



Memorandum

Meeting Details: May 10, 2023, BOC Regular Meeting

Prepared For: Hon. Mayor Rostek and Board of Commissioners

From: Andrew Morris, Planner/GIS Technician, Community Development Department

Subject: Ordinance 2023-12, Amendment to LDR - Definition of Portable Sign

Background: Ordinance 2023-12 updates the definition of portable sign to follow the federal appeals court ruling from *LaCroix v. Town of Fort Myers Beach*. The case ruled that it is a first amendment right for citizens to be able to carry non-commercial speech signs in public areas such as sidewalks and parks.

Discussion: Ordinance 2023-12 clarifies that a sign not bearing a commercial message which is carried by a person (whether worn or held by hand) shall not be considered a prohibited portable sign. These signs shall be permitted to be carried in any location such person is otherwise lawfully allowed to be present, including on the City's sidewalks and parks. The Local Planning Agency (the Planning Commission) voted to support Ordinance 2023-12 moving forward to public hearing for first reading at the May 10, 2023, Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Recommendation(s):

Staff recommends the approval of Ordinance 2023-12.

Attachments:

- Ordinance 2023-12
- Forward Pinellas Consistency Letter