Agenda Item #:

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

Meeting Date: December 15, 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 "Civil Citation for Small Quantity Marijuana Possession Ordinance"; providing for a title; providing for applicability; providing for definitions; providing for civil infraction; 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 makes possession of small amounts of marijuana and/or marijuana drug paraphernalia a civil infraction, and 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. This item is a continuation of the public hearing held on October 20, 2015. Countywide (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:

- Proposed Ordinance Underline Strikethrough version Proposed Ordinance Clean version 1.
- 2.

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Recommended by:	$\langle \rangle \rangle$	Villiam	11/23	15
Approved by:	County Atto N/A	Date		
	County Adı	Date		

# II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

	Fiscal Years	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Opera Exter Progr	al Expenditures ating Costs nal Revenues am Income (County) id Match (County)	)				
NET	FISCAL IMPACT	¥0				
	DDITIONAL FTE SITIONS (Cumulativ	e)				
ls Iter	n Included in Curre	nt Budget?	Yes_	No	-	
Budg	et Account No.:	Fund	Department	Unit	Object_	
		Reporting C	ategory			
В.	<ul> <li>B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:</li> <li>* Fiscal impact is indeterminable.</li> </ul>					
C.	Departmental Fisc	al Review: _				
		III. <u>REV</u>	IEW COMME	NTS		
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<b>"</b>	OFMB Fiscal and/o		vevelopment		Comments	
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В.	Shen of ME	Bm	<u> </u>	ract Develop	auchun Ti	
	Men Magnipa OFME	Britzin Jenton	<u> </u>	ract Develop	ment and Co	
	Legal Sufficiency:	Millon Millon Migd	<u> </u>	ract Develop	ment and Co	

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 INFRACTIONCITATION FOR **CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING** FOR PENALTIES CIVIL 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.** 

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County is given
 broad authority to enact ordinances and prescribe penalties for violation of those ordinances by
 the Florida Constitution, the Florida Statutes, and the Palm Beach County Charter; and

WHEREAS, the area of drug abuse control is not preempted by either the Florida
Constitution or Florida Statutes, thus local governments may enact ordinances concerning drug
abuse control, as long as the ordinance penalty does not exceed that of state law, *Edwards v. 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

WHEREAS, the ACLU reports that the price paid by those arrested and convicted of marijuana possession can be significant and linger for years, if not a lifetime, including negative impacts on public housing and student financial aid eligibility, employment opportunities, child custody determinations, and immigration status: and

WHEREAS, in Palm Beach County between 2010 and 2014, police initiated 7,571 cases where the most serious offense was for marijuana possession of 20 grams or less; and the vast majority (90%) of these cases resulted in the custodial arrest of an individual and admission to the local jail, while the remaining cases resulted in the issuance of a citation or notice to appear; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County has determined that passage of this Ordinance which provides a civil citation alternative to arrest and criminal prosecution for adults who possess 20 grams or less of marijuana or marijuana

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drug paraphernalia, will further the interest of the health, safety and general welfare of the
 public; and

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 Statutes, and the Palm Beach County Charter, hereby adopts the Palm Beach County Civil Citation for Small Quantity Marijuana Possession Ordinance; and

- 7 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 Quantity13 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

17 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 *Community service* means uncompensated labor for a community service agency.

21 *Community service agency* means a not-for-profit corporation, community organization, 22 charitable organization, public officer, the state or any political subdivision of the state, or any 23 other body the purpose of which is to improve the quality of life or social welfare of the 24 community and which agrees to accept community service from persons.

*Marijuana* means all parts of any plant of the genus *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant or its seeds or resin. This term does not include "low-THC cannabis," as defined in section 381.986, Florida Statutes (2015), if manufactured, possessed, sold, purchased, delivered, distributed, or dispensed, in conformance with section 381.986, Florida Statutes. Marijuana drug paraphernalia means all equipment, products, and materials of any
 kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise
 introducing marijuana into the human body.

# 4 <u>SECTION 4. CIVIL INFRACTIONCITATION FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR</u> 5 <u>VIOLATIONS:</u>

6 The following <u>State law</u> misdemeanor violations are <u>declared civil infractions and</u> eligible to 7 receive a civil citation, at the discretion of a law enforcement officer, provided that such 8 violations are not charged in conjunction with any criminal charge:

9 (a) Possession, by a person 18 years of age or older, of marijuana in an amount of 20 grams 10 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 SECTION 5. CIVIL PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT:

14 (a) This Ordinance is enforceable by all law enforcement officers.

- (b) A person who is issued a civil citation pursuant to this Ordinance shall be subject to <u>a</u>
   <u>civil fine of \$100 plus court costs.the following:</u>
- 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.
- 19 b.a.On receipt of a second civil citation: a civil fine of \$250 plus court costs; 20 satisfactory completion of an approved substance abuse education class; and 4 hours 21 of community service at a community service agency. The community service 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 26 signature of the person designated to represent the community service agency.
- (c) In lieu of paying the \$100 fine, a person may elect to participate in 10 hours of
  community service at a community service agency. The community service agency
  supervising the person shall record the number of hours of community service completed and
  the date the community service hours were completed. The community service agency shall
  submit the data to the clerk of the court on the letterhead of the community service agency.

1 which must also bear the notarized signature of the person designated to represent the

2 <u>community service agency.</u>

3 (c)(d) No person may receive more than two civil citations pursuant to this Ordinance.

4 (d)(e) The County Court shall have jurisdiction over all violations of this Ordinance.

5 (e)(f) The County-Clerk of Court shall accept designated fines and issue receipts therefor,

6 accept proof of the satisfactory completion of approved substance abuse education class, and

7 accept proof of satisfactory completion of community service.

8 (f)(g) A person issued a civil citation pursuant to Section 4 shall comply with all directives on
9 the citation.

(g)(h) A person who fails to make payment as provided on the citation, and fails to
satisfactorily complete an approved substance abuse education class and community service,
where applicable, within the period specified on the citation, shall be deemed to have waived
his or her right to pay the civil penalty as set forth on the citation.

(h)(i) A person who elects to appear before the court to contest the civil citation shall be
deemed to have waived his or her right to pay the civil penalty. The court, after conducting a
hearing, shall determine whether a violation has occurred and may impose a civil penalty not to
exceed \$500 plus court costs.

18 (i)(j) If a person fails to pay the civil penalty and fails to satisfactorily complete an approved 19 substance abuse education class and community service, where applicable, or fails to appear in 20 court to contest the citation, he or she shall be deemed to have waived his or her right to contest 21 the citation; and in such case, a default judgment may be entered and the judge shall impose a 22 fine at that time. If the fine is paid and proof of satisfactory completion of an approved 23 substance abuse education class and satisfactory completion of community service are 24 provided, where applicable, the case shall be disposed. If the fine is not paid, and no proof of satisfactory completion of an approved substance abuse education class and satisfactory 25 26 completion of community service isare provided, where applicable, default judgment shall be 27 entered up to the maximum civil penalty of \$500 plus court costs.

28 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.

## 1 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.

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

6 The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Palm Beach 7 County Code. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish 8 such, and the word Ordinance may be changed to section, article, or other appropriate word.

## 9 SECTION 9. CAPTIONS:

10 The captions, section headings, and section designations used in this Ordinance are for 11 convenience only and shall have no effect on the interpretation of the provisions of this

12 Ordinance.

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25 26 27 By:\_\_

# 13 **SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE:**

- 14 The provisions of this Ordinance shall become effective upon filing with the
- 15 Department of State.

16 APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach

17 County, Florida, on this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

# PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Deputy Clerk

SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK

AND COMPTROLLER

By:\_

Shelley Vana, Mayor

28	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
29	LEGAL SUFFICIENCY
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32	By:
33	County Attorney
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35	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed with the Department of State on the day of
36	, 2015.

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(c) In lieu of paying the \$100 fine, a person may elect to participate in 10 hours of community service at a community service agency. The community service agency supervising the person shall record the number of hours of community service completed and the date the community service hours were completed. The community service agency shall submit the data to the clerk of the court on the letterhead of the community service agency, which must also bear the notarized signature of the person designated to represent the community service agency.

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6 hearing, shall determine whether a violation has occurred and may impose a civil penalty not to
7 exceed \$500 plus court costs.

8 (j) If a person fails to pay the civil penalty and fails to satisfactorily complete community 9 service, or fails to appear in court to contest the citation, he or she shall be deemed to have 10 waived his or her right to contest the citation; and in such case, a default judgment may be 11 entered and the judge shall impose a fine at that time. If the fine is paid the case shall be 12 disposed. If the fine is not paid, and no proof of satisfactory completion of community service 13 is provided, default judgment shall be entered up to the maximum civil penalty of \$500 plus 14 court costs.

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# 16 SECTION 6. REPEAL OF LAWS IN CONFLICT:

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

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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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29 SECTION 9. CAPTIONS:

The captions, section headings, and section designations used in this Ordinance are for convenience only and shall have no effect on the interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance.

1	SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE:			
2	The provisions of this Ordinar	nce shall become effective upon filing with the		
3	Department of State.			
4	APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach			
5	County, Florida, on this the day of _	, 2015.		
6 7 8 9	SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK AND COMPTROLLER	PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS		
10 11 12 13 14	By: Deputy Clerk	By: Shelley Vana, Mayor		
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY By: By: County Attorney			
23	EFFECTIVE DATE: Filed w	ith the Department of State on the day of		
24	, 2015.			
25	G:\WPDATA\ENVIR\HHVIZD\Ordinances\Civil Citation	Civil Citation Ordinance 12.15.15 Clean.docx		