# PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

# **AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date:	February 11, 2025	[X] Consent [ ] Workshop	[ ] Regular [ ] Public Hearing	
Department:	Fire Rescue			

# I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

# Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to:

- A) authorize the Mayor to execute three (3) Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll (DR-409A) forms for the Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Fire Hydrant Maintenance and Rental – Boca Raton (Hydrant MSBU-Boca), to correct the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment levied to the Lake Worth Drainage District from \$23.00 to \$0 on each of the three (3) parcels; and
- B) authorize the County Administrator, or designee, to accept, approve, execute and/or submit, on County's behalf, Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll (DR-409A) forms for the Hydrant MSBU-Boca, and for the Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Fire Hydrant Maintenance and Rental – Riviera Beach.

**Summary:** Three (3) Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll forms were submitted by the Lake Worth Drainage District to correct the Non-Ad Valorem tax roll for the tax year 2024 Hydrant MSBU-Boca, which was certified by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on August 20, 2024. To correct the error on the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment roll, the County must sign the DR-0409A forms and submit to the Tax Collector. <u>Countywide</u> (SB)

**Background and Justification**: On November 20, 2024, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue received notice from Lake Worth Drainage District requesting correction of the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll. The reason for the requested correction is that Lake Worth Draining district cannot "lawfully pay the special assessments" based on the court ruling in North Port Road and Drainage District v. West Villages Improvement District, 82 So. 3d 69 (Fla. 2012). To correct the error on the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll Fire Rescue must sign the DR-409A forms and submit to the Tax Collector.

# Attachments:

- 1. DR-409A, Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for Hydrant MSBU-Boca – Parcel 00-42-47-34-00-000-1010
- 2. DR-409A, Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for Hydrant MSBU-Boca – Parcel 00-42-47-27-00-000-5010
- 3. DR-409A, Certificate of Correction of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Roll for Hydrant MSBU-Boca –Parcel 00-42-47-26-00-000-7010

Recommended by:	John Company	1-14-2025
	Assistant Fire Chief	/ Date
Approved by:	Bry	1.15.2025
	Fire Rescue Administrator	Date
Approved by:	<u> </u>	1/22/2025
	Assistant County Administrator	( Date /
	(	

# **II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years Capital Expenditures	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Operating Costs External Revenues					
Program Income (County) In-Kind Match (County)			<u></u>		
NET FISCAL IMPACT	*0				
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	0	0			
Is Item Included in Current Does this item include the Is this item using State Fur	use of Federal	Funds? Yes	XNo No _X No _X		
Budget Account No.: F	und Dep	t Unit	Rev Sour		

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

\*There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

agiemli 1/14/25 C. Departmental Fiscal Review: Nauen

# III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

OFMB

Contract Development and Control

B. Legal Sufficiency

Assistant County Attorne

C. Other Department Review:

**Department Director** 

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

Attachment

DR-409A R. 12/96



CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENT ROLL Section 197.3632, F.S, and Rule 12D-18.006(2), F.A.C.

Palm Beach County

To: Tax Collector

You are hereby authorized to Non-Ad Valorem Assessment	correct the assessment, rate/basis Roll as follows:	, or l	egal description of the 2024.
Parcel or folio number 00-4	2-47-34-00-000-1010		
Name to whom assessed Lake	Worth Drainage District		
	31 Military Trail ay Beach,FL 33484-1105		
Change legal description to:			
Change rate/basis from:		to:	
Change non-ad valorem assessment from:	\$23.00	to:	\$0.00
		ents,I	
	Attach additional documents when neces	sary	
			2/11/2025

Local government representative

Palm Beach County Municipal Service Benefit Unit for Fire Hydrant Maintenance and Rental - Boca Raton Name of government unit or taxing authority

Original: Tax Collector

cc:

Property Appraiser Local Government Department of Revenue Property Tax Oversight PO Box 3000 Tallahassee, FL 32315-3000

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Date

COUNTY ATTORNEY

	DELRAY BEACH FL 33	484-1105		AMOUNT:	23.00
NAME:	LAKE WORTH DRAINA 13081 MILITARY TRL			ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: 12 LAND USE CODE: 8000 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	593 0 0
LEGAL:	34-47-42, L-50 CNL R/V	V LYG E OF & ADJ TO CAN	IARY PALM DR		
	-42-47-34-00-000-1010	ACRES: 1.9775	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
	CHICAGO IL 60606-18		<b>FAA AODEO</b>		23.00
NAME:	191 N WACKER DR ST	1	MENT C/O	ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0300 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	
LEGAL:	MARBELLA PLAT	TRI	R-19 K/		
PCN: 00	-42-47-28-44-018-0000	ACRES: 19.0055	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
	BOCA RATON FL 3343	3-4866		AMOUNT:	23.00
NAME:	ABADY SALVADOR SA 22262 HOLLYHOCK TF	MUEL & SALVADOR SAM	MUEL ABADY ET AL TR "	ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0100 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	
LEGAL:	BEGAS PL	LT 52A			
	-42-47-28-41-000-0520	ACRES: .34	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	23.00
NAME:	BEGAS EVELYN 22263 MORNING GLO BOCA RATON FL 3343			ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0100 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	
LEGAL:	BEGAS PL	LT 44A			
PCN: 00	ORIDA -42-47-28-41-000-0440	PALM BEACH COU NON ADVALOREM PARCELS LEVIED BOCA RATON FIR ACRES: .3429	APPLICATION FOR : 002B	COMPUTED: 0	
1	ACH CO			Page 28	569 of 2760

LEVIED-MASS

### 2024 NUTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES AND PROPOSED OK ADOPTED NON-AD VALOREIN ASSESSIVIEN IS

Real Estate Parcel ID: 00-42-47-3 Legal-Gescription: 34-47-42, L-50 CNL R/W LYG E OF 8			NOT A		rates for the next	year. The pury on the propos	r property, will soon hold PUBLIC HEARINGS to adopt budgets and tax C HEARINGS is to receive opinions from the general public and to budget PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL ACTION. Each taxing authority may			
	C	OLUMN	1	C	OLUMN	2	<b>C</b>	OLUMN	3	See www.pbcpao.gov for public hearing updates
Taxing Authority Dependent Special Districts			s Last Year		erty Taxe dget change	s This Year : is made		erty Taxe: budget cha		A public hearing on the proposed taxes and budget will be held at the locations and dates below.
	Taxable Value	Millage Rate	Tax Amount	Taxable Value	Millage Rate	Tax Amount	Taxable Value	Millage Rate	Tax Amount	
COUNTY County Operating County Debt * Fire/Rescue * Library Operating + Library Opebt PUBLIC SCHOOLS By State Law	0 0 0 0 0	4.5000 .0188 3.4581 .5491 .0108 3.2090	00. 00. 00. 00. 00.	0 0 0 0 0	4.1641 .0396 3.1986 .5077 .0098 3.0302	00. 00. 00. 00. 00.	0 0 0 0 0	.0396 3.4581 .5491 .0098 3.0660	00. 00. 00. 00. 00.	9/04 5:05 PM (561) 434-8837
By Local Board MUNICIPALITY	0	3.2480	.00	0	3,0671	.00	· · 0	3.2480	.00	3300 Forest Hill Blvd WPB 33406
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS So. Fla. Water Mgmt. Basin So. Fla. Water Mgmt. Dist. Everglades Construction FL Inland Navigation District	0 0 0 0	.1026 .0948 .0327 .0288	.00 .00 .00 .00	0 0 0 0	.0945 .0874 .0301 .0266	00. 00. 00. 00.		.0327	00. 00. 00. 00.	3301 Gun Club Rd B-1 Bldg WPB 33406
Children's Services Council	0	.4908	.00	0	.4535	.00		.4908	.00	1707 NE Indian River Dr Jensen Bch
Health Care District Greater Boca Beach and Park	0	.6761 1.0800	.00 .00	0	.6247 1.0083	00. 00.		) .6561 ) 1.0800	00. 00.	1515 N Flagler Dr Ste 101 WPB 33401
Total Millage Rate & Tax Amount		17.4996	.00		16.3422	.00		17,3564	.00	** SEE BELOW FOR EXPLANATION
					** EXPI	ANATION OF TAX	NOTICE			
COLUM "YOUR PROPERTY TA This column shows the taxes that app These amounts were based on budg property's previous	XES LAST YEAR" blied last year to ye gets adopted last ye	our property, ear and your		COLUMN 2 "YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR IF NO BUDGET CHANGE IS ADOPTED" s what your taxes will be this year IF EACH TAXING AU PROPERTY TAX LEVY. These amounts are based on las budgets and your current assessment.			AUTHORITY DOES This column shows what you last year's each local taxing authori hearings shown above. The			COLUMN 3 DUR TAXES THIS YEAR IF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGE IS ADOPTED <sup>a</sup> ur taxes will be this year under the BUDGET ACTUALLY PROPOSED by rity. The proposal is NOT final and may be amended at the public e difference between columns 2 and 3 is the tax change proposed by ng authority and is NOT the result of higher assessments.
			-			VALOREM AS				
LEVYING AU PBC MSBU HYDRANT MAINT/RENT			PURPOS HYDRANT MAINT	E OF ASSESSM		UNITS	RATE 23.00		SSMENT 22.00	CONTACT NUMBER
				ENANUE O RENI	nL		23,00		23.00	(561) 616-7021
			K		Tot	al Non-Ad Valor	em Assessment		23.00	
city, or any special district. NOTE: Amounts shown on this form	do NOT reflect ear n-Ad Valorem assess	ly payment di sments are pla	scounts you may have aced on this notice a	ve received or may t the request of th	as assessmen v be eligible to	its for roads, fire, ga receive. (Discount	erbage, lighting, dra is are a maximum c	of 4 percent of	sewer, or other gov the amounts show	ernmental services and facilities which may be levied by your county,

		VALUE INFORMATIO	N								
Mar Val		Market (also called "Just") value is the most probable sale price for your property in a competitive, open market on Jan 1, 2024. It is based on a willing buyer and a willing seller.									
ast Year ( 2023 ) 593	This Year ( 2024 )	If you feel that the market value of your propert classification that is not reflected on this notice,	•					•			
		If the Property Appraiser's office is unable to res adjustment with the Value Adjustment Board. P filed with the Clerk of Value Adjustment Board o	etition forms are a n or before 5:00 F	available from ti ?M September 1	ne County Prope 6, 2024 at 301 N	rty Appraiser's o I Olive Ave, Wes	office. Your pet st Palm Beach, I	ition must be FL 33401.			
		Taxing Authority	Assesse		Exemp			e Value			
		County Operating	Last Year 593	This Year 593	Last Year 593	This Year 593	Last Year	This Year			
		County Debt	593	593	593	593		0			
		County Dependent Dists	593	593	593	593		Ď			
		Public Schools	593	593	593	593		D			
		Independent Special Dists	593	593	593	593		0			
TACH				ue is the market ny assessment	Exemptions are s percentage amou your assessed val	nts that reduce	Taxable Value is calculate the tax property (Assesse Exemptions).	due on your			
THE ACH	COUNTY - MAN	Assessment Reductions	value minus a		percentage amou your assessed val	nts that reduce	calculate the tax property (Assesse	due on your			
THE ACH		Assessment Reductions Assessment reductions Properties can receive an assessment reduction for a number of a Exemptions Applied	value minus a reductions.	ny assessment	percentage amou your assessed val App nefit and the 10 % no	nts that reduce ue. lies To	calculate the tax of property (Assesse Exemptions).	due on your ed Value minus			
		Properties can receive an assessment reduction for a number of	value minus a reductions.	ny assessment	percentage amou your assessed val App nefit and the 10 % no App	nts that reduce ue. lies To on-homestead prop	calculate the tax of property (Assesse Exemptions).	due on your ed Value minus Value			
		Properties can receive an assessment reduction for a number of a Exemptions Applied	value minus a reductions.	ny assessment	percentage amou your assessed val App nefit and the 10 % no App	nts that reduce ue. lies To on-homestead prop	calculate the tax of property (Assesse Exemptions).	due on your d Value minus Value			
		Properties can receive an assessment reduction for a number of a Exemptions Applied	value minus a reductions.	ny assessment	percentage amou your assessed val App nefit and the 10 % no App	nts that reduce ue. lies To on-homestead prop	calculate the tax of property (Assesse Exemptions).	due on your ed Value minus Value Exempt Valu			

Visit the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's website for more information: WWW.pbcpa0.gov

LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DIST 13081 MILITARY TRL DELRAY BEACH FL 33484-1105

00-42-47-34-00-000-1010 00164



LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

13081 MILITARY TRAIL DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33484 -1105

February 2, 2015

Michele Liska Financial Analyst III Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Finance-Revenue & Contracts 405 Pike Road West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Re: Opinion of Counsel of Lake Worth Drainage District regarding the Legal Ability of Lake Worth Drainage District to Pay Special Assessment o PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton Non-Ad Valorem Assessment

Dear Ms. Liska:

Please consider this letter as the requested Opinion of Counsel setting forth the undersigned's legal opinion that the Court ruling of <u>North Port Road and Drainage District v. West</u> <u>Villages Improvement District 82 So. 3d 69 (Fla. 2012)</u> applies to Lake Worth Drainage District's position that Lake Worth Drainage District cannot "lawfully pay the special assessments," being the PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton non-ad valorem assessment (Hydrant Assessment). [Copy of case enclosed]

Lake Worth Drainage District was created on June 15, 1915 under Chapter 6458 Laws of Florida. The District currently operates under Chapter 09-298 (Special Act) and amendments thereto.

The Special Act, Section 1, reads:

### District created and boundaries thereof

Lake Worth Drainage District was created for the purpose of further reclaiming, draining, and irrigating the lands hereinafter described, and for the purpose of water control and water supply; protecting said lands from the effects of water by means of the construction and maintenance of canals, ditches, levees, dikes, pumping plants, and other drainage and irrigation works and improvements; improving said lands and making said lands within the district available, acceptable, and habitable for settlement and agriculture, and for the public convenience, welfare, utility, and benefit and other purposes stated in this act, a single purpose drainage and water control district is hereby created and established in Palm Beach County, to be known as the Lake Worth Drainage District, an independent special district.

Lake Worth Drainage District encompasses roughly 200 square miles in southeastern Palm Beach County. Lake Worth Drainage District is generally bordered on the west by the Arthur R. Marshall

Phone: (561) 498-5363 • Fax (561) 495-9694 • www.LWDD.net

Board of Supervisors James M. Alderman Joyce D. Haley Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. Harry Raucher John I. Whitworth III Executive Director Robert M. Brown Atorney Mark A. Perry, P.A. Michele Liska Financial Analyst III Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Finance-Revenue & Contracts February 2, 2015 Page No. 3

Similar to West Villages Improvement District, Lake Worth Drainage District is restricted in the purposes that a non-ad valorem assessment may be levied. According to Section 9, Maintenance Tax of the Special Act, the enabling act does not authorize Lake Worth Drainage District the ability to levy assessments for the purposes of paying PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton non-ad valorem assessment.

The Lake Worth Drainage District's enabling legislation does not provide for a mechanism to pay the special assessment for the Fire Hydrant Assessment of PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton; and therefore, cannot legally pay the Fire Hydrant Special Assessment.

Further, the parcels being assessed are actually canals, which derive no benefit from the existence of any fire hydrants. Please find enclosed aerials of the LWDD canals being assessed.

The assessment for the hydrants was an unintended consequence of the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office assigning Property Control Numbers to the District's rights-of-way for tracking and mapping purposes.

Once you have reviewed the contents of this letter, please contact me so we may discuss your response.

Sincerely,

MARK A. PERRY

General Counsel

MAP:fac Enclosures C: Marilyn Stutzman, Client Service Specialist, Tax Services Property Tax, Tax Collector's Office (a) The membarship of its governing body is identical to that of the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(b) All members of its governing body are appointed by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(c) During their unexpired terms, members of the special district's governing body are subject to removal at will by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(d) The district has a budget that requires approval through an affirmative vote or can be vetoed by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(3) "Independent special district" means a special district that is not a dependent special district. A district that includes more than one county is an independent special district unless the district lies wholly within the boundaries of a single municipality.

West Villages is an independent special district of the State of Florida, which was created by special legislative act. See ch.2004–456, § 2(3), Laws of Fla. NPRDD is a municipal dependent special district.

### Facts

The facts of this case were described by the Second District as follows:

West Villages owns nine parcels of real property located within the [C]ity of North Port upon which NPRDD imposed the non-ad valorem assessments. 2

In mid-2008, NPRDD amended its enabling ordinance to provide that NPRDD would levy non-ad valorem ascessments against real property owned by governmental entities. NPRDD then published a notice of public hearing to address the adoption of the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Thereafter, West Villages received notices of the proposed assessments for each of the nine parcels in question. West Villages timely filed written objections to the proposed assessments arguing, in relevant part, that there was no explicit or necessarily implied legislative authorization for NPRDD to impose the non-ad valorem assessments upon any property owned by West Villages, as such property constituted public property.

At the public hearing, West Villages objected not only verbally but also in writing to the proposed assessments, raising the same arguments which it previously made. Despite West Villages' objections, NPRDD passed a resolution which established the non-ad valorem assessment rates and which adopted the proposed non-ad valorem assessment roll.

Thereafter, West Villages filed appeals to address the imposition of the non-ad valorem assessments for each of the nine parcels. Again, West Villages asserted there was no legal basis for NPRDD to impose the non-ad valorem assessments upon the parcels in question. On October 17, 2008, the district director for NPRDD issued a letter to West Villages denying the appeals.

On November 14, 2008, West Villages filed its petition for writ of certiorari in the circuit court. In its order denying West Villages' petition, the circuit court cited City of Boca Raton v. State, 595 So.2d 25 (Fla.1992), and determined, in relevant part, that "[a] dependent special district. has the authority to levy non-ad valorem assessments on specially benefited properties pursuant to both their home rule authority and statutory authority."

West Villages, 36 So.3d at 838-39 (footnote omitted).

### II. ANALYSIS

The Second District held that this Court's decision in Blake v. City of Tampa, 156 So. 97 (Fla.1934), prohibits NPRDD's levy because the Florida Legislature has not, expressly or by necessary implication, authorized such assessments against state land. See West Villages, 36 So.3d at 839-40. NPRDD argues that Blake is no longer valid in light of the creation of municipal home rule powers. Assuming, without deciding, that Blake is not applicable, we hold that NPRDD's home rule powers do not extend so far as to allow its special assessments on West Villages' property.

Under the 1885 Florida Constitution, "all municipal powers were dependent upon a specific delegation of authority by the [L]egislature in a general or special zct." City of Boca Raton, 595 So.2d at 27. This approach overwhelmed the Legislature with requests to enact bills to grant the power needed to resolve each municipality's specific, local problems. Id. Therefore, a provision was added to the 1968 Florida Constitution to grant municipalities broad home rule powers. Id. Article VIII, section 2(b) provides that "[m]unicipalities shall have governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law."

http://cacelaw findlaw com/fl-ennreme-court/1 502755 html

unincorporated Sarasota County. See ch. 2006-355, §§ 2, 17, Laws of Fla. NPRDD cannot do indirectly what it cannot do directly. See Leon Cnty. Educ. Facilities Auth. v. Hartsfield, 698 So.ed 526, 528-29 (Fla.1997) (holding that county educational facilities authority was equitable owner of property, therefore portion of property used for exempt purposes was exempt from ad valorem taxation) (citing Bancroft Inv. Corp. v. City of Jacksonville, 27 So.2d 162 (Fla.1946) (stating that the Court should look through form to fact and substance in tax issues)).

5. Two of West Villages' nine parcels are designated wetland preservation tracts. Two are designated water managements tracts. Two are designated as recreational tracts for members of the platted subdivision in which the tracts are located, and one tract is a designated preserve for gopher tortoises. The remaining two tracts are being used in the installation, construction, and operation of the "West Villages Parkway," a public roadway.

POLSTON, J.

CANADY, C.J., and FARIENTE, LEWIS, QUINCE, LABARGA, and PERRY, JJ., concur.

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http://caselaw.findlaw.com/fl-supreme-court/1592755.html

36				DR-409A R. 12/96
M M B	CERTIFI	CATE OF COR	RECTION OF	
		ALOREM ASSE		
FLORIDA	Section 197.363	82, F.S, and Rule 1	12D-18.006(2), F.	A.C.
-	Palm	n Beach	County	
To: Tax Collector				
You are hereby authorize Non-Ad Valorem Assess			/basis, or legal d	escription of the 20124. Tax year
Parcel or folio number	00-42-47-27-00-	000-5010	ni (hydroson a gwlad y beled y beled a fel a fel a gwlad y beled y beled y beled y beled y beled y beled y bel Init fel a gwlad y beled	saka muhari kanan likatakan likataki kati katan likataki di BARA (BRANC) (BRANC) (BRANC) (BRANC) (BRANC) (BRANC) Muhamban muhari kata (Branc) (BR
	Lake Worth Drai			
Address	13081 Military Tı Delray Beach, Fl			
Change legal descriptio	on to:			
Change rate/basis from	1:	VARIABLE AND	to:	
Change non-ad valorer assessment from:	n	\$23.00	to:	\$0.00
cannot "lawfully pay the sp	∋cial assessment	`S"		
	Attach additi	onal documents wher	n necessary	
			2/11/2	025
Local government represer	itative		Dat	e
Palm Beach County Munic	cipal Service Ben	efit Unit for Fire Hy	drant Maintenance	and Rental-Boca Raton
Name of government unit of				un un and and and a second and a
Original: Tax Collector				
cc: Property Appraise Local Governmer				
Department of Re	venue		a. 199. (1. J.	
Property Tax C PO Box 3000	versight	APPROV	ED AS TO FORM	f
Tallahassee, F	L 32315-3000	ANDLEC	AL SUFFICIENCE	
		Fue COU	BAL SUFFICIENCE	

Attachmenta

- PALAY	ACH COULT	PALM BEACH COU NON ADVALOREM PARCELS LEVIED I	APPLICATION FOR : 002B	6/3/2024 Page 1773	10:43:03AM 3 of 2760
	ORID	BOCA RATON FIRE	HYDRANT		
PCN: 00	-42-47-27-00-000-5010	ACRES: 1.8018	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
LEGAL:	27-47-42, L-50 CNL R/W	LYG E OF & ADJ TO CANA	RY PALM DR		
NAME:	LAKE WORTH DRAINAG 13081 MILITARY TRL DELRAY BEACH FL 3348			ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: 12 LAND USE CODE: 8000 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	541 0 0
	DELKAT BEAGITTE 3340			AMOUNT:	23.00
PCN: 00	-42-47-27-02-000-0010	ACRES: 7.97	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
LEGAL:	BOCA DEL MAR NO 2	CLUB HOUSE SITE			
NAME:	PENN FLORIDA CLUB P 1515 N FEDERAL HWY S			ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 3800 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	449,283 449,283 331,379
	BOCA RATON FL 33432-	1953		AMOUNT:	23.00
PCN: 00	-42-47-27-05-001-0010	ACRES: .1998	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
LEGAL:	TERRA TRANQUILA	LOT 1 BLK 1			
NAME:	DOMINY BRIAN BRIAN 6888 CALLE DEL PAZ S	I DOMINY TR TITL HLDR		ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0100 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	262,616 212,616 0
	BOCA RATON FL 33433-	6424		AMOUNT:	23.00
	-42-47-27-05-001-0020	ACRES: .1829	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
LEGAL:	TERRA TRANQUILA	LOT 2 BLK 1			
NAME:	ABATE ELAINE 6902 CALLE DEL PAZ S			ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0100 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	288,261 238,261 0
	BOCA RATON FL 33433-	6457		AMOUNT:	23.00

Real Estate Parcel ID: 00-42-47-2 Legal Description: 27-47-42, L-50 CNL RW LYG E OF &						PAY	rates for the next	year. The pur on the propos	pose of these PUBL ed tax change and I	r property, will soon hold PUBLIC HEARINGS to adopt budgets and tax IC HEARINGS is to receive opinions from the general public and to budget PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL ACTION. Each taxing authority may	
	COLUMN		1	C	OLUMN	2	surfite the Respond	OLUMN	<b>(3</b> )	See www.pbcpao.gov for public hearing updates	
Taxing Authority *Dependent Special Districts		영상 영화	s Last Year		erty Taxes dget change	s This Year is made		ur Droporty Toyor This Moor		A public hearing on the proposed taxes and budget will be held at the locations and dates below.	
	Taxable Value	Millage Rate	Tax Amount	Taxable Value	Millage Rate	Tax Amount	Taxable Value	Millage Rote	Tax Amount		
COUNTY County Operating County Debt * Fire/Rescue * Library Operating * Library Debt PUBLIC SCHOOLS	0 0 0 0	4.5000 .0188 3.4581 .5491 .0108	.00 .00 .00 .00 .00	0 0 0 0 0	4.1641 .0396 3.1986 .5077 .0098	00, 00, 00, 00,	0 0 0	4.5000 .0396 3.4581 .5491 .0098	00 00 00 00	301 N Olive Ave 6th FI WPB 33401	
By State Law By Local Board MUNICIPALITY	0	3.2090 3.2480	.00 .00	0	3.0302 3.0671	00. 00.		3.0660 3.2480	00.00		
INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS So. Fla. Water Mgmt. Basin So. Fla. Water Mgmt. Dist. Everglades Construction FL Inland Navigation District	0 0 0 0 0	,1026 .0948 .0327 .0288	00, 00, 00, 00,	0 0 0 0	.0945 .0874 .0301 .0266	00. 00. 00.	0 0	.1026 .0948 .0327 .0288	.00 .00 .00	3301 Gun Club Rd B-1 Bldg WPB 33406	
Children's Services Council Health Care District	0	.4908 .6761	00. 00.	0	.4535 .6247	00. 00.			.00 .00	9/11 5:01 PM (561) 740-7000 2300 High Ridge Rd ByntnBch FL33426	
Greater Boca Beach and Park	0	1.0800	.00	0	1.0083	.00		) 1.0800	.00	1515 N Flagler Dr Ste 101 WPB 33401	
Total Millage Rate & Tax Amount		17.4996	.00		16.3422	.00		17.3564	.00	** SEE BELOW FOR EXPLANATION	
COLUMN 1 "YOUR PROPERTY TAXES LAST YEAR" This column shows the taxes that applied last year to your property. This column show				CHA s what your taxes v PROPERTY TAX LEV	** EXPLANATION OF TAX NOTICE COLUMN 2 "YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR IF NO BUDGET CHANGE IS ADOPTED" what your taxes will be this year IF EACH TAXING AUTHORI ROPERTY TAX LEVY. These amounts are based on last year's budgets and your current assessment.			COLUMN 3 "YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR IF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGE IS ADOPTED" AUTHORITY DOES This column shows what your taxes will be this year under the BUDGET ACTUALLY PROPO			
						ALOREM AS	SESSMENT				
				E OF ASSESSM ENANCE & RENT		UNITS 1	RATE 23,00	ASS	ESSMENT 23.00	CONTACT NUMBER (561) 616-7021	
			Tot	al Non-Ad Valore	em Assessment		23.00				
Your final tax bill may contain Non-A city, or any special district. NOTE: Amounts shown on this form					as assessmen	ts for roads, fire, ga	arbage, lighting, dra		sewer, or other gov	vernmental services and facilities which may be levied by your count	

Non-Ad Valorem Assessments: Non-Ad Valorem assessments are placed on this notice at the request of the respective local governing boards. Your Tax Collector will be including them in the November tax bill. For details on particular Non-Ad Valorem assessments, contact the levying authority shown in the Non-Ad Valorem Assessment section on this page.

### 2024 NUTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES AND PROPOSED OK ADOPTED NON-AD VALOREIN ASSESSIVIENTS

VALUE INFORMATIO	ON
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# Market Value Last Year (2023 ) This Year (2024 ) 541

Market (also called "Just") value is the most probable sale price for your property in a competitive, open market on Jan 1, 2024. It is based on a willing buyer and a willing seller.

If you feel that the market value of your property is inaccurate or does not reflect fair market value, or you are entitled to an exemption or classification that is not reflected on this notice, **contact your County Property Appraiser at the numbers listed on the included insert**.

If the Property Appraiser's office is unable to resolve the matter as to market value, classification, or an exemption, you may file a petition for adjustment with the Value Adjustment Board. Petition forms are available from the County Property Appraiser's office. Your petition must be filed with the Clerk of Value Adjustment Board on or before 5:00 PM September 16, 2024 at 301 N Olive Ave, West Palm Beach, FL 33401.

Taxing Authority	Assesse	d Value	Exem	otions	Taxable Value		
	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	
County Operating	541	541	541	541	0	0	
County Debt	541	541	541	541	0	0	
County Dependent Dists	541	541	541	541	0	C	
Public Schools	541	541	541	541	0	0	
Independent Special Dists	541	541	541	541	0	0	
<b>L</b>		ue is the market my assessment	Exemptions are s percentage amou your assessed val	ints that reduce	Taxable Value is the calculate the tax de property (Assessed Exemptions).	ue on your	
Assessment Reduction			Арр	lies To		Value	

Properties can receive an assessment reduction for a number of reasons including the Save our Homes Benefit and the 10 % non-homestead property limitation.

Exemptions Applied	Applies To	Exempt Value
Governmental	All Taxing Authorities	541
·		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Any exemption that impacts your property is listed in this section along with its correspon	l diag pyampt value. Sporific dollar or percentage reductions in assessed va	L

Any exemption that impacts your property is listed in this section along with its corresponding exempt value. Specific doilar or percentage reductions in assessed value may be applicable to a property based upon certain qualifications of the property or property owner. In some cases, an exemption's value may vary depending on the taxing authority. The tax impact of an exempt value may also vary for the same taxing authority, depending on the levy (i.e. operating millage vs debt service millage).

Visit the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's website for more information: WWW.pbcpao.gov

00-42-47-27-00-000-5010 00164





LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

13081 MILITARY TRAIL DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33484 -1105

February 2, 2015

Michele Liska Financial Analyst III Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Finance-Revenue & Contracts 405 Pike Road West Palm Beach, FL 33411

### Re: Opinion of Counsel of Lake Worth Drainage District regarding the Legal Ability of Lake Worth Drainage District to Pay Special Assessment o PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton Non-Ad Valorem Assessment

Dear Ms. Liska:

Please consider this letter as the requested Opinion of Counsel setting forth the undersigned's legal opinion that the Court ruling of <u>North Port Road and Drainage District v. West</u> <u>Villages Improvement District 82 So. 3d 69 (Fla. 2012)</u> applies to Lake Worth Drainage District's position that Lake Worth Drainage District cannot "lawfully pay the special assessments," being the PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton non-ad valorem assessment (Hydrant Assessment). [Copy of case enclosed]

Lake Worth Drainage District was created on June 15, 1915 under Chapter 6458 Laws of Florida. The District currently operates under Chapter 09-298 (Special Act) and amendments thereto.

The Special Act, Section 1, reads:

### **District created and boundaries thereof**

Lake Worth Drainage District was created for the purpose of further reclaiming, draining, and irrigating the lands hereinafter described, and for the purpose of water control and water supply; protecting said lands from the effects of water by means of the construction and maintenance of canals, ditches, levees, dikes, pumping plants, and other drainage and irrigation works and improvements; improving said lands and making said lands within the district available, acceptable, and habitable for settlement and agriculture, and for the public convenience, welfare, utility, and benefit and other purposes stated in this act, a single purpose drainage and water control district is hereby created and established in Palm Beach County, to be known as the Lake Worth Drainage District, an independent special district.

Lake Worth Drainage District encompasses roughly 200 square miles in southeastern Palm Beach County. Lake Worth Drainage District is generally bordered on the west by the Arthur R. Marshall

Phone: (561) 498-5363 • Fax (561) 495-9694 • www.LWDD.net

Board of Supervisors James M. Alderman Joyce D. Haley Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. Harry Raucher John I. Whitworth III Executive Director Robert M. Brown Attorney Mark A. Perry, P.A. Michele Liska Financial Analyst III Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Finance-Revenue & Contracts February 2, 2015 Page No. 3

Similar to West Villages Improvement District, Lake Worth Drainage District is restricted in the purposes that a non-ad valorem assessment may be levied. According to Section 9, Maintenance Tax of the Special Act, the enabling act does not authorize Lake Worth Drainage District the ability to levy assessments for the purposes of paying PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton non-ad valorem assessment.

The Lake Worth Drainage District's enabling legislation does not provide for a mechanism to pay the special assessment for the Fire Hydrant Assessment of PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton; and therefore, cannot legally pay the Fire Hydrant Special Assessment.

Further, the parcels being assessed are actually canals, which derive no benefit from the existence of any fire hydrants. Please find enclosed aerials of the LWDD canals being assessed.

The assessment for the hydrants was an unintended consequence of the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser's Office assigning Property Control Numbers to the District's rights-of-way for tracking and mapping purposes.

Once you have reviewed the contents of this letter, please contact me so we may discuss your response.

Sincerely,

MARK A. PERRY

General Counsel

MAP:fac Enclosures C: Marilyn Stutzman, Client Service Specialist, Tax Services Property Tax, Tax Collector's Office (a) The membership of its governing body is identical to that of the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(b) All members of its governing body are appointed by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(c) During their unexpired terms, members of the special district's governing body are subject to removal at will by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(d) The district has a budget that requires approval through an affirmative vote or can be vetoed by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

### -

(3) "Independent special district" means a special district that is not a dependent special district. A district that includes more than one county is an independent special district unless the district lies wholly within the boundaries of a single municipality.

West Villages is an independent special district of the State of Florida, which was created by special legislative act. See ch.2004–456, § 2(3), Laws of Fla. NPRDD is a municipal dependent special district.

### Facts

The facts of this case were described by the Second District as follows:

West Villages owns nine parcels of real property located within the [C]ity of North Port upon which NPRDD imposed the non-ad valorem assessments. 2

In mid-2008, NPRDD amended its enabling ordinance to provide that NPRDD would levy non-ad valorem assessments against real property owned by governmental entities. NPRDD then published a notice of public hearing to address the adoption of the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Thereafter, West Villages received notices of the proposed assessments for each of the nine parcels in question. West Villages timely filed written objections to the proposed assessments arguing, in relevant part, that there was no explicit or necessarily implied legislative authorization for NPRDD to impose the non-ad valorem assessments upon any property owned by West Villages, as such property constituted public property.

At the public hearing, West Villages objected not only verbally but also in writing to the proposed assessments, raising the same arguments which it previously made. Despite West Villages' objections, NPRDD passed a resolution which established the non-ad velorem assessment rates and which adopted the proposed non-ad valorem assessment roll.

Thereafter, West Villages filed appeals to address the imposition of the non-ad valorem assessments for each of the nine parcels. Again, West Villages asserted there was no legal basis for NPRDD to impose the non-ad valorem assessments upon the parcels in question. On October 17, 2008, the district director for NPRDD issued a letter to West Villages denying the appeals.

On November 14, 2008, West Villages filed its petition for writ of certiorari in the circuit court. In its order denying West Villages' petition, the circuit court cited City of Boca Raton v. State, 595 So.2d 25 (Fla.1992), and determined, in relevant part, that "[a] dependent special district . has the authority to levy non-ad valorem assessments on specially benefited properties pursuant to both their home rule authority and statutory authority."

West Villages, 36 So.3d at 838-39 (footnote omitted).

### II. ANALYSIS

The Second District held that this Court's decision in Blake v. City of Tampa, 156 So. 97 (Fla.1934), prohibits NPRDD's levy because the Florida Legislature has not, expressly or by necessary implication, authorized such assessments against state land. See West Villages, 36 So.3d at 839–40. NPRDD argues that Blake is no longer valid in light of the creation of municipal home rule powers.; Assuming, without deciding, that Blake is not applicable, we hold that NPRDD's home rule powers do not extend so far as to allow its special assessments on West Villages' property.

Under the 1885 Florida Constitution, "all municipal powers were dependent upon a specific delegation of authority by the [L]egislature in a general or special act." City of Boca Raton, 595 So.2d at 27. This approach overwhelmed the Legislature with requests to enact bills to grant the power needed to resolve each municipality's specific, local problems. Id. Therefore, a provision was added to the 1968 Florida Constitution to grant municipality's specific, local brower rule powers. Id. Article VIII, section 2(b) provides that "[m]unicipalities shall have governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law."

http://caselaw findlaw com/fl-supreme-court/1507755 html

unincorporated Sarasots County. See ch.2006–355, §§ 2, 17, Laws of Fla. NPRDD cannot do indirectly what it cannot do directly. See Leon Caty. Educ. Facilities Auth. v. Hartsfield, 698 So.2d 526, 528–29 (Fla.1997) (holding that county educational facilities authority was equitable owner of property, therefore portion of property used for exempt purposes was exempt from ad valorem taxation) (citing Bancroft Inv. Corp. v. City of Jacksonville, 27 So.2d 162 (Fla.1946) (stating that the Court should look through form to fact and substance in tax issues)).

5. Two of West Villages' nine parcels are designated wetland preservation tracts. Two are designated water managements tracts. Two are designated as recreational tracts for members of the platted subdivision in which the tracts are located, and one tract is a designated preserve for gopher tortoises. The remaining two tracts are being used in the installation, construction, and operation of the "West Villages Parkway," a public roadway.

POLSTON, J.

CANADY, C.J., and PARIENTE, LEWIS, QUINCE, LABARGA, and PERRY, JJ., concur.

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FLORIDA To: Tax Collector You are hereby authorize Non-Ad Valorem Assess	NON Section		SESSMEN Ile 12D-18.006 County	R. 1 FROLL 5(2), F.A.C.	409A 2/96 2
Parcel or folio number	00-42-4	17-26-00-000-7010			
Name to whom assessed	Lake W	/orth Drainage District		none na	
Address		Military Trail Beach, FL 33484-1105			
Change legal description	n to:				
Change rate/basis from:			to:		
Change non-ad valore assessment from:	m	\$23.00	to:	\$0.00	ANALATIN TRANSPORT
	rant mair lecial as	ntenance non-ad valoren sessments"	n assessments,	provement District 82 So. 3d 69 Lake Worth Drainage District	,
	Att	tach additional documents v	when necessary		
····	*****			2/11/2025	
Name of government unit of Original: Tax Collector cc: Property Apprais	cipal Se or taxing er		Hydrant Mainte	Date enance and Rental - Boca Rat	on
Local Governmen Department of Re Property Tax ( PO Box 3000 Tallahassee, F	evenue Oversigh	*DDD///-	D AS TO FORM		

Attachment 3

LEGAL: 2 NAME: L	2-47-26-00-000-7010 26-47-42, L-50 CNL R/W LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE 13081 MILITARY TRL DELRAY BEACH FL 33484		EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0 ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE:	141
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1	13081 MILITARY TRL	DIST		TAXABLE VALUE:	141
		4-1105		NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: 12 LAND USE CODE: 8000 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	0 0
		·····		AMOUNT:	23.00
PCN: 00-42	2-47-26-02-001-0010	ACRES: .2803	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
LEGAL: E	BOCA DEL MAR NO 1	LT 1 BLK 1			
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E	BOCA RATON FL 33433-5	348		AMOUNT:	23.00
PCN: 00-42	2-47-26-02-001-0020	ACRES: .2361	EAA ACRES:	COMPUTED: 0	
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	TCHOU PATRICK & TCH 22147 SOLIEL CIR W	IOU LUISA F		ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0100 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	337,018 287,018 0
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NAME: F	FOXMAN ALAN & FOXM 22127 W SOLIEL CIR BOCA RATON FL 33433-5	IAN LISA		ASSESSED VALUE: TAXABLE VALUE: NEW CONSTRUCTION: EXEMPTION CODE: LAND USE CODE: 0100 CALCULATED CODE: 002B ASSOCIATION CODE:	299,930 249.930 0
				AMOUNT:	23.00

Real Estate Parcel ID: 00-42-47-2 egal Description: 26-47-42, L-50 CNL R/W	6-00-000-7010				NOT		rates for the next	year. The purp on the propose	ose of these PUBLI d tax change and I	r property, will soon hold PUBLIC HEARINGS to adopt budgets and ta IC HEARINGS is to receive opinions from the general public and to budget PRIOR TO TAKING FINAL ACTION. Each taxing authority may
	C.	OLUMN	<b>1</b> ingeheider 199	C	OLUMN	2		COLUMN	<b>3</b>	See www.pbcpao.gov for public hearing updates
<b>Faxing Authority</b> Dependent Special Districts			i Last Year	if no bu	dget change		if propose	perty Taxes d budget chan	ge is made	A public hearing on the proposed taxes and budget will b held at the locations and dates below.
COUNTY County Operating County Debt Fire/Rescue Library Operating Library Debt	Taxable Value 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Millage Rate 4.5000 .0188 3.4581 .5491 .0108	Tax Amount .00 .00 .00 .00 .00	Taxable Value 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	4.1641 .0396 3.1986 .5077 .0098	Tax Amount .00 .00 .00 .00		Millage Rate           0         4.5000           0         .0396           0         3.4581           0         .5491           0         .0098	<u>Tax Amount</u> .00 .00 .00 .00 .00	301 N Olive Ave 6th FI WPB 33401
UBLIC SCHOOLS iy State Law iy Local Board	0 0	3.2090 3.2480	.00 .00	0	3.0302 3.0671	00. 00.		0 3.0660 3.2480	.00 .00	
MUNICIPALITY NDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS So. Fla. Water Mgmt. Basin So. Fla. Water Mgmt. Dist.	0	.1026 .0948	.00 .00	0	.0945 .0874	00. 00.		0 .1026 0 .0948	.00 .00	
verglades Construction L Inland Navigation District	0 0	.0327 .0288	.00 .00	0 0	.0301 .0266	00. 00.		0 .0327 0 .0288	.00 .00	9/05 5:05 PM (561) 627-3386 1707 NE Indian River Dr Jensen Bch
Children's Services Council lealth Care District Greater Boca Beach and Park	0 0 0	.4908 .6761 1.0800	00. 00. 00.	0 0 0	.4535 .6247 1.0083	00. 00. 00.		0 .4908 0 .6561 0 1.0800	00. 00. 00.	2300 High Ridge Rd ByntnBch FL33426 9/11 5:15 PM (561) 659-1270 1515 N Flagler Dr Ste 101 WPB 33401 9/03 6:00 PM (561)417-4599
Total Millage Rate & Tax Amount		17,4996	.00		16.3422	.00		17,3564	.00	21618 St Andrews Biv, Bca Rin 33433 ** SEE BELOW FOR EXPLANATION
Total Milliage Nate of Tax Alsount		17.4350	.00		<u></u>	LANATION OF TAX	L	1 11,0004	.00	
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······						VALOREM ASS		1		
LEVYING AUT BC MSBU HYDRANT MAINT/RENT.			PURPOS HYDRANT MAINT	E OF ASSESSM ENANCE & RENT		<u>UNITS</u> 1	RATE 23.00		<u>SSMENT</u> 23.00	CONTACT NUMBER (561) 616-7021
					Tot	al Non-Ad Valori	m Assessment		23.00	
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	rket lue	Market (also called "Just") value is the willing buyer and a willing seller.			•			
Last Year ( 2023 )	This Year(2024)	If you feel that the market value of y classification that is not reflected on						
141	141				proioci os site in			
		If the Property Appraiser's office is u adjustment with the Value Adjustm filed with the Clerk of Value Adjustm	ent Board. Petition forms are a	available from th	e County Prope	rty Appraiser's o	office. Your pet	ition must be
		Taxing Authority	Assesser		Exemp			e Value
		Querte On earlier	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year
		County Operating County Debt	<u> </u>	141	141	<u>141</u> 141	(	· · · ·
		County Dependent Dists	141	141	141	141	(	
		Public Schools	141	141	141	141		
		Independent Special Dists	141	141	141	141	(	)
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LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DIST 13081 MILITARY TRL DELRAY BEACH FL 33484-1105

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13081 MILITARY TRAIL DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA 33484 -1105

February 2, 2015

Michele Liska Financial Analyst III Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Finance-Revenue & Contracts 405 Pike Road West Palm Beach, FL 33411 Board of Supervisors James M. Alderman Joyce D. Haley Jeffrey P. Phipps, Sr. Harry Raucher John I. Whitworth III Executive Director Robert M. Brown Attorney Mark A. Perry, P.A.

### Re: Opinion of Counsel of Lake Worth Drainage District regarding the Legal Ability of Lake Worth Drainage District to Pay Special Assessment o PBC MSBU Hydrant Maintenance/Rental Boca Raton Non-Ad Valorem Assessment

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Michele Liska Financial Analyst III Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue Finance-Revenue & Contracts February 2, 2015 Page No. 3

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Once you have reviewed the contents of this letter, please contact me so we may discuss your response.

Sincerely,

MARK A. PERRY

General Counsel

MAP:fac Enclosures C: Marilyn Stutzman, Client Service Specialist, Tax Services Property Tax, Tax Collector's Office (a) The membership of its governing body is identical to that of the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(b) All members of its governing body are appointed by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(c) During their unexpired terms, members of the special district's governing body are subject to removal at will by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(d) The district has a budget that requires approval through an affirmative vote or can be vetoed by the governing body of a single county or a single municipality.

(3) "Independent special district" means a special district that is not a dependent special district. A district that includes more than one county is an independent special district unless the district lies wholly within the boundaries of a single municipality.

West Villages is an independent special district of the State of Florida, which was created by special legislative act. See ch.2004–456, § 2(3), Laws of Fla. NPRDD is a municipal dependent special district.

### Facts

The facts of this case were described by the Second District as follows:

West Willages owns nine parcels of real property located within the [C]ity of North Port upon which NPRDD imposed the non-ad valorem assessments. 2

In mid-2008, NPRDD amended its enabling ordinance to provide that NPRDD would levy non-ad valorem assessments against real property owned by governmental entities. NPRDD then published a notice of public hearing to address the adoption of the non-ad valorem assessment roll for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Thereafter, West Villages received notices of the proposed assessments for each of the nine parcels in question. West Villages timely filed written objections to the proposed assessments arguing, in relevant part, that there was no explicit or necessarily implied legislative authorization for NPRDD to impose the non-ad valorem assessments upon any property owned by West Villages, as such property constituted public property.

At the public hearing, West Villages objected not only verbally but also in writing to the proposed assessments, raising the same arguments which it previously made. Despite West Villages' objections, NPRDD passed a resolution which established the non-ad valorem assessment rates and which adopted the proposed non-ad valorem assessment roll.

Thereafter, West Villages filed appeals to address the imposition of the non-ad valorem assessments for each of the nine parcels. Again, West Villages asserted there was no legal basis for NPRDD to impose the non-ad valorem assessments upon the parcels in question. On October 17, 2008, the district director for NPRDD issued a letter to West Villages denying the appeals.

On November 14, 2008, West Villages filed its petition for writ of certiorari in the circuit court. In its order denying West Villages' petition, the circuit court cited City of Boca Raton v. State, 595 So.2d 25 (Fla.1992), and determined, in relevant part, that "[a] dependent special district . has the authority to levy non-ad valorem assessments on specially benefited properties pursuant to both their home rule authority and statutory authority."

West Villages, 36 So.3d at 838-39 (footnote omitted).

### II. ANALYSIS

The Second District held that this Court's decision in Blake v. City of Tampa, 156 So. 97 (Fla.1934), prohibits NPRDD's levy because the Florida Legislature has not, expressly or by necessary implication, authorized such assessments against state land. See West Villages, 36 So.3d at 839–40. NPRDD argues that Blake is no longer valid in light of the creation of municipal home rule powers.; Assuming, without deciding, that Blake is not applicable, we hold that NPRDD's home rule powers do not extend so far as to allow its special assessments on West Villages' property.

Under the 1885 Florida Constitution, "all municipal powers were dependent upon a specific delegation of authority by the [L]egislature in a general or special act." City of Boca Raton, 595 So.2d at 27. This approach overwhelmed the Legislature with requests to enact bills to grant the power needed to resolve each municipality's specific, local problems. Id. Therefore, a provision was added to the 1968 Florida Constitution to grant municipalities broad home rule powers. Id. Article VIII, section 2(b) provides that "[m]unicipalities shall have governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law."

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unincorporated Sarasota County. See ch.2006-355, §§ 2, 17, Laws of Fla. NPRDD cannot do indirectly what it cannot do directly. See Leon Cuty. Educ. Facilities Auth. v. Hartsfield, 698 So.2d 526, 528-29 (Fla.1997) (holding that county educational facilities authority was equitable owner of property, therefore portion of property used for exempt purposes was exempt from ad valorem taxation) (citing Bancroft Inv. Corp. v. City of Jacksonville, 27 So.2d 162 (Fis.1946) (stating that the Court should look through form to fact and substance in tax issues)).

5. Two of West Villages' nine parcels are designated wetland preservation tracts. Two are designated water managements tracts. Two are designated as recreational tracts for members of the platted subdivision in which the tracts are located, and one tract is a designated preserve for gopher tortoises. The remaining two tracts are being used in the installation, construction, and operation of the "West Villages Parkway," a public roadway.

POLSTON, J.

CANADY, C.J., and PARIENTE, LEWIS, QUINCE, LABARGA, and PERRY, JJ., concur.

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