

September 24, 2013

And Great Hope That One Of Us, All Of Us Will Be The Place -- Where Love, Justice And Wisdom Are Real. And So We Give Thanks For This Day, For Its Mystery, The Possibilities, The Good That Is Now Unfolding. Let It Be So, And So It Is. Thank You, Dear Friend. Amen.

Please Join Us For The Pledge Of Allegiance. I Pledge Allegiance To The Flag Of The United States Of America And To The Republic For Which It Stands, One Nation Under God Indivisible With Liberty And Justice For All.

Thank You, Please Be Seated. Pastor, Thank You For Your Time. The First One Is Commissioner Kiker.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman. This Is Lee County Southwest Board Of County Commissioners Resolution. Incorporated In 2004 And Since Then Has Been Recognized As The Leading Hispanic TV Station In Southwest Florida Informing, Educating And Entertaining The Community. A Grass Roots Event For The Entire Family. The Expo Is Full Of Valuable Information, Resources, Activities And Entertainment Important To The Entire Community. And Whereas, Telemundo Fort Myers-Naples Has Established Strong Community Partnershiped And Has Contributed To The Continued Growth And Development Of Clients, Viewers And Key Organizations In The Southwest Florida Area. As A Community Partner, They've Donated Countless Air Time To Local Non-Profit Organizations Promoting Their Services And Providing Key Information To The Hispanic Community. Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That The Board Of County Commissioners Of Lee County, Florida Does Hereby Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month And Recognize Telemundo Fort Myers, Naples Dually Executed This 24th Day Of September, 2014 Signed By Our Honorable Cecil L Pendergrass.

If You'd Like To Address The Board At This Time? Would One Of You Like To Say Something? You Can Also Correct Me On How I Pronounced The Affair. Thank You.

Thank You So Much For Your Support. Certainly Our TV Station Is Very Proud To Serve The Hispanic Community Of Southwest Florida. We Have Been Doing It For Several Years Now. We're Extremely Committed To Helping, To Giving Back. And This Opportunity To Be Presented With The Resolution Is An Amazing Opportunity For Us. We're Grateful To Be Here And We Really Thank You For Your Time For Doing So. So Thanks.

Thank You. [Applause]

The Next Ceremony, If I Could Be Debbie, Christine And Julie Come Forward, Please. At This Time, I Would Like To Recognize Lee County Employee Partners -- For Hosting The Community Services Award Recognition.

Good Morning, Commissioners, Staff And Community Members. My Name Is Debbie Stevens With The Florida Department Of Transportation. For Many Years, The Department Has Been Providing Information About And Offering Commuting Options. And It's My Pleasure To Introduce Christine Diaz And Julia Bond. Christine Is From A Sub Tractor Of The Department. -- And Ms. Julia Bond Is From The Transportation Demand Management Program At The University Of South Florida. It's My Pleasure To Introduce Them. And On Behalf Of The D. O. T. And Everybody Else And The Recipients Of The Awards Today, I'm Happy To Introduce Christine Diaz And Julia Bond.

Thank You. [Applause]

I'm The Program Director For Commuter Services. We've Been Working Hard -- And The County Has Achieved Another Goal This Year. We Want To Just Give Our Happiness And All Our Wonderful Thoughts And Thank You For The Opportunity To Work With You Guys. We're Also Honoring Different Partners. Today, We're Gonna Be Honoring The County, The Clerk Of Courts. You Guys Can Come Up. We're Gonna Honor D. O. T. We're Gonna Honor The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection. So If They Could All Come Up. These Were All Organizations -- I've Been Working Internally With Them. Different Organizations And Setting Up Different Campaigns And Programs. Working Also -- These Are All Different People That Have Contributed -- Safety Campaigns Throughout The Whole Year. And They've Achieved These Levels And Now They're Gonna Be Honored. So I'm Going To Give You Julie Bond. She's Gonna Tell You A Little Bit About The Award That They're Gonna Get On A National Level.

Thank You.

Good Morning, Everyone. I'm Julie Bond And I'm With Best Work Places For Commuters. It's A National Recognition Program. And I'm Here Today To Recognize Some Of Your Local Employers. Managed By The National Center For Transit Research. And We're Actually Located Here In Florida At The University Of South Florida. The National Center For Transit Research Is Just 1 Of 10 Research Centers. And We Do Recognize Employers Nationwide. It's An Established Program That Was Started By The E. P. A. And We Took Over Management During 2007. It's A Very High Honor For Your Employers Here In Your County To Receive This Type Of Recognition. Each One Of Them Had To Meet Our Standard Of Excellence For Commuter Benefits So They Completed An Application Which We Evaluated. So It Is A Very High Honor For Them Today.

Thank You.

The First Award Is Going To Go To The County And Commissioner Pendergrass, We Would Like To Present The Award To You Upon Behalf Of The County Of Board Of County Commissioners.

Thank You. Do You Have One For Each Commissioner?

You're Gonna Have To Share. We're Into Recycling, So You Can All Hold It.
[Laughter][Applause]

The Next Award Is Going To The Clerk Of Courts For The Lee County Clerk Of Courts Office.

The Next Award Goes To Lee County D. O. T. Operations. The Next One Goes To The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection And Ter -- She's Done Such A Great Job. Thank You So Much.

This Particular Partner Is A Platinum Level Partner. They're The Highest Level That You Could Possibly Get. And The County Is Gonna Be Getting This Next Year. This Particular Organization Has Gone Beyond. They Have At Least 90% Of All Their Employees Registered In A Commute Program. They Have Housing Right There So The Employees Don't Have To Travel. They Can Walk Right To Their Work Site. They Have Numerous Car Pools, They Give Incentives, They Help Track. We Work With Quality Control With This Organization. They Really Are An Example For Other Organizations To Follow. And We Just Want To Honor Kim Wheeler Today. Thank You.

Thank You For Linda And Her Clerk Of Courts. Transit Is Very Important To This Board Of County Commissioners.

At This Time We Go On To The Recap. Can I Get A Motion?

So Moved.

Commissioner Mann Makes The Motion, Commissioner Manning Makes Second. Any Other Discussion? Any Objections? No Objections. At This Time We Will Move To Public Comment For The Consent Administrative Agenda. We Already Have Cards Set Aside For The Public Hearing. For Consent Administrative Agenda We Have No Cards At This Time. We'll Move On To Consent Agenda Items. Commissioner Manning?

None.

Commissioner Kiker?

Two, Please. The C-8a And C-12d.

Commissioner Manning Makes The Motion -- Any Objection On The Balance?

No Objection, Motion Carries. Commissioner Kiker, You Have The Floor.

Yes, Sir. Thank You. Have You Checked With The Local Vendor To Make Sure That They Have A Chance To Bid On This?

Thank You.

The Local Vendors Had An Opportunity To Bid.

That's All I Wanted To Know.

Any Other Discussion On The Item?

No Discussion, Any Objection On The Item? No Objection. Commissioner Kiker?

Thank You. Again, This Item, If You Could Just Be Kind Enough To Walk Us Through How The \$1. 8 Million Is Designated. I'm Thinking Commissioner Mann Is Probably Quite Excited About This One. And It's Designated To Go Towards Homestead Roads?

Good Morning, Commissioners. For The Record, David Loveland Lee County, D. O. T. This Is \$1. 8 Million In Road Impact Fees That Were Budgeted In The Summerland Road Six Laning Project From Cypress Lake To Boy Scout. We Recently Wrapped Up The Var Last Of That Project With A Settlement Agreement That The Board Approved. These Are Funds That Were Remaining In That Project Account That Were Unspent. We're Asking To Redirect Those Funds From That One Project To Another Project, Homestead Road For The Right Of Way Acquisition -- From Alabama Road South To Sunrise Is About \$4. 4 Million. We Have \$1 Million In The Current Year Budget, A Little Less At This Point. We Were Anticipating Another \$3. 4 Million Coming Into That Right Of Way Acquisition Budget For This Next Fiscal Year To Be Borrowed From That General Fund Revolving Loan Program. By Shifting This \$1. 8 Million And Existing Road Impact Fees To That Project That Lessens The Amount We Would Need To Borrow From That General Fund.

Thank You Very Much.

Mr. Chair, As Everyone Knows Impact Fees Can Only Be Spent In The District In Which They Were Collected. To These Impact Fees Are Staying In The District.

Thank You. And My Whole Point Was To Commend You On Making Sure That The Money Stay In The Proper Place And Spent Appropriately. Thank You Very Much. Did You Have Anything You Wanted To Say?

No, Just Thank You For Your Wisdom And Leadership.

I Move To Approve.

Commissioner Manning Makes Second. Any Other Discussion On The Item? No Discussion, Any Objections? No Ob -- No Objections, Motion Carries. Any Other Discussion? Any Objection? No Objection, Motion Carries.

I'll Move 1-B, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Manning Makes The Motion. I'll Second For Discussion.

There's A Lot Of Money That's Been Identified In The Last Two Sections With Writing Dollars Off. You're Talking Several Million Dollars.

To Start With, All Of These Loans That Are Being It's Just Good Business Practice.

Commissioners, The Largest Part -- We Do This Annually. And Primarily For The Financial Reporting. The Largest Portion Of This Is E. M. S. Ambulance Rides, Bad Debt From That. And The Majority Of That Is Contractual Allowances Which We Bill Medicare And Medicaid At The Going Rate That We Do Private Insurers. However, They Only Legally Pay A Certain Portion And We Only Expect Them To Legally Pay A Certain Amount. So We Write That Amount Off. The Balance Is Uncollectibles That We Just Are Not Going To Pursue Any Longer. I Know Rob Farmer With Public Safety, We're Looking At A Pilot Program To Try And Collect More Bad Debts Through Easy Payment Programs For Folks.

These Numbers Seem So Absurd. It Questions Why We Bill At This Level And Then Have To Write Off Tens Of Millions Of Dollars. It's Just A Game We're Playing, Any Way. We're Really Never Expecting To Get That Money.

Good Morning, Commissioners. Rob Farmer, Director Of Public Safety. Great Question, Why Do We Bill More Than We Know We're Gonna Get. Depending On What Payer Mix The Patients Fall Into Depends On What Amount We Will Be Collecting From Those Bills. Private Insurers, Which We Have A Significant Number Of Here In Lee County Pay At A Higher Rate Then Medicare And Medicaid Do. Despite What We Bill, They Will Pay A Set Amount. That's A Federal Dollar Amount That's Set. We Are Then Unallowed To Expect More Than That Due To Those Federally Mandated Payment Levels. In That Case In Particular In The Medicare And Medicate Cases In Particular, Much Of That

Write Off Is Based On That Difference. However, When We're Billing Private Insurers Or Self Pays, We Have Our Standard Rates And Private Insurance Typically May -- Pays Much More Than That With Minimal Deductibles To Our Patients And Their Members.

Aren't We Obligated To Bill Everyone The Same?

Yes. What I Am Not Able To Do Is Say, You Have Medicare? I'm Gonna Bill You This Much. You Have Private Insurance? I'm Gonna Bill You This Much. I'm Not Allowed To Do That. Every Patient Is Billed Identically.

I Just Needed That On The Record. It Seemed Like An Absurd Silly Game That We Play With Ourselves And The Federal Government. I Just Wanted It Explained Before We Just Wave A Pen And A Motion Here.

Thank You, Sir.

Thank You.

Any Other Discussion On The Item? Any Objection? No Objection, Motion Carries.

Commissioner Manning Makes The Motion. Second For Discussion. Any Discussion?

Mr. Chair, On This One, The Town Of Fort Myers Beach Approved This Agreement On September 16th. We Haven't Received Their Signed Copy Yet. But What's Attached Is The Exact Same Agreement.

I'll Amend The Motion. Any Discussion On The Item? No Discussion, Any Objection On The Item? No Objection, Motion Carries.

Move 8-A.

Commissioner Manning Makes The Motion.

Second.

Commissioner Kiker Seconds. Any Discussion On Item 8-A? No Discussion, Any Objection? No Objection, Motion Carries. Commissioner Manning Makes The Motion, Commissioner Kiker Seconds. Any Discussion? No Discussion, Any Objection? Motion Carries. 8-C?

I'll Move It.

Commissioner Kiker Makes The Motion On 8-C. Commissioner Manning Seconds For Discussion. Any Discussion? Any Objection? No Objection, Motion Carries. At This Time We Will Move To Public Hearing.

Questions For The Board Before We Go To Public Comment? We'll Go To Public Comment On The Public Hearing. First Speaker Is Sandra. If I Could Remind Everybody You Have Three Minutes To Speak. There's Time Lights Up Here. If You See Red, You've Gone Over Your Time And I Will Stop You. Thank You. Sandra?

Good Morning, Commissioners. My Name Is Sandy And I'm A Resident Of The Golf Community In Lehigh Acres For The Past Nine Years. I Am Actively Involved In The Lehigh Acres Community Initiative. Because Of That Involvement, I Strongly Believe In The Positive Outcome That Will Be Achieved With The Passage Of The Vacant Property Registration Ordinance. Of Course My Support Of This Ordinance Comes From My Community Involvement And Listening To The Concerns Of Our Residents Who Want The Quality Of Life That They Are Entitled To. Public Safety, Crime Free Environment, Pride In Their Homes And Neighborhoods. From Our Perspective, It Is Not About The Loss Of 200 Hours -- When Stephanie Keys Addressed Your Board And Addressed The Public In Her News Press Editorial, She Commented On The Fact That The Pain, Turmoil And Initial Shock Of The Financial Melt Down Has Turned Around. She Acknowledged That The Empty Houses Resulted In People Living In Squalor. Thievery Was Prevalent, Neglect And Unsanitary Conditions Were Very Present. She Claims That Has Turned Around. Yet Newspaper Accounts Indicate That In Lehigh Acres Alone, Abandoned Properties Have Increased In The Last Six Months From 2448 To 2752. The Residents Of Lee County Do Not See This As A Turn Around. Ms. Keys Also Mentioned The Question Of Liability Should The Banks Representatives Set Foot On Property Which The Banks Claim They Do Not Own Until Foreclosure Proceedings Have Been Accomplished. I Know Of A Gated Community In Gateway Which Is About 2 Miles From Where I Live. The Residents Were Very Concerned With The Large Number Of Abandoned Properties There. And They Began To Mow The Lawns On Those Abandoned Properties. They Continue To Do So Until They Were Served With A Cease And Desist Order -- Commissioner Kiker In His Guest Opinion In The News Agrees That No One Wants To Live In An Area Of Run Down Houses. Yet He Believes The Ordinance Is Not The Answer. He Believes The Best Investments In Time And Resources Is To Examine The Code That The County Enforces. He Also Claims That Only A Small Portion Of The Unmowed Properties In Violation Are Abandoned Properties. He States That Many Properties Are Repeat Offenders That Just Don't Take Code Enforcement Seriously. Well, I Believe That The Banks Don't Take The Matter Seriously Either. What He Doesn't Address In His Opinion Are The Serious Issues Of Broken Windows And Screens, Neglected Pools Filled With Algae, Stolen Air Conditioners, Stolen Appliances, Graffiti, Squatters, Drug Houses, Matters Much More Important Than Lawn

Violations. Those Are The Problems Very Present In Abandoned Homes And We Ask Therefore That The Commission Act.

Thank You. Thank You For Your Time, Sandy. [Applause]

Next Speaker? I'm Sorry, We're Not Allowed To Have Any Applauding To Excite Or Encourage Other Speakers. No Applauding, No Other Chanting Or Booming Or Anything. Next Speaker?

Good Morning, Everyone. What I'd Like To Do First Is Address Mr. Kiker's Editorial That He Recently Posted In The News Press. He Asked A Very Important Question. If Anything, Last Time That I Spoke I Spoke About Accountability. We've Been Going On For Years With This Problem. All Of A Sudden, A Group Of People Have Gotten Together And Decided That Hey, Here's An Ordinance. Here's Something That Could Work. I Say, What Is The Alternative? We Hear From The Board Of Realtors And Others Saying, Let's Work Together. Well, My Question Is, Where Have They Have Been All This Time? Here We Are Now At This Moment In Time Asking You To Pass This Ordinance. Not A Watered Down Ordinance, But The One That Was Originally Put Forth. To Me, It Creates Accountability. It Creates Fines, Liens, Points Of Contact. I Think We're Better Off Right There Then We Would Have Been Prior To This Ordinance. The Other Thing That Mr. Kiker Speaks About Is The Legality Of This Program. And I Say, What's Wrong With It? The City Of Fort Myers Has It, Over 100 Cities In Florida Has It. I Don't Really See A Problem With The Legality Of It. I Know You Were Concerned, Sir, About Robocalls. And I Understand Your Point Very Well. But Robocalls, In Any Group Of People, You're Gonna Have Some That Think Different And Venture Out In Different Ways. I Mean, I'm Not Accusing You Of This In Any Way, Believe Me. But There Were Robocalls Made Against Your Opponent That You Probably Had Nothing To Do With.

If We Can Stay On The Topic, Please. Thank You.

I'm Just Bringing Up The Robocall Thing, Ok? What This Ordinance Does Do Is It Gives Us A Point Of Contact. It Makes The Banks Become Accountable, It Makes The People Who Are Not The Banks But The Home Owners That Do Own Them Also Become Accountable. Yes I Agree With Mr. Kiker 100% That Enforcement Is The Key. And We Do Need To Look Into That Heavily And Enforce This Ordinance. But Without It, We're Just Gonna Go As With Business As Usual. So I'm Asking You To Really Please Consider What The Folks Want. Not Just A Select Few Who Want To Knock The Ordinance Down. I Thank You For Your Time.

Thank You. Next Speaker Is Joseph.

Good Morning, Missioners. Thanks For This Opportunity To Speak. My Wife Diane And I Bought Our Home In Lehigh Acres In 2009. We've Been Very Happy There And Have Put In A Lot Of Money To Update -- It Hurts Us To See The Nearby Abandoned Homes That Are In Disrepair. Banks Might Have Their Reasons For Not Being Willing Or Able To Sell These Properties. We Prefer That They Be Sold And Occupied To Improve The Neighborhood. But At Least At A Minimum, The Houses Need To Be Inspected, Secured And The Appearance Maintained. I'm Imploring You To Pass The Recommended Ordinance Put Forward By Your County Attorney With Absolutely No Changes Or Recommendations Coming From The Bankers, Realtors Or The Horizon Council When Purpose Is Only To Make This Ordinance Ineffective. Thank You Very Much.

Thank You. Next Speaker, Josh.

Our Vacant Property Registration Ordinance Has Been Very Successful. It's Been Largely Focussed On Creating A Tool For The Government And Private Sector To Work Together To Move These Homes, These Properties From Vacancy To Actual Neighbors. It Is A Very Important First Step That The People And The County Should Have The Opportunity To Create This Registry. But What Happens With It Next Has To Involve The Property Preservation Companies That The Banks Have Contracted To Do This Work. So That You Can Live Not Next To A Bank Or An Overgrown Cest Pool -- To Draw The Relationships, The Connections With These Property Preservation Companies Who Have A Financial Interest In Doing This Work. I'm Just Here To Suggest That In Addition To If Stick, That You Do Have The Option Of Keeping Carrots Available To These Companies Too. They Can Be Motivated To Identify Easy Ways To Work Together With The Community, To Solve Some Of These Problems. And Then You Have A Much Smaller List Of Real Offenders, Of Real Repeat Problems That You Can Focus On From An Enforcement, From A Stick Standpoint. Cape Coral Has Done A Lot Of Good Work Here. Our Code Compliance Manager Says Often That It's Compliance That Moves The Community Forward, That's What Improves Property Values. More So Than Just Continually Enforcing Rules On Somebody Who's Breaking The Rules Fragrantly Any Ways. Thank You.

Thank You. Next Speaker Is Tom.

Good Morning Commissioners, Colleagues And Friends. I'm Here To Speak About This Particular Issue And Share With You Some Facts. My Middle Son Attended The United States Merch Marine Academy. And They Have A Motto In Latin That Says Action Not Words. So Let Me Use That Expression To Put An Umbrella Over What I'm Gonna Share With You. I Sponsored This Particular Ordinance In The City Of Fort Myers. And It Went Into Effect In June, 2010. Through July Of This Year, The City Share Of The Registration Fee Was \$285,000. 5500 Registrations. The Best Thing About This, According To

Our City Managers -- Over 92% Of The Vacant Properties In The City Of Fort Myers Have Been Registered. And The Fact That The People That Are Registering Them, Whether They Were Property Owners Or Banks Have Maintained The Properties Is A Tremendous Boost. It Takes Away The Excess Staff Time That We've Used In The Past. And In Fact, The Only Person Assigned To It Has Been Half Of The Person's Salary Per Year. And It's Not A Really High Ranking Staffer. So I Thought Sharing With You Some Facts From The City Of Fort Myers That Spearheaded This In Our County, It Might Help You To Make A Positive Decision. So As A Lee County Resident Myself, I Urge You To Pass It. Thank You Very Much.

Thank You.

Next Speaker Is Harmony Duncan.

I Am Here Because I Love My Community And I Love The City I Live In. I Have To Walk Past Vacant Houses Every Single Day On The Way To My Bus Stop. Those Houses Make The Entire Neighborhood Look Bad. I Watch The Evening News And I Hear About Shootings, Stabbings And Other Violence Happening In Other Cities. Yet Lehigh Acres Has Earned The Nickname Of The Ghetto. Because Of All The Foreclosed Houses With The Tall Grass, Broken Windows And Graffiti. A Few Months Ago I Was Invited To See A Movie With A Bunch Of Friends From School That Were Car Pooling. I Was Quickly Uninvited When The Parents Heard That I Lived In Lehigh Acres. My Family Takes Pride In Our Home And Our City. I Think It's Time That The Banks Take Responsibility For All Their Vacant Run Down Homes So We Can Breathe Life Back Into Our Community And Together Attempt To Lose The Terrible Nickname. Thank You For Giving Me Time To Speak.

Thank You. Congratulations On Your Title. Next Speaker Is Carmen. After Carmen, It'll Be Stephen Mcgriffin.

It's An Honor For Me To Be Here. My Name Is Carmen. I Love This Country. And I Agree With The Lady -- We Live In Fort Myers. Beautiful Area, Beautiful Area. But Now The Properties Are Full Of -- They Are Breaking The Laws. And That's The Reason I Am Here.

Next Speaker, Stephen Mcgriffin. After Stephen Will Be George.

Good Morning, Commissioners. Last Month I Spoke To You With A Prepared Statement About This Ordinance. Today I Want To Speak To You About My Own Experiences That I Deal With. I'm Hoping, I'm Hoping That With This Ordinance Being Passed We Can Move Forward. I Respectfully Ask Your Support In This Ordinance. Thank You Very Much.

Thank You. Next Speaker Is George. And After George Will Be Joan Patterson.

Good Morning, Commissioners. My Name Is George, I'm A Full Time Resident Of Westminster Community In Lehigh Acres. In April 2006, Following Your Recommendations Of Former Commissioner -- Residents Of Westminster Formed A Task Force That Began Working On Code Enforcement. And Also Organizing Clean Ups In Our Corridor. Westminster Task Force Continues To Be Actively Involved In Our Efforts To Bring Quality Of Life To Our Community. In Early 2009 I Was Asked To Participate In A Lee County Sheriff's Department -- Now Known As Lehigh Acres Community Initiative. Much Improvement In Property Management Since Its Inception. Our Team Began A Public Outreach Program That Resulted In Nearly 1500 -- But People Who Signed Were Very Concerned About What Was Happening To Our Community. If I Am Responsible For The Upkeep Of My Property, Why Aren't The Banks Responsible? We Have A Choice To Be Part Of The Problem Or Simply Part Of The Solution. Lee County Citizens Are Working Very Hard To Become Part Of The Solution. As I Stated Earlier, The Ordinance Was Adopted In Fort Myers. And I Note That The Realtors Nor The Bankers Have Never Once Stated That This Hasn't Been An Effective Tool In The City Of Fort Myers. Thank You For Listening.

Good Morning. Thank You For The Opportunity To State What Is Going On Obviously Everywhere In Lee County. We've Been Very Hard Hit In Lehigh. And One Of The Problems Is The Banks Take Too Long To Foreclose. And In That Time, The Property's In Limbo. We Really Need An Ordinance And Something To Address It In Every Single Area Of Lehigh. So I Guess We Need For The Bankers And The Realtors To Recognize There Is An Obligation Here. We Took A Hit Of -- On These Losses Of Property When Property Values Went Down. I Think It's Wrong To Ask Property Owners To Take Another Hit Because Of This Eyesore In Their Neighborhood. People Are Entitled To Better Than That. And I Hope You Don't Mind Me Asking You For Your Help To Get It For These People. Thank You Very Much.

Thank You, Joan. Bill? After Bill, We Have Robert Anderson.

Good Morning, Commissioners. Thank You For The Opportunity To Speak This Morning. First Of All, I'd Like To Apologize For Some Of The Pictures That We're Gonna Be Bringing Up. We Know She Was Involved In This And We Know That With Her Sense Of Humor She Would Have Appreciated It. Currently Located In A Community Called Indian Village. Commissioner Hall Once Said That Because Of Lehigh Acres Being Unincorporated, You Were Our Community Council, Our Common Council. Since 2003, The Home Has Had 14 Violations. It's Had 11 Liens Placed Against It And The Housing Has An Existing Mortgage At This Time. Our Friends, The Bankers, Have Yet To File. The Next Home Is At 1143 Cherokee. That's Truly Inappropriate To Make Personal Attacks On The Members. You Can Make Your Point With Just The -- The Next Home Commissioner Hall Viewed While Walking A Little Way Down

The Same Block And Met A Real Estate Friend. And They Together Discovered This Abandoned Property. Since 2011, This Particular Property Has Had Nine Code Violations And Seven Liens Piled Against It. It's A Good Thing The Real Estate Friends Are On Top Of This One And Working For Two Years To Clean Up This Mess. -- To Insure That They Continue Fulfilling Their Responsibility. Since 2001, That's 12 Years, This Abandoned Property Has Accumulated Nine Code Violations And Seven Liens. Our Banker Friends Are Really Working Hard On This One. I'm Not Trying To Be Nasty.

Mr. Chairman, My Suggestion Would Be To Leave The Opponents Of This Out Of The Picture And Proponents Out Of The Picture And Just State Your Point For The Record. It's Not Helpful For You To Do That. I Have Tried Desperately To Get A Separate Mortgage. You Know What They Tell Me? I'm Backwards, I'm Upside Down, My House Is Worthless. I Need Your Help To Fix These Properties. These People Need Your Help To Fix These Properties. This House Right Here, I Can See From My Front Door Window, My Front Window Of My House. And That's No Lie, Gentlemen. That Grass Is That Long. The House They Showed You Earlier Is Two Doors Down From Me. Please, I Beg You. The Things That You Hear From The Bankers, The Realtors, The Council Is Wrong. I Live By This, I Drive By This Every Day. I Cannot Do The Things That I Want To Do. I've Already Spent An Extra \$10,000 Over The Last Couple Years On Air-Conditioning, Investing In All New Windows, New Doors. I Can't Do The Rest Because I Can't Borrow The Money. It's Not That I Can't Pay It Back, I Just Can't Borrow The Money. Please Help The Value Of The Properties In My Neighborhood. I Can't Stress That Enough. I Thank You, Gentlemen For Considering This Ordinance Today.

Thank You, Robert. Next Speaker Is Robin.

Good Morning, Commissioners. I'm Speaking On Behalf Of Index Reports. In 2004 We Sold A Property For A Tax Sale Where A Developer Came In And Then Mortgaged The Property For \$1. 2 Million And Built 16 Duplex Units Within The 52 Community Unit Of 55 And Older Residents. The Property Has Sat Vacant Since 2006. In 2009, We Actually Had Six Of The 16 Units Bulldozed Because They Were Unfinished. This Has Caused A Spike In The Maintenance Fees For These Owners, Over \$96 A Month In The Past Five Years That It Took The Bank To Foreclose. They Finally Did Foreclose In 2012. The Property Still Remains Vacant And Not Being Maintained. The Community Has Lost Their General Liability Insurance Because Of It. And The Burden Has Become On Those Owners To Help To Maintain The Property, Cut The Lawn Which They Have Done For Over Seven Years. To Date, The Bank Has Not Taken Responsibility. They Have Not Provided General Liability, Hazard Insurance. They Still Continue To Not Maintain The Property. And It Sits As An Unattractive Nuisance In The Property Diminishing The Property Values In That Community. This Is Just One Example Of The Length Of Time That Something Like This Has Been Let To Go On. These Owners Were Not The

Cause, They Are Not The Cure. I Think That Part Of The Cure Would Be Helping Subtract This Ordinance And I Thank You For Your Consideration On That Today.

Thank You Very Much.

Good Morning. I Need Picture 5-A. Let's Pretend There's One Of Those Abandoned Homes Up There. How Do We Know That It's Been Vacant Since 2009? Because It's Rumored That A Friendly Attorney While Investigating This Abandoned Property In Lehigh Acres Found A Stack Of Telephone Books At The Front Door Dating Back To 2010. The Good News Is That There Were Only Three Code Violations And One Lien Recorded On The Property. Survived Burning To The Ground Thanks To Our Valiant Firefighters. Each Day This Hazard Frightens The Neighbors. And The Banks, Not My Problem. No Major Fix, Patch, Repair Or Attempt To Serve This Property To Secure This Property In The Future. Here Is A Letter From Our Fire Chief.

On Behalf Of The Lehigh Acres Fire Control And Rescue District, I Would Like To Offer This Correspondence And Support Of A Vacant Property Ordinance Here In Lee County, Florida. Anyone Who Takes A Short Drive Through Lehigh Acres Will Get An Iphone When It Comes To Abandoned, Foreclosed Derelict Residential Properties Within Our Community. These Properties Are More Than Just An Eyesore. -- These Properties Are A Magnet For Crime, Trespassing, Graffiti, Vandalism, Drugs, Et Cetera. I've Consulted With Our Fire Marshall And He Did Confirm That We Do Respond To Several Of These Types Of Properties On An Annual Basis. These Properties Have The Potential To Catch Fire Due To The Absence Of A Defensible Space. And As A Result Can Expose The Neighboring Structures Knows The Devastation That Can Be Caused By These Brush Fires. Please Pass This Correspondence To The County Commissioners. Thank You For Listening.

Next Speaker Is Jim. After Jim We Have Rick.

Good Morning. The First House I Would Like To Talk About Today Is 515 Parkside Avenue. Since 2007, It Has Been Abandoned.

The Majority Of These Were For Removal Of Trash, Debris And Lawn Mowing. There's A Mortgage On This Vacant, Abandoned Property As It's Become A Huge Magnet For Crime I Am Imploring You To Pass This Ordinance With No Changes Or Recommendations Coming From Those Who Have Opposed It. Thank You.

Thank You. Rick? After Rick, We Have Sally.

Good Morning. I Want To Introduce A Friend Of Mine, Sally. She's Been A Member Of The Fort Myers Board Of Realtors For More Than 19 Years. She

Takes Exception To The Fact That All Realtors Are Against This Ordinance. Sally And Nearly 100 Friends, All Realtors, Are Part Of More Than 2,000 Petitions That You've Received. But That's Not What I'm Here To Tell You About Sally. Sally And Her Husband Built Their Dream Home. I Wish You Could See It. Their Retirement Home Located In A Super Neighborhood. It Had A Swimming Pool And Everything They Always Dreamed About. Then, Unexpectedly, Sally's Husband Died In 2009. The Bubble Bursting Meant A Lot More To Sally Than Just Real Estate. She Struggled To Keep Up Her Mortgage Payments But Soon Fell Further And Further Behind. She Did Everything To Try And Work With The Bank. But They Would Have None Of It. Being A Good Citizen, And Fearful That The Impending Foreclosure Action Would Happen, Sally Moved Out. That Was Three Years Ago. In January Of 2012, The Bank Finally Got Around To Filing -- Of Course The Foreclosure Has Yet To Happen. And Sally's Dream Home Has Fallen Into Great Disrepair. The Torn Pools, Cage Screens, Uncovered And Unsecured Pool Have Created A Tremendous Hazard To The Neighborhood Children. But The Huge Liability For Sally As She Awaits For The Disaster In The Making For This Property. For Nearly Five Years, Sally Has Been Living In This Nightmare. Her Neighbors, Once Her Dear Friends, Are Reminded Each Day About This Disaster. And In Spite Of What Commissioner Kiker Wrote In Saturday's News Press, They Have No Relief.

Thank You. Is Sally Speaking Now? She's The Next Speaker. She Has Three Minutes Starting Now.

I'm Sally. I'm Embarrassed By What Happened To Me. But I Need You To Know My Story Is Shared By Thousands Of Other People In My Community. Good People Losing Their Homes Suffering From Having Their Dreams Crushed And Watch Their Homes And Neighborhoods Decay Because Responsible Parties Won't Step Up And Do The Right Thing. And It's Not Just The Banks, You're To Blame Too. Cutting The Number Of Code Officers In Lehigh By More Than 75% And Refusing To Deal With A Lot Of The New Complaints Just Makes Matters Worse. So Please, Vote Yes To Approve The Ordinance As Originally Proposed By Your Legal Council. No Realtor, No Bank Changes Are Needed. These People Do Not Have My Best Interest At Heart. Thank You.

Thank You. Next Speaker Is -- I Can't Read The Writing. Please Silence Your Cell Phones, Please. Thank You. And After Ms. Jones, Rob By.

Commissioners, I Live In A Neighborhood That Is A Total Disaster. My Half Acre Today Is Under Four Feet Of Water. I Live Between The Lake And The River. 500 Feet From The Cape Coral Bridge. And This Crack House Is In Foreclosure. Bank Of America Gave A Million Dollar Loan. He Died A Month Ago In A Motorcycle Accident. There Are Four Squatters In The Home. There's 120 Pound Dog. I Have Photos Of Everything Here. Nobody Will Help. Zoning

Codes, Nobody Will Help. It's In Foreclosure. This Is A Disaster. Our Neighborhood Is Paranoid. It's So Damaged, There Is No Repair. We Will Never Recover From This Disaster. I Have 500 More Pages Of Similar Stuff. I Want To Leave This With You So You Know What's Going On In Our Neighborhoods. It's A Disaster. These Crack Houses, They Hunt You Down, They Stalk You. You Can't Stand Your Ground. I Have Dog Bites On Dogs And Legs. Nobody Will Help. Animal Control, Codes, Zoning, The Sheriff. There Is A Record On Me. I'm A Survivor Of The Holocaust. I'd Rather Go Through The Holocaust Again Then Live In This Neighborhood. I've Lived There 35 Years And I'm A Veteran's Widow. I'm Tired Of This. I Can't Stand My Ground Against 120 Pound Dog That Attacks Me When I Go Out. He Comes Up On The Fence And He Stands 6' Tall. When I Go In The Backyard, I Cannot Water My Plants Because The Dog Is There, Stalking Me. It's Unbelievable. This Is A Nightmare. 2004, They Gave The Loan. And It's In Foreclosure. They Couldn't Foreclose Because There's A Lien On It Last Year. I Have A Lawyer On It Now But They Don't Appear In Court, They Don't Come, They Just Ignore The Whole Issue. The Water Used To Go From The Lake Across My Property To The River. These People Build A Dam And Now I'm Under 4' Of Water. All My Plants Are Rotted, Everything Is A Disaster. I Can't Walk In My Yard. Today I'm Under 4' Of Water Because They Won't Let The Water Go Through The River.

Ma'am, I'll Have The County Manager Get Your Address So I Can Contact You.

I Want To Leave This With You.

Thank You. I Will Be In Contact With You After The Meeting.

Unbearable.

Thank You. Next Speaker Is Robbie.

For The Record, My Name Is Robbie. And As I Have Previously Stated Before, There Are Many, Many, Many Of Us Local Bankers That Agree That Doing Something To Improve Abandoned Properties Is Very Important. However, We Do Not Believe That Enriching An Out Of Town Third Party Vendor And Creating Unnecessary Liability Is The Answer Here Today. As Stated By Multiple Attorneys, We Are A Lien State. We're Not A Title State. The Out Of Town Vendor Is Advising You, The County, Through This Ordinance To Require All Mortgagees To Commit A Trespass Which Can Cause Confrontation And Ultimately A Potential Liable Expanse To You And Our Entire County. Although Multiple Attorneys Do Not Agree, Our County Staff Attorneys, They Do Truly Believe That The Mortgage Has A Right In It For Us To Trespass Under Certain Verbage Within That Mortgage. That Being Said, With Their True Belief Of That, We Have Offered To Assign That Right To The County So That County Code Enforcement Can Do The Job. But I Want You To Know It Was Quickly

Denied. Should You Feel Compelled Today To Pass This Ordinance, Your Advisory Council, The Horizon Council Has A Proposal, A Recommended Amendment Before You That We Can Support. And They Can Support. And We Ask That You Accept Their Proposal, Which Will Do A Lot Of What Has Been Asked Of You Today. But We Ask That You Do This With All Of The Thieves That Are Paid In -- We're Asking That You Accept All The Fees That's Paid In To Go To Code Enforcement. To Beef Up Code Enforcement. So They Truly Have The Power To Do What's Necessary. And Then It Gives You The Opportunity To Turn Around And Give A Value Added Back To All Of The Residents Of Lee County. This Ordinance Has Been Challenged. It Was Challenged By The Federal Housing Finance Agency Which Resulted In The Saving Clause That's Been Put In Now. It Exempts The Mortgages. And I Dare To Say Those Are The Properties That Those Mortgages Are Effecting So Many Abandoned Properties. And You Won't Be Able To Do Anything With Them. Hence, If We Don't Have All These Funds Go To The County And Beef Up Our County Enforcement, It's Gonna Leave Us Again Without A Strong Code Enforcement. I Thank You So Much For My Input Today.

Thank You. That's My Last Blue Card. Any Other Speakers On Public Comment Before I Close Public Comment? Russel? Please Come Forward One At A Time. Please State Your Name For The Record. After This Gentleman, Russel Will Be Next.

Hello, Commissioners. I'm John From The Northeast Cape. I Think You Should Pass This Proposal As Its Written. I Have A House In Foreclosure. There's No Question That The Bank Owns My House, At Least Until I Pay Off My Mortgage. I Think Those Banks Should Be Responsible For Maintaining Vacant Properties. Nothing Says I Don't Care More Than A Derelict Property. And I Think It'll Go A Long Way Toward Improving Our Neighborhoods And Our County. Thank You.

Thank You.

Next Speaker? State Your Name For The Record, Please. You're Next, Sir, In The Black Shirt.

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman, Members Of The Board. For Your Record, I'm Russel. I'm Here Today On Behalf Of The -- Made Some Recommendations To The Rising Council Executive Committee That Were Passed On To You. And I Won't Reiterate Them Here Today. I Appreciate Your Consideration Of Those Recommendations. Basically, The Council Recommended That A More Cooperative Effort Of The Ordinance Be Revised To Provide For More Cooperative Effort On Behalf Of The -- To Provide A Solution To Go Upon Properties And Seek Permission To Go Upon Properties Either From The Actual Owner Of The Property Or The Port If Necessary In Order To Perform

Necessary Maintenance. We Continue To Encourage Adoption Of That Alternative. If You Proceed And Continue With The Current Draft Of The Ordinance Proposed By The County Attorney's Office, We Would Encourage You To Also After Adoption If You Do Adopt That Version Of The Ordinance To Continue To Work With The Banks To Refine The Requirements Of The Ordinance To Address Some Of The Concerns That Have Been Expressed. A Gentleman Earlier Talked About Carrots And Sticks. And We Would Encourage You To Make That Approach.

I Think That Is Really Necessary In This Ordinance. I'd Encourage You To Adopt The County Attorney's Revised Language For The Trigger For Registration. That Is Contained In The Definition. I'd Encourage You Not To Apply This Ordinance To Properties That Have Already Gone Through Foreclosure. The Third Recommendation Still Requires Only Ten Days. The Last Requirement That We'd Ask You To Look At, There's A Posting Requirement For Posting Signs On Distressed Properties. It Simply Calls Attention To The Fact That The Property Is Unoccupied. Thank You Very Much.

Thank You. Any Other Speakers Before I Close Public Comment? Yes, Sir? State Your Name For The Record.

Good Morning. My Name Is Tim. I've Been A Resident Of Lee County For 35 Years. I've Lived In My House For 32 Years. Beginning In 2001, I Think It Was, These People Do Not Become A Part Of The Community. In Fact, They're Rather Negative. I Don't Think That's Right. I Don't Think It's Right. I Think Code Enforcement Already Has Too Much Power. They've Put Two Of My Neighbors In Jail. One For Not Mowing His Lawn, One For Leaving A Sign Out. I Can Get You That Documentation If You'd Like To See It. They Have Harassed Me. They Wrote Me Up Four Times For A Sailboat Not Registered. I Finally Had To Learn The Law, Which I Didn't Want To Do And Found Some Things. One, Unpowered Vessels In Florida Do Not Have To Be Registered. And They Never Dropped That. I Also Found He Couldn't Take Pictures On My Property. He Snuck On My Property And I Found Out Since We Own The Street, He Wasn't Even Allowed In There.

Good Morning, Commissioners. I'm A Candidate For U. S. Congress In Florida 17th Who Is About 10% Of Lee County And About Half Of Lehigh Acres. And I Would Just Like To Bring Attention To The Fact That The Reason That People Are Struggling Today Is Because Of The Wall Street Gamblers Who Created The Financial Dislocation In 2008 That Has Put Us All Under Water, Basically. Fort Myers Has Pointed Out To Rectify --

At This Time We'll Close Public Comment And Go Back To Board For Comment. Commissioner Mann?

Let Me Ask Our Attorney Respond To The Last Points That He Made Regarding Distressed Property Or Already Foreclosed Property. It Sounded Like He Was Talking About Some Technicalities As Opposed To Major Changes. Can You Just Address That.

I'd Appreciate If You Could Stay With Me In This Dialogue. I'm Gonna Begin With You Are Not Going To Receive A Descending Vote From Me Against This. I Want That On The Floor. Having Said That, Now I Would Like To Have A Discussion On What I Think Needs To Happen With This Ordinance. If You Guys Remember, We Started This Off With Septic Tanks, Remember? That's Where This Whole Thing Started. We Were Talking About Septic Tanks. There's 80,000 Of Them Running Around And What Are We Gonna Do About Them. Having Said That, There's Two Things That As I Understand What This Ordinance Accomplishes. I'm Gonna Use That Word Again, Accomplishes. The First Is It Makes A List Of Who's Responsible When A Bank Owns A Property.

That's Correct.

The Second Thing It Does, It Identifies Property Management Firms Or Somebody That Is Responsible For Taking Care Of The Property.

Correct.

What Else Does It Do?

It Provides A Means For The County To Seek Enforcement Or Abatement Of Violations Directly With Somebody That Is Known And Has The Capability To Actually Abate The Violation.

From Your Staff Perspective, Do You Have Anybody That's Driving This Ordinance?

No, Sir.

You Don't?

No.

So We Don't Have Anybody In Staff Who's Sponsoring This Ordinance In Terms Of What Do We Need To Accomplish Here. I Find That A Little Bit Disturbing. But Stay With Me On This One. I'm Listening To What These Folks Said Today. Thank You Very Much For Coming Down Here. Let Me Ask You Some Questions In Terms Of Does This Ordinance Address The Issues. One Of Them Was, We Have A Property That Has 14 Liens Against It. Does This Ordinance Do Anything For That Property?

Without Actually Knowing What The Liens Are, I Don't Know How To Answer That Specifically.

There's One With Nine Violations And Seven Liens. The Next One Is That We Have Folks That Said That They Have Trash Removal, Broken Windows, It's Dangerous, There's Criminals Living There. Does This Code Address That?

If The Bank Is In Control, Either As The Mortgage Holder Or As The Record Title Owner, Yes.

It Identifies Who To Contact.

Correct.

How Is That Gonna Be Different Then Somebody That Has That Property Today And We Know Who They Are And This Activity Is Going On. How Can We Can't Fix That Problem?

Because The Person That We Know And Have The Ability To Site Is The Person That Purchased The Home That Is Now Gone. And There's No Way To Get In Touch With Them. They Are Non-Responsive.

I Know The Property, And I'm Not Trying To Debate With You. But I Know Property That Has 22 Violations For Mowing. Ok? We Do Know The Property Owner. They Live In Oklahoma. And We Know How To Contact Them Because We've Done It Twice A Year For I Don't Know How Many Years. How Does This Ordinance Address The Situation With That Person That We Know Who They Are.

That's An Absentee Property Owner. The Property Is Not Under Foreclosure, I'm Assuming.

It Is Not.

It Is Not. So This Ordinance Would Not Effect That.

It Would Not. And I'm Not Trying To Be Curt With You. It's Just That This Fundamentally, I Believe An Expectation Level That's Being Presented Here That's Unrealistic. It's Not Gonna Fix All These Problems. And That's The Point I've Been Trying To Get Across. Yeah, There's Properties Out There That Have 10' Tall Grass In The Front Yard. It's Called Johnson Grass. I Used To Hoe It When I Was A Kid. 10' High. No Telling What's Behind It, You Can't See It. But Here's The Problem, Is One Of Your Attorneys Very Recently Said That It's His Legal Opinion That Lawn Mowing Ordinance Does Not Provide For Repeat Violations And Repeat Provision Is Not Available. So I Guess What I'm Trying To Say Is Yeah, We Need To Track Everybody And Not Just Pick Out One

Group. We Need To Pick Out All The Groups Where There Are Issues. And I Don't Think That This Ordinance Covers That. We're Not Gonna -- Somebody's Under Water, Dogs Biting Next Door, None Of That Is Covered In This. And I Don't Want Anybody To Leave Here Thinking This Is All Gonna Go Away, It Is Not. And We Heard From A Gentleman From Cape Coral. And We Heard From A Gentleman From Fort Myers. They Both Said It Works In Their Neighborhood And I'll Tell You Why, If You Go Look At Their Ordinances, They've Changed It And They've Put Teeth In It So That Code Enforcement Can Do A Better Job. Right Now, If You Have A Lawn That Is 18 Inches High, It's Gonna Take 60 Days To Send The Paper Work To This Person Or Whomever, Am I Right? And Then We've Gotta Wait For Them To Come Back. And Then We're Gonna Wait Another 30 Days Before They're Gonna Have To Face Some Kind Of Punishment Or Violation, Whatever It Is. And Just The Other Day, There's One That's Due On September 17th. And Low And Behold, On September 10th The Lawn Got Mowed. And Guess What Happens, We Start The Cycle All Over Again. That Gives You Two Lawn Mowings A Year. That's What We're Passing Up Here. And That's The Problem. I Think That We Need, I'm Not Gonna Preach. I've Done This Before As A Councilman And As A Mayor Of A Small Town. And This Isn't The First Time That Anyone Has Ever Had To Accomplish This. But We Have Ordinances From The Town Of Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Cape Coral, Bonita Springs. They Fixed This Problem. And We're Not Taking A Page Out Of There And Replicating It. And I Don't Know Why. And So That's My Objection To This Is This Doesn't Go Far Enough. This Doesn't Put The Teeth In It. My Objection To This Whole Thing Was That I Was Asking Not To Move This Forward To A Public Hearing Without Having A Work Session That We Could Sit Down And Talk About What Do We Need To Do To Accomplish, I'll Use Your Word Again. Accomplish Means We Need To Clean Up The Neighborhoods And Get People Back Into Houses. That's What We Need To Be Talking About. When You Go Into Public Hearing, We're Talking About The Ordinance And The Language In It. And If All That's Missing, There's No Place To Put It In At This Point In Time Unless We Do Something Extraordinary Out Of This And Go Out Of Public Hearing, Which I Don't Even Know If That's Even Legally Possible At This Point. I Hope It Is. And Go And Talk About How We're Gonna Fix This Problem. And If That Means Do You Need More Resources, Then You Need To Let Us Know What It Is. Number Two, To Me, We Turned Our County Manager And Tell Him Go Fix It. Tell Us What It Is That You Need To Do To Make All These Problems Go Away. For People To Walk Out Here Thinking This All Got Fixed Is A Wrong Thing For People To Be Thinking.

Commissioner Manning?

Let Me Piggy Back On What Commissioner Kiker Is Saying. This Does Not Kick In Until January 1st, Correct?

That Is Correct.

Ok, And We Have A Clause In Here That We Will Look At This Ordinance After One Year. Not A Sunset Clause, But A Recommendation To Review This Ordinance. Nothing Is Gonna Happen With The Federal Housing Institution And Mortgages. That's Problematic To Me. I Don't Know How We Fix That. And I Don't Think We Can.

I Was Gonna Tell You, There Is A Savings Clause That The County Staff Recommended Based Upon What Happened Outside Of The Research On The Chicago Case. Is That We Will Agree To And Think It's A Good Idea To Rely On The Federal Servicing Guidelines. Because They Are Probably More Stringent Than What We're Suggesting.

I Get Very Nervous When I Hear The Federal Anything. Let Me Say One Last Thing. We Do Not Need A Third Party Administrator For This Program. I Believe Very Strongly That We Can Do It In House. And I Think Through Commissioner Kiker's Point, This Will Benefit Code Enforcement And Give Them The Necessary Help From A Financial Standpoint They Need To Do The Job Correctly. I'm Gonna Support This. But I Would Like To Recommend To This Board That Both Sides Continue The Dialogue So We Can Even Strengthen This Ordinance Even Further. And If I Can Get A Nod On That And Acceptance, I'd Appreciate It. And From The Banking Community And Anyone Else Who Might Want To Send In Revised Language Or At Least Try To Refine This To An Acceptable Level On Both Sides, I Will Appreciate That. I Will Move This Ordinance With Those Provisions In There.

Is That Your Motion?

Yes.

I'll Second That Motion.

Mr. Chairman, If I May, I Just Want To Be Absolutely Clear. Because The Third Party Administrator Taking That Out Is Not Something That We Discuss At The Last Go Around. And It Seems Like It's A Fairly Major Change. I Would At Least Like Staff To Put That --

Any Time, Commissioner, If I May, Any Time That A County Government Or City Government Goes Out To R. S. P. , It Takes A Long Time To Turn That Around. I Don't Know What It Is. I Believe Very Strongly That Our Staff, In-House Staff, Can Do This Job.

I Just Want To Hear Them Say That, Commissioner Manning. Because This Issue Has Not Been Discussed Before. I'd Ask Your Public Comments On That.

Mr. Chair?

Go Ahead, Roger.

Commissioners. The Direct Answer, Can We Do It. Sure, We Can Do That. We Can Take The Place Of A Third Part Administrator In This Ordinance. My Issue Today Is I've Not Yet After Two And A Half Months -- No One Would Argue That All Of These Problems Exist. They Certainly Do. And We All Want To See The Problems Go Away. My Question That I'm Going To Ask You Eventually When We Have A Policy Conversation About This More In Depth Is Going To Be To What Standard -- We Have Sufficient Staff Today To Do What We're Doing. We Work To Those Codes And Standards Today.

Before We Finalize A Vote To Hire A Third Party Administrator, During That Time We Can Find Out More About Staff's Ability To Undertake This.

I Agree With You, Commissioner. You Have Three Months Before This Is Implemented. So That Would Be Approved In My View.

My Goal Is To See If We Can Do This In House. Because These Are The People That Know This County.

I Just Don't Want To Make That A Mandate Today.

Your Motion Originally Was To Withdraw From The Third Party?

I Will Amend That Motion To Leave It The Way It Is And Ask Staff To Come Back With Us Before The First Of The Year With An Analysis Of Either Option.

I Was Going To Withdraw My Second Because I Don't Think Staff Was Capable Of Doing That Right Now. If We Were, We Wouldn't Be In This Situation In The First Place.

Take A Look At It, I Agree. I Agree With Commissioner Kiker.

Ok, Well Then The Motion Is Clear On That. We're Not Gonna Change The Third Party.

I Think Your Motion Was One, That You Would Review It After A Year. And The Clause Regarding The Federal Government Review, The Savings Clause Would Stay In. And Those Were The Only Two Amendments To Your Motion.

And The Other Piece Of It Is I Would Like An Analysis From Staff To Bring -- Carry Out The Ordinance Or Go To A Third Party. Ask The Staff To Come Back With An Analysis On Which Is The Best Way To Go.

Commissioner Kiker?

Thank You, Mr. Chairman. With The Advent In June Of House Bill 87 -- Is Responsible For A Piece Of Property. I Think There's Probably Some Good News In That. Mr. Chair, I Appreciate The Fact That You Would Be Willing To Re-Examine Some Of The Codes And Make Sure That We -- That Can't Be Part Of This Ordinance. But It Can Be Part Of The Direction That Would Be Given To Staff To Ask Them To Come Back. We Can Run -- The County Manager To Do That. So Can We Do That Afterwards?

Sure.

Thank You.

I Have One Last --

Commissioner Mann?

I Need Clarification On That Savings Clause. Let Me Tell You What I'm Hearing And You Tell Me Where I'm Wrong And Where I Don't Need To Worry About It. I Know That Some Action By The Federals Has Removed The Fanny May And The Freddy Mac Properties. And The Language, I Think You've Suggested Here. If We Include It, Which Is Part Of The Motion At This Point Would In Essence Exempt Fanny May And Freddy Mac Properties Also In Our Ordinance From The Applicability Of The Ordinance.

That's A Good Way To Say It.

Here's My Concern.

A Federal Ruling Happened On August 23rd. I Am Not Aware That Any Appeal Has Been Filed.

Here's My Concern, Guys. I Think It's Almost Premature Of Us To Exempt Those Properties, Which I've Been Led To Believe Could Be 70, 80, 90% Of All The Mortgages That Have Been Flipped. And I Don't Want To Automatically Risk Taking All Of Those Out Until It's Absolutely Dead Certain That We're Not Gonna Have The Applicability Of This Ordinance On These Properties.

It Hasn't Been Challenged And The Federal Servicing Guideline For Properties That Are Covered By Fanny May And Freddy Mac Mortgages Currently Require The Payment Of A Local Ordinance Fee And Compliance.

But It Was Just Last Month, August.

Right. And There Has Been One Amendment To The Servicing Guideline Since That Case Came Out On The 28th. I Think It Was In The 28th Of August. It

Did Not Address At All, Did Not Change Anything With Respect To Compliance And Requiring Servicing Agents.

If We Don't Take The Language Out, We Still Have The Ability To Apply The Ordinance Against Those Properties, Too. We Lose Nothing.

If It's Found And Finalized That We Can't Go Against Them, Then We Can't Go Against Them. There's Nothing We Can Do About It. But I Don't Want To, In Advance, Eliminate Them From The Possibility Of A Tax Buy Out. I'm Asking As One More Clarification Of The Motion To Not Include That Savings Ordinance Or Amendment That You Have Grafted.

My Preference Is To Leave That Out As Well.

You're Agreeing With Me?

Yes. I Know That Sounds Funny, But Yes. [Laughter]

Let Them Challenge Us, See What Happens.

That's Why I Prefer To Let It Go. That Requires An Amendment To Your Motion. I'm Ready To Vote. Let's Go Home.

Any Other Discussion? Any Objections? No Objection, Motion Carries 4-0.

Thank You, Commissioner Kiker. Thank You Very Much. [Applause]

Thank You, Lehigh.

If I Can Get Staff To Raise The Screen And Bring The Lights Back Up, Please. Thank You For Attending Today. See You At The Auction.

Thank You, Robin.

Our Next Item Is A Walk-On.

Move The Walk-On, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Manning Makes The Motion. Commissioner Mann Seconds The Walk On. Any Discussion On The Item? No Discussion, Any Objection? No Objection, Motion Carries. Move On To Commissioner Items. Commissioner Manning?

None, Mr. Chairman.

Commissioner Kiker?

Yes, Sir, I Have Some.

Commission Items, Commissioner Manning Is Up Next.

Commissioner Kiker, You Have The Floor.

Yes, Sir. I Want To Just Make Sure That We Follow Up On The Last Discussion, Whether Or Not We're Able To Direct Staff To Work On The Code Enforcement Elements Of What We Just Discussed In Parallel With The Ordinance.

In Essence, You Just Want To Know If There Are Other Areas Of Enforcement That We Might Internally Strengthen Through The Existing Code Enforcement Of Rules And Regs And A Review At This Time.

Commissioner Kiker, Thanks For Bringing That Up. Roger, Maybe That's Something We Can Talk About In Strategic Planning Or We Can Bring It Back To The Board Meetings. I Know My Personal Knowledge From Working With The County -- Our Ordinance With The County Is Kind Of Relaxed. Some Parts Are Inforcible. People Had Created Their Own Force. But Through County Ordinances, They Had Enough Strength To Enforce. That Is Us As A Board Looking To Strengthen Some Of The Ordinances And Help Code Enforcement, Help Staff And Also Help Produce Some Positive Results. I Wouldn't Want To Make It So Strict That It Looks Like They Live In A Gated Community.

A Lot Of The Staff Is Redundant. They Go To The Same House Every Month. It's A Repeat Offenders. It's Frustration On The Employee's Side Because They Know That There's Nothing Happening With It.

I Had A Conversation With Commissioner Georgia Hill. He Also Is Going To Make His Folks Very Aware Of What's Going On In That Vicinity And With Her Promise That If There's Anything That We Need Her For, She'll Be Glad To Come And Take A Personal Tour And See What's Going On. We Did Reach Out To The Commissioners. Two More Things, One Of Them Is That -- This Is One I Did Send You. With The Rules Of Class Act, Properties Have To Be Nominated In Order To Be Considered For Purchase For The 2020 Program.

Take Home That Roll. -- I Would Hope There's Already Undertaking Such A Review To What Any Of Those Lands Would Be Compatible To Our Own Mention. And I Think We Have The Authority To Do That. But Maybe A Nudge From The Chairman

The Last One, I Will Not Be Here Next Week For The Meeting. I'm Going To Washington D. C. Many Of The Folks In Lee County And Around Were Invited To Talk About Releases -- Wish To Speak To Them About Flood Insurance As Well. About Our Position In Terms Of What It's Like For Them To Do A Pass

On This One This Year. We Can Kind Of Get A Better Handle On What's Going On. So I Won't Be Here Next Week. But If You Need Anything, Let Me Know.

It May Be Shut Down By The Time You Get There.

Thank You For Going To Washington Next Week. I Was Asked To Go. And As A Chairman, I Pass It To You. And Also, This Is Something That Maybe Doug Can Respond To. I Was Talking To Different Residents Yesterday. Their Concern About The Cost --

We're Aware Of The Question. I Know That Dave Referenced That And Asked The County Attorneys To Provide An Opinion On If There Are Controls On That Road Outside Of The County D. O. T. Or Not. We Think It Was A Road Funded By Msbu. And It Is The County Road.

Do We Have Any Way Of Directing Traffic Away From That Area?

I'm Sure Everybody's Seen Signs That Say The Weight Restrictions Across The Bridge Are To Go On Certain Roads. Those Are Possibilities. We'd Have To Get Anything That We Tried To Do To Restrict, We'd Also Have To Have The State D. O. T. Review And Support That Recommendation. There Are Some Concerns In The Past When That Has Been Looked At.

We Can Follow Up On That.

I Just Want To Confirm That Remember Last Week I Inquired About The Possibility Of Rescheduling The Hearing On The River Hall Issue That We're Scheduled To Hear Tomorrow. And I Was Told That Since It's Already Been Advertised, It Was Not Possible To Change It Or Continue It If We Wanted To Tomorrow. But We Couldn't Really Change It. So We Had To Go Ahead And Meet. We've All Been Handed A Request This Morning.

You Don't Have To Give Me An Answer Today. If This Is Something You Want To E-Mail Me Later, We Can Discuss In The Next Meeting.

Patty Will Continue The Operations For Any Constituent Concerns. Any Other Concerns County Wide, She'll Direct Them To My Office Right Now.

Thank You, Any Other Items?

Commissioner Appointments Commissioner Manning?

I Have One Reappointment. Stephanie To The Executive Regulatory Oversight Committee.

I'll Second That.

Any Discussion? Any Objection?

No Objection, Motion Carry.

Commissioner Kiker?

None. Commissioner Mann?

I Know I Do.

I Have Three Repayments. Have A Re-Appointment -- So Moved.

Commissioner Mann Seconds.

Any Other Discussion?

No Discussion, Any Objection?

No Objection, Motion Carries.

James To The E-Rock.

Second.

Commissioner Manning Seconds.

Any Discussion? Any Objection?

No Objection, Motion Carries.

County Manager Items?

Thank You, Mr. Chair, Just One Quick Item. We'll Likely Be Renewing The State Of Emergency Given All The Rain That We've Had The Last Couple Of Days So We Can Make Some Of These Roads Passable For Emergency Vehicles.

Thank You.

County Attorney Items? You're So Quiet. That's Good.

Mr. Chairman, I Would Just Have To Excuse Myself. I'm Sorry, I've Got A Luncheon.

Good Luck On That, Commissioner Mann.

At This Time We'll Go To Public Presentation Of Management For Citizens. We Have One Speaker.

Thank You For Letting Me Speak, Commissioners. I Appreciate It. I Want To Read Something Real Short. It Says Here Concerning Sustainability. It Says Sustainable Development Cause For Changing The Very Infrastructure Of The Nation Away From Private Ownership And Control Of Property To Nothing Short Of Central Planning Of The Entire Economy. The Process To Do This Is Called Sustainable Development And Its Roots Can Be Traced Back To A Policy Document Adopted In 1992. There's A Little Newspaper That Comes Out Once Every Two Weeks And It Has A Great Big Section In It About How. If You Look On United Nations Under Agenda 21, You Will See That Lee County Has Paid For Membership Into This Program Run By The United Nations. The Whole Idea Of This Program Is To Take Away Our Property Rights. And I've Noticed All The Times That I've Been Here That Usually There's A Lot Of Discussion About Property. And I Would Just Suggest To You That Please Look Into All The Material That I've Given You. I've Given You Enough Material That You Will Know What Agenda 21 Is. And If You Ignore It, You're Gonna Put Us In A Lot Of Problems. Because I've Noticed Even In Giving Out Awards Today That They Use Language Of Agenda 21. They've Used That Language And I've Noticed In Our Lee County Website, Lee County Website Uses Pictures And Illustrations And Wording From Agenda 21. It Takes Away Our Sovereignty And It Takes Away Our Wealth. And It Also Keeps Us From Owning Property. If You Study History, You Learn That The Corner Stone Of Freedom Is The Ability To Be Able To Own Property And Do On Your Property What You Want If It Doesn't Bother The Other Properties Around You. And We Need To Take All The Language Off Of Our Website And We Need To Take All The Non-Government Organizations And Say No More. We Can Think For Ourselves. We Don't Need To Have The United Nations Telling Us How To Take Care Of Our Properties. And I Appreciate Very Much That You Let Me Speak. Thank You.

Thank You, John. Meeting Is Adjourned.