

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: September 19, 2023

Consent

Regular

Workshop

Public Hearing

Department: Office of Financial Management and Budget

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to approve: a negotiated settlement offer in the amount of \$7,257 for the full satisfaction of a code enforcement lien entered against Jamie D. Freeman on September 18, 2019.

**Summary:** The Code Enforcement Special Magistrate (CESM) issued an order on April 3, 2019 for the property owned by Jamie D. Freeman, giving her until July 2, 2019 to bring her property located at 18974 Cloud Lake Circle, Boca Raton, FL into full code compliance. The citation included overgrown vegetation, openly stored trash and debris, inoperative/unlicensed vehicles, and construction of a PVC fence without a permit.

Ms. Freeman corrected most of the violations and only the construction of a PVC fence without a permit remained prior to the hearing held on April 3, 2019. She had until July 2, 2019 to bring the property into full code compliance or a fine of \$50 per day would begin to accrue. Ms. Freeman was not present at the hearing, but she contacted the Code Enforcement Division (Code Enforcement) on April 17, 2019 to discuss the matter. Code Enforcement advised Ms. Freeman to pull a permit for the PVC fence as ordered by the CESM. On July 9, 2019, a site inspection revealed the property remained in violation; the fence was still in place without any permit on record. Compliance with the CESM's order was not achieved, and the CESM executed an order imposing a code lien against Jamie D. Freeman on September 18, 2019.

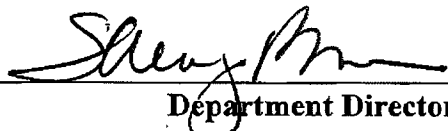
Code Enforcement issued an affidavit of compliance for the property on June 26, 2023, and the daily fines stopped. The total on June 27, 2023 was \$72,565.80, the date on which settlement discussions began. Ms. Freeman has agreed to pay Palm Beach County \$7,257 (10%) for full settlement of the outstanding code enforcement lien. **District 5 (SF)**

**Background and Justification:** Ms. Freeman acquired the property in 2011. She stated a wood fence was already in place, and other properties in the neighborhood had similar fencing. She replaced the wood with a PVC fence. At the time, she did not think she needed a permit. Ms. Freeman was in the process of selling the property to relocate to another state when she contacted the Office of Financial Management and Budget on June 27, 2023 to discuss the settlement of the lien. She corrected the violation, and the closing of said property concluded on June 30, 2023. The title company is currently holding the total amount of the fines (\$72,565.80) in escrow, pending Board approval of the agreed settlement amount. This was Ms. Freeman's homestead property when she owned it.

Settlement offers that reduce any debt amount due to Palm Beach County by more than \$2,500 require the approval of the Board, per Countywide PPM CW-F-048.

Attachments: None

Recommended by:

  
Department Director

8/24/2023  
Date

Approved by:

  
County Administrator

8/28/23  
Date

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenues	(7,257)				
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match(County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	(7,257)				
#ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE)					

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes  No   
 Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes  No

**Budget Account No.:** Fund 0001 Department 600 Unit 6241 Object 5900

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

**C. Departmental Fiscal Review:**

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**III. REVIEW COMMENTS**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:**

ASDULL 8/24/23  
 (R) 8/24/23 OFMB 8/24/23  
MSJ 8/24/23

N/A  
**Contract Dev. and Control**

**B. Legal Sufficiency:** AS 8/24/23

[Signature]  
**Assistant County Attorney**

**C. Other Department Review:**

N/A  
**Department Director**

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