance"; providing for a title; providing for applicability; providing for definitions; providing for licensing; providing for disqualifications; providing for administrative appeal; providing for enforcement; providing for penalties; 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 work with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office in researching an ordinance requiring licensure and fingerprinting of home caregivers. This Ordinance will require licensure of those who qualify as "Home Caregivers" under the Ordinance, by the County's Department of Public Safety, Consumer Affairs Division. The Ordinance will be enforced primarily by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. <u>Countywide</u> (HH)

Background and Justification: Palm Beach County has the third largest population of Florida's counties, and is second among Florida's counties for number of residents aged 60 and over. As the population of elderly and disabled persons in Palm Beach County increases, so does the pool of potential victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Financial Crimes Unit, investigates exploitation of the elderly and disabled, and recognizes that most of the crimes investigated involve unlicensed home caregivers who are not subject to background screening. This Ordinance will require level 2 background screening and licensure of Home Caregivers who receive compensation from vulnerable adults in exchange for assisting vulnerable adults with covered activities of daily living and/or instrumental activities of daily living. The Ordinance exempts most relatives of the vulnerable adult, volunteers for charitable organizations, and specific licensed professionals.

Attachments:

- 1. Proposed Ordinance Strike-thru underlined version
- 2. Proposed Ordinance Clean version

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Recommended by:_	Mulum	10 13 15
	County Attorney	Date
Approved by:	N/A	
	County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Α.	Five Year Summa	ary of Fisca	l Impact:				
	Fiscal Years	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Opera Exter Progi In-Kii NE ⁻ # A	al Expenditures ating Costs nal Revenues ram Income (Coun nd Match (County) T FISCAL IMPACT DDITIONAL FTE	⊀0-					
PO	SITIONS (Cumulat	ive)					
Is Ite	m Included in Cur	rent Budget	? Y	es No_			
Budg	et Account No.:	Fund	Departm	ent Un	it Obje	ect	
		Reporting	g Category_				
в. с.	Recommended S No Fiscal J Departmental Fis	Impact		-	-		
		III. <u>R</u> I		MENTS			
Α.	OFMB Fiscal and	l/or Contrac MB Servier	<u>C</u>	ent and Cont	An inte	tion	115
В.	Legal Sufficiency Legal Sufficiency Assistant Co	Heine		in need of the	7 13		
C.	Other Departme	nt Review:					
	Departme	nt Director					

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-_

OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY AN ORDINANCE COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE "HOME CAREGIVER ORDINANCE"; PROVIDING FOR A TITLE; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; LICENSING; PROVIDING FOR FOR PROVIDING PROVIDING FOR **DISQUALIFICATIONS;** FOR APPEAL; PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE **ENFORCEMENT;** PROVIDING FOR **PENALTIES;** 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.

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County is the largest Florida county in size, and has the third
 largest population with 1,360,734 residents; and

- WHEREAS, in 2011, there were 11,468,487 people aged 18 to 64 in Florida, and 1,131,661, or 9.9%, had at least one disability; and there were 3,296,861 people aged 65 and
- 5 older, and 1,136,372, or 24.5% had at least one disability; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Palm Beach County is second among Florida's 67 counties for number of
- 7 residents aged 60 and over, with 387,520 residents, or 28.5% of the County's population being
- 8 aged 60 and over; and
- 9 WHEREAS, people who survive to the age of 65 can be expected to live another 19.2 10 years, and as the populations of elderly and disabled persons in Florida increases, so does the
- 11 pool of potential victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and
- WHEREAS, 47,347 of Palm Beach County seniors live at or below 125% of the
 poverty level and 101,059 seniors live alone; and

WHEREAS, the Area Agency on Aging, Palm Beach County, reported 4,928 Senior Crime Victims in Palm Beach County in a one year period in 2013-14, with the most common crime being burglary (1,583 of those cases) and the second most common crime being fraud/theft (1,324 of those cases); and

- WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Adult Protective Services is charged with protecting vulnerable adults from being harmed, and receives an average of 222 calls of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Palm Beach County each month; and WHEREAS, vulnerable adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- suffer from fear, anxiety, and embarrassment, and prosecution of the abuser is often
 complicated by the victim's incapacity to testify; and

2	health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Palm Beach County to protect Palm Beach
3	County's vulnerable adults and disabled citizens by establishing licensing requirements for
4	Home Caregivers as provided in this Ordinance; and
5	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, pursuant to
6	its authority under Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(g), Section 125.01, Florida
7	Statutes, and the Palm Beach County Charter, hereby adopts the Palm Beach County Home
8	Caregiver Ordinance; and
9	WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has conducted a duly noticed public
10	hearing to consider this Ordinance in accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes.
11	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
12	COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:
13	
14	SECTION 1. TITLE:
15	This Ordinance shall be titled the Palm Beach County Home Caregiver Ordinance.
16	
17	SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY:
18	This Ordinance shall be applicable within the unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County, and
19	in all municipalities that have not adopted an ordinance in conflict. Unless otherwise provided,
20	nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to relieve any person from compliance with any
21	applicable county or municipal regulations.
22	
23	SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS:
24	As used in this Ordinance, unless some other meaning is plainly intended:
25	Board is the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.
26	Covered Activities include Activities of Daily Living (bathing, grooming, shaving, oral
27	care, using the toilet or other continence-related activities, dressing, eating, transferring from
28	seated to standing position, getting in and out of bed); and Instrumental Activities of Daily
29	Living (finding and utilizing resources such as making and keeping doctor's appointments,
30	driving or arranging for travel – either by public transportation or private car, preparing meals,
31	shopping, housework, managing medication, and managing finances).
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WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that it will serve the public

Division is the Palm Beach County Department of Public Safety Consumer Affairs

2 Division.

3 *Home Caregiver* is a person who receives compensation directly or indirectly from a 4 "vulnerable adult" in exchange for assisting that vulnerable adult with one or more "covered 5 activities."

6 *Vulnerable Adult* is a person 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the 7 normal activities of daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired 8 due to a mental, emotional, sensory, long-term physical, or developmental disability or 9 dysfunction, or brain damage, or the infirmities of aging.

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11 SECTION 4. LICENSING:

12 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to act as a Home Caregiver without first obtaining a
13 Home Caregiver license; however, this Ordinance shall not apply to the following:

- (1) The vulnerable adult's spouse, domestic partner, parents, step-parents,
 grandparents, step-grandparents, children, step-children, grandchildren, step grandchildren, great grandchildren, siblings, or step-siblings;
- 17 (2) Charitable and/or faith based organizations which are exempt from federal
 18 income tax pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), and which serve Vulnerable Adults by
 19 making referrals of volunteers to provide Covered Activities;
- 20 (3) People who receive compensation directly or indirectly from a Vulnerable Adult
 21 in exchange for assisting that Vulnerable Adult with one or more Covered Activities on
 22 a non-recurring basis, not to exceed 3 days in any calendar month or 24 days in any
 23 calendar year;
- (4) People who are currently licensed in Florida as a: Registered Nurse (RN),
 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Clinical Nurse
 Specialist (CNS), Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), Physical Therapist
 (PT), Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA), Occupational Therapist (OT), or
 Occupational Therapist Assistant (OTA).

(b) A person not exempt pursuant to this section who wishes to act as a Home Caregiver
shall make application to the Division for a Home Caregiver license. All applicants for a Home
Caregiver license shall conform to all of the following, and failure to meet each of these
conditions is grounds for denial of a Home Caregiver license:

1 (1) Be at least eighteen (18) years of age;

On initial application and on each fifth yearly subsequent renewal thereafter, the 2 (2)applicant must provide the original request form for his/her Florida Department of Law 3 Enforcement (FDLE) criminal history/records report to the Division, as well as payment 4 for the amount required to secure the criminal history/records report. The Division shall 5 then be responsible for processing the request and payment to the FDLE. Prior to 6 submitting a request for a criminal history record check pursuant to this Ordinance, the 7 Division shall notify each applicant to be fingerprinted that his or her fingerprints will 8 9 be sent to the State Department of Law Enforcement for a state criminal history record check and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record 10 check. The notification shall also state that the Home Caregiver license applicant has a 11 12 right to:

13

a. Obtain a copy of his or her criminal history records;

- b. To challenge the completeness and accuracy of the criminal history records
 pursuant to state and federal law; and
- 16 c. To request a correction, change or update to the criminal history records
 17 pursuant to state and federal law.

Applicants who are employed by, or are independent contractors placed through, home 18 health agencies, nurse registries, homemaker and companion services providers, and 19 hospice providers which are licensed by the Florida Agency for Health Care 20 21 Administration (AHCA), may comply with the fingerprinting and criminal history 22 records screening requirement of this section by causing the applicant's AHCA licensed 23 agency, registry, or provider to submit directly to the Division an affidavit on a form 24 provided by the Division, in which the AHCA licensed agency, registry, or provider 25 attests that the applicant has undergone a level two criminal history records screening and is currently licensed by AHCA. All AHCA licensed agencies, registries, and 26 27 providers submitting such an affidavit on behalf of their employee or independent 28 contractor are required to advise the Division, in writing, immediately on learning: 1) that the employee or independent contractor who is the subject of the affidavit has been 29 30 designated by AHCA as "ineligible"; 2) that the employee or independent contractor 31 who is the subject of the affidavit is no longer employed by, or placed through, the 32 AHCA licensed agency, registry, or provider which provided the affidavit; and 3) that the employee or independent contractor has taken a leave of absence for more than 90 days.

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(3) Every application or renewal application for a Home Caregiver license shall be in writing and signed by the applicant and shall be filed with the Division on a form provided by the Division together with the nonrefundable license application fee which shall not be subject to proration. The license application fee shall be established by resolution of the Board;

- 8 (4) Applicants must submit to a fullface photograph or digital image prior to the
 9 issuance of the Home Caregiver license by the Division;
- 10 (5) Applicants must complete the Home Caregiver license registration affidavits
 11 provided by the Division;

Each Home Caregiver license shall be valid for a onefive-year period and must 12 (6) be renewed by the applicant every five years from the date of the initial/renewal 13 14 application. The Division may deny a Home Caregiver license if it is determined that 15 the applicant has misrepresented, omitted, or concealed a fact on the application, 16 renewal application or replacement application. If the Home Caregiver license is denied, the Division shall not accept an application for said license for one (1) year 17 18 from the date the license is denied. Any person renewing a Home Caregiver license 19 must file a renewal application, furnish the documentation requested by the Division, 20 and submit payment for the required nonrefundable renewal fee(s) not more than ninety 21 (90) days before the expiration date of a Home Caregiver license. Persons who fail to 22 reapply for their Home Caregiver license thirty (30) days prior to expiration, risk having a gap in their authorization to act as a Home Caregiver. Any applicant who fails to 23 24 submit a renewal application within twenty (20) days of the expiration of a current 25 license will be considered a new applicant when reapplying and no grandfathered 26 provisions will apply. The license renewal fee shall be established by resolution of the 27 Board.

(c) Licensed Home Caregivers shall maintain the license issued pursuant to this Ordinance
while acting as a Home Caregiver in such a manner as to make it available for inspection to the
public, Division personnel, and all law enforcement officials.

31 (d) Each Home Caregiver license shall, at a minimum, contain the name of the Home
32 Caregiver, date of expiration, and fullface photograph or digital image of the Home Caregiver.

1 (e) The Division may issue a replacement Home Caregiver license to any Home Caregiver 2 on application, payment of a nonrefundable replacement fee, presentation of proof or a sworn 3 affidavit that the license has been lost, stolen, or for any other valid reason, and any other 4 documentation or requirement requested by the Division. The replacement fee shall be 5 established by resolution of the Board.

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7 SECTION 5. DISQUALIFICATIONS:

An applicant for a Home Caregiver license shall be disqualified from receiving such a license,
and a licensed Home Caregiver may have his or her license revoked, by reason of:

- (1) Having been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or having entered a plea
 of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense prohibited under any of the following
 provisions of Florida Statutes or under any similar statute of another jurisdiction within
 the past fifteen (15) years:
- a. Section 415.111, relating to reporting adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation of aged
 persons or disabled adults; or
- 16 b. Chapter 782, relating to homicide; or
- 17 c. Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and culpable negligence; or
- d. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping, false imprisonment, luring or enticing a child,
 custody offenses; or
- 20 e. Chapter 794, relating to sexual battery;
- f. Chapter 800, relating to lewdness, indecent exposure; or
- 22 g. Chapter 806, relating to arson; or
- h. Chapter 810, relating to burglary and trespass, if the offense is a felony; or
- i. Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and related crimes, if the offense is a felony;
 or
- 26 j. Chapter 817, relating to fraudulent practices; or
- k. Chapter 825, relating to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly persons and
 disabled adults; or
- 29 l. Chapter 827, relating to abuse of children; or
- 30 m. Chapter 831, relating to forgery and counterfeiting; or
- n. Chapter 847, relating to obscenity, if the offense is a felony; or
- 32 o. Chapter 859, relating to poisons, adulterated drugs, if the offense is a felony; or

p. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and control, if the offense is a felony; 1 or 2 q. Chapter 896, relating to offenses concerning financial transactions. 3 Failing to notify the Division within ten (10) business days of being found guilty (2)4 of, regardless of adjudication, or having entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, 5 any of the crimes enumerated in section (1) above; 6 7 (3)Having unsatisfied penalties, judgments or administrative orders pertaining to this Ordinance; 8 Being enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction from engaging in the Home 9 (4)Caregiver business; 10 Having a conviction in any military or foreign jurisdiction, federal, state, county 11 (5)12 or municipal jurisdiction within the United States for violations analogous or parallel to those violations enumerated in all sections herein; 13 Misrepresenting, omitting, or concealing a fact on the Home Caregiver 14 (6)15 application, renewal application, or replacement application; 16 (7)Altering or otherwise changing the contents of the information included on the 17 face of a Home Caregiver license; or 18 (8) Obstructing, hampering, or interfering with an investigation of an alleged 19 violation of this Ordinance conducted by Division personnel, any law enforcement 20 officer or an employee of any other agency enforcing this Ordinance. 21 **SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL:** 22 23 (a) If an applicant is disqualified from receiving a Home Caregiver license, or if a Home

Caregiver license is revoked, the Division will serve written notice of disqualification or revocation by certified mail (return receipt requested) on the applicant or licensee. The written notice shall specify the grounds for the disqualification or revocation. On receipt of the written notice, a person shall be entitled to appeal such decision to the consumer affairs hearing board/special master.

(b) An appeal to the consumer affairs hearing board/special master shall be initiated by filing with the Division a written request for an appeal, along with a non-refundable filing fee, within twenty (20) days of receipt of the written notice of disqualification or revocation. The filing fee shall be established by resolution of the Board. Failure to timely file a written request for an appeal and accompanying filing fee shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal and
admission of the grounds for disqualification or revocation.

3 (c) Appeals shall be considered at a hearing of the consumer affairs hearing board/special 4 master within sixty (60) days of receipt by the Division of the request for an appeal. Written 5 notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing of the appeal shall be served on the appellant 6 no later than twenty (20) days prior to the date of the hearing, by certified mail (return receipt 7 requested). Failure to appear at a duly noticed hearing shall be deemed a waiver of the right 8 to appeal and an admission of the grounds for disqualification or revocation.

9 (d) At the hearing before the consumer affairs hearing board/special master, all parties may 10 be represented by an attorney and shall be entitled to present evidence and argument on all issues involved, conduct cross examination, and submit rebuttal evidence. All testimony shall 11 12 be under oath and shall be recorded. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but fundamental 13 due process shall be observed and shall govern the proceedings. Irrelevant, immaterial or 14 unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded, but all other evidence of a type commonly relied on by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs shall be admissible, (including 15 16 hearsay), whether or not such evidence would be admissible in a trial in the courts of this state. 17 The appellant shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. The 18 appellant's criminal history/records reports shall be admitted into evidence before the consumer 19 affairs hearing board/special master. The consumer affairs hearing board/special master shall consider all evidence and documentation de novo, and shall, on the basis of competent 20 substantial evidence before it, affirm or reverse the disqualification or revocation. At the 21 conclusion of the appeal hearing, the consumer affairs hearing board/special master shall orally 22 23 render its decision. The decision shall be by motion approved by the affirmative vote of those members present and voting. The decision shall be stated in a written order and mailed to the 24 appealing party not later than ten (10) days after the hearing, and shall be deemed final agency 25 26 action with regard to the matter appealed.

(e) Any person may appeal a final determination of the consumer affairs hearing
board/special master within thirty (30) days of the rendition of the decision by filing a petition
for writ of certiorari in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach
County.

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SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT:

In addition to the penalties set forth in section 8 of this Ordinance, this Ordinance is enforceable by all means provided by law. Additionally, Palm Beach County may choose to enforce this Ordinance by seeking injunctive relief in the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County.

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6 SECTION 8. PENALTIES:

Pursuant to section 125.69, Florida Statutes, violations of county ordinances shall be 7 (a) prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted. Any person violating any of 8 the provisions of this Ordinance, any terms of a notice to appear citation, any notice to correct a 9 violation, or any other lawful order of the Division Director; or who shall fail to abide by and 10 11 obey all orders and resolutions promulgated as herein provided, shall, on conviction, be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or both for 12 each violation, payment of all costs and expenses involved in prosecuting the offense, and 13 14 permanent disqualification from receiving a Home Caregiver license.

15 (b) Each day that a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.

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17 SECTION 9. REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT:

18 All local laws and ordinances in conflict with any provisions of this Ordinance are19 hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

20

21 SECTION 10. 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.

25

26 SECTION 11. 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.

1	SECTION 12. 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	
6	SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE:
7	The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the
8	Department of State.
9	·
10	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach
11	County, Florida, on this the day of, 2015.
12 13 14	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK AND COMPTROLLERPALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
15 16	By: By:
17	By: By: Deputy Clerk Shelley Vana, Mayor
18	
19	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
20 21	LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
21 22	
23	By:
24	County Attorney
25	
26	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
27	, 2015.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-__

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COUNTY, COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING THE "HOME CAREGIVER **ORDINANCE"; PROVIDING FOR A TITLE; PROVIDING** FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; LICENSING; PROVIDING PROVIDING FOR FOR **DISQUALIFICATIONS;** PROVIDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL; PROVIDING FOR **PROVIDING** FOR **PENALTIES; 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.

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County is the largest Florida county in size, and has the third
 largest population with 1,360,734 residents; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, there were 11,468,487 people aged 18 to 64 in Florida, and 1,131,661, or 9.9%, had at least one disability; and there were 3,296,861 people aged 65 and older, and 1,136,372, or 24.5% had at least one disability; and

6 WHEREAS, Palm Beach County is second among Florida's 67 counties for number of 7 residents aged 60 and over, with 387,520 residents, or 28.5% of the County's population being

8 aged 60 and over; and

9 WHEREAS, people who survive to the age of 65 can be expected to live another 19.2 10 years, and as the populations of elderly and disabled persons in Florida increases, so does the 11 pool of potential victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, 47,347 of Palm Beach County seniors live at or below 125% of the
poverty level and 101,059 seniors live alone; and

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WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Children and Families, Adult Protective Services is charged with protecting vulnerable adults from being harmed, and receives an average of 222 calls of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Palm Beach County each month; and WHEREAS, vulnerable adults who are victims of abuse neglect and exploitation

WHEREAS, vulnerable adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation suffer from fear, anxiety, and embarrassment, and prosecution of the abuser is often complicated by the victim's incapacity to testify; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that it will serve the public 1 health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Palm Beach County to protect Palm Beach 2 County's vulnerable adults and disabled citizens by establishing licensing requirements for 3 Home Caregivers as provided in this Ordinance; and 4 5 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, pursuant to its authority under Florida Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1(g), Section 125.01, Florida 6 7 Statutes, and the Palm Beach County Charter, hereby adopts the Palm Beach County Home 8 Caregiver Ordinance; and 9 WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners has conducted a duly noticed public 10 hearing to consider this Ordinance in accordance with Section 125.66, Florida Statutes. 11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY 12 COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that: 13 **SECTION 1. TITLE:** 14 This Ordinance shall be titled the Palm Beach County Home Caregiver Ordinance. 15

16

17 SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY:

18 This Ordinance shall be applicable within the unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County, and

19 in all municipalities that have not adopted an ordinance in conflict. Unless otherwise provided,

20 nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to relieve any person from compliance with any

21 applicable county or municipal regulations.

22

23 **SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS:**

As used in this Ordinance, unless some other meaning is plainly intended:

25 *Board* is the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

Covered Activities include Activities of Daily Living (bathing, grooming, shaving, oral care, using the toilet or other continence-related activities, dressing, eating, transferring from seated to standing position, getting in and out of bed); and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (finding and utilizing resources such as making and keeping doctor's appointments, driving or arranging for travel – either by public transportation or private car, preparing meals, shopping, housework, managing medication, and managing finances).

Division is the Palm Beach County Department of Public Safety Consumer Affairs

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3 *Home Caregiver* is a person who receives compensation directly or indirectly from a 4 "vulnerable adult" in exchange for assisting that vulnerable adult with one or more "covered 5 activities."

6 *Vulnerable Adult* is a person 18 years of age or older whose ability to perform the 7 normal activities of daily living or to provide for his or her own care or protection is impaired 8 due to a mental, emotional, sensory, long-term physical, or developmental disability or 9 dysfunction, or brain damage, or the infirmities of aging.

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11 SECTION 4. LICENSING:

12 (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to act as a Home Caregiver without first obtaining a
13 Home Caregiver license; however, this Ordinance shall not apply to the following:

- 14 (1) The vulnerable adult's spouse, domestic partner, parents, step-parents,
 15 grandparents, step-grandparents, children, step-children, grandchildren, step16 grandchildren, great grandchildren, siblings, or step-siblings;
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 18 income tax pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), and which serve Vulnerable Adults by
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 21 in exchange for assisting that Vulnerable Adult with one or more Covered Activities on
 22 a non-recurring basis, not to exceed 3 days in any calendar month or 24 days in any
 23 calendar year;
- (4) People who are currently licensed in Florida as a: Registered Nurse (RN),
 Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Clinical Nurse
 Specialist (CNS), Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP), Physical Therapist
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shall make application to the Division for a Home Caregiver license. All applicants for a Home
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 17 pursuant to state and federal law.

18 Applicants who are employed by, or are independent contractors placed through, home 19 health agencies, nurse registries, homemaker and companion services providers, and hospice providers which are licensed by the Florida Agency for Health Care 20 21 Administration (AHCA), may comply with the fingerprinting and criminal history records screening requirement of this section by causing the applicant's AHCA licensed 22 agency, registry, or provider to submit directly to the Division an affidavit on a form 23 provided by the Division, in which the AHCA licensed agency, registry, or provider 24 25 attests that the applicant has undergone a level two criminal history records screening and is currently licensed by AHCA. All AHCA licensed agencies, registries, and 26 providers submitting such an affidavit on behalf of their employee or independent 27 28 contractor are required to advise the Division, in writing, immediately on learning: 1) that the employee or independent contractor who is the subject of the affidavit has been 29 30 designated by AHCA as "ineligible"; 2) that the employee or independent contractor 31 who is the subject of the affidavit is no longer employed by, or placed through, the AHCA licensed agency, registry, or provider which provided the affidavit; and 3) that 32

the employee or independent contractor has taken a leave of absence for more than 90 2 days.

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Every application or renewal application for a Home Caregiver license shall be 3 (3) in writing and signed by the applicant and shall be filed with the Division on a form 4 5 provided by the Division together with the nonrefundable license application fee which shall not be subject to proration. The license application fee shall be established by 6 7 resolution of the Board;

- 8 Applicants must submit to a full-face photograph or digital image prior to the (4)9 issuance of the Home Caregiver license by the Division;
- 10 (5) Applicants must complete the Home Caregiver license registration affidavits 11 provided by the Division;

Each Home Caregiver license shall be valid for a five-year period and must be 12 (6) 13 renewed by the applicant every five years from the date of the initial/renewal application. The Division may deny a Home Caregiver license if it is determined that 14 15 the applicant has misrepresented, omitted, or concealed a fact on the application, renewal application or replacement application. If the Home Caregiver license is 16 denied, the Division shall not accept an application for said license for one (1) year 17 from the date the license is denied. Any person renewing a Home Caregiver license 18 must file a renewal application, furnish the documentation requested by the Division, 19 and submit payment for the required nonrefundable renewal fee(s) not more than ninety 20 21 (90) days before the expiration date of a Home Caregiver license. Persons who fail to reapply for their Home Caregiver license thirty (30) days prior to expiration, risk having 22 a gap in their authorization to act as a Home Caregiver. Any applicant who fails to 23 submit a renewal application within twenty (20) days of the expiration of a current 24 25 license will be considered a new applicant when reapplying and no grandfathered 26 provisions will apply. The license renewal fee shall be established by resolution of the 27 Board.

Licensed Home Caregivers shall maintain the license issued pursuant to this Ordinance 28 (c) while acting as a Home Caregiver in such a manner as to make it available for inspection to the 29 public, Division personnel, and all law enforcement officials. 30

Each Home Caregiver license shall, at a minimum, contain the name of the Home 31 (d) Caregiver, date of expiration, and full-face photograph or digital image of the Home Caregiver. 32

1 (e) The Division may issue a replacement Home Caregiver license to any Home Caregiver 2 on application, payment of a nonrefundable replacement fee, presentation of proof or a sworn 3 affidavit that the license has been lost, stolen, or for any other valid reason, and any other 4 documentation or requirement requested by the Division. The replacement fee shall be 5 established by resolution of the Board.

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7 SECTION 5. DISQUALIFICATIONS:

An applicant for a Home Caregiver license shall be disqualified from receiving such a license,
and a licensed Home Caregiver may have his or her license revoked, by reason of:

- (1) Having been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or having entered a plea
 of nolo contendere or guilty to, any offense prohibited under any of the following
 provisions of Florida Statutes or under any similar statute of another jurisdiction within
 the past fifteen (15) years:
- a. Section 415.111, relating to reporting adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation of aged
 persons or disabled adults; or
- 16 b. Chapter 782, relating to homicide; or
- 17 c. Chapter 784, relating to assault, battery, and culpable negligence; or
- d. Chapter 787, relating to kidnapping, false imprisonment, luring or enticing a child,
 custody offenses; or
- 20 e. Chapter 794, relating to sexual battery;
- 21 f. Chapter 800, relating to lewdness, indecent exposure; or
- 22 g. Chapter 806, relating to arson; or
- h. Chapter 810, relating to burglary and trespass, if the offense is a felony; or
- i. Chapter 812, relating to theft, robbery, and related crimes, if the offense is a felony;
 or
- 26 j. Chapter 817, relating to fraudulent practices; or
- k. Chapter 825, relating to abuse, neglect, and exploitation of elderly persons and
 disabled adults; or
- 29 l. Chapter 827, relating to abuse of children; or
- 30 m. Chapter 831, relating to forgery and counterfeiting; or
- n. Chapter 847, relating to obscenity, if the offense is a felony; or
- 32 o. Chapter 859, relating to poisons, adulterated drugs, if the offense is a felony; or

p. Chapter 893, relating to drug abuse prevention and control, if the offense is a felony; 1 2 or 3 q. Chapter 896, relating to offenses concerning financial transactions. Failing to notify the Division within ten (10) business days of being found guilty 4 (2)5 of, regardless of adjudication, or having entered a plea of nolo contendere or guilty to, 6 any of the crimes enumerated in section (1) above; 7 (3) Having unsatisfied penalties, judgments or administrative orders pertaining to 8 this Ordinance; 9 (4)Being enjoined by a court of competent jurisdiction from engaging in the Home 10 Caregiver business; 11 (5) Having a conviction in any military or foreign jurisdiction, federal, state, county 12 or municipal jurisdiction within the United States for violations analogous or parallel to 13 those violations enumerated in all sections herein; 14 (6) Misrepresenting, omitting, or concealing a fact on the Home Caregiver 15 application, renewal application, or replacement application; 16 Altering or otherwise changing the contents of the information included on the (7)17 face of a Home Caregiver license; or 18 Obstructing, hampering, or interfering with an investigation of an alleged (8) 19 violation of this Ordinance conducted by Division personnel, any law enforcement 20 officer or an employee of any other agency enforcing this Ordinance. 21 22 **SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL:** If an applicant is disqualified from receiving a Home Caregiver license, or if a Home 23 (a) Caregiver license is revoked, the Division will serve written notice of disqualification or 24 revocation by certified mail (return receipt requested) on the applicant or licensee. The written 25 notice shall specify the grounds for the disqualification or revocation. On receipt of the written 26

27 notice, a person shall be entitled to appeal such decision to the consumer affairs hearing28 board/special master.

(b) An appeal to the consumer affairs hearing board/special master shall be initiated by filing with the Division a written request for an appeal, along with a non-refundable filing fee, within twenty (20) days of receipt of the written notice of disqualification or revocation. The filing fee shall be established by resolution of the Board. Failure to timely file a written request for an appeal and accompanying filing fee shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal and
admission of the grounds for disqualification or revocation.

3 (c) Appeals shall be considered at a hearing of the consumer affairs hearing board/special 4 master within sixty (60) days of receipt by the Division of the request for an appeal. Written 5 notice of the time, date, and place of the hearing of the appeal shall be served on the appellant 6 no later than twenty (20) days prior to the date of the hearing, by certified mail (return receipt 7 requested). Failure to appear at a duly noticed hearing shall be deemed a waiver of the right 8 to appeal and an admission of the grounds for disqualification or revocation.

9 At the hearing before the consumer affairs hearing board/special master, all parties may (d) 10 be represented by an attorney and shall be entitled to present evidence and argument on all 11 issues involved, conduct cross examination, and submit rebuttal evidence. All testimony shall be under oath and shall be recorded. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but fundamental 12 13 due process shall be observed and shall govern the proceedings. Irrelevant, immaterial or 14 unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded, but all other evidence of a type commonly relied 15 on by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs shall be admissible, (including hearsay), whether or not such evidence would be admissible in a trial in the courts of this state. 16 The appellant shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. 17 The appellant's criminal history/records reports shall be admitted into evidence before the consumer 18 19 affairs hearing board/special master. The consumer affairs hearing board/special master shall 20 consider all evidence and documentation de novo, and shall, on the basis of competent substantial evidence before it, affirm or reverse the disqualification or revocation. At the 21 conclusion of the appeal hearing, the consumer affairs hearing board/special master shall orally 22 render its decision. The decision shall be by motion approved by the affirmative vote of those 23 24 members present and voting. The decision shall be stated in a written order and mailed to the appealing party not later than ten (10) days after the hearing, and shall be deemed final agency 25 26 action with regard to the matter appealed.

(e) Any person may appeal a final determination of the consumer affairs hearing
board/special master within thirty (30) days of the rendition of the decision by filing a petition
for writ of certiorari in the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach
County.

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SECTION 7. ENFORCEMENT:

In addition to the penalties set forth in section 8 of this Ordinance, this Ordinance is enforceable by all means provided by law. Additionally, Palm Beach County may choose to enforce this Ordinance by seeking injunctive relief in the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County.

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SECTION 8. PENALTIES:

Pursuant to section 125.69, Florida Statutes, violations of county ordinances shall be 7 (a) 8 prosecuted in the same manner as misdemeanors are prosecuted. Any person violating any of 9 the provisions of this Ordinance, any terms of a notice to appear citation, any notice to correct a 10 violation, or any other lawful order of the Division Director; or who shall fail to abide by and 11 obey all orders and resolutions promulgated as herein provided, shall, on conviction, be 12 punished by a fine not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 60 days, or both for 13 each violation, payment of all costs and expenses involved in prosecuting the offense, and 14 permanent disqualification from receiving a Home Caregiver license.

15 (b) Each day that a violation occurs shall constitute a separate violation.

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17 SECTION 9. 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.

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21 SECTION 10. 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.

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26 SECTION 11. 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.

1	SECTION 12. 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	
6	SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE:
7	The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the
8	Department of State.
9	
10	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach
11	County, Florida, on this the day of, 2015.
12 13 14 15	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK AND COMPTROLLERPALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	By:
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Deputy Clerk Shelley Vana, Mayor APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: Lelene Cabuya
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Deputy Clerk Shelley Vana, Mayor APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: <u>Helene Church</u> County Attorney
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	Deputy Clerk Shelley Vana, Mayor APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: <u>Jeleve Cobuge</u> County Attorney EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	Deputy Clerk Shelley Vana, Mayor APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: <u>Jeleve Cobuge</u> County Attorney EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
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