

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR THE CITY'S CONSENT TO THE INCLUSION OF THE ENTIRE TERRITORY WITHIN THE CITY OF PAHOKEE'S MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES INTO PALM BEACH COUNTY'S FIRE/RESCUE MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT FOR FIRE-RESCUE, FIRE PROTECTION, ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (OR SIMILAR EMERGENCY SERVICES), FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER NECESSARY AND INCIDENTAL SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR INCORPORATION; PROVIDING FOR INTENT, PURPOSE AND CONSENT; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVENESS AND DURATION OF CONSENT; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVENESS OF REPEAL; ACKNOWLEDGING AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATE LIMITATION; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CAPTIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 125.01(1)(q) and (r), Florida Statutes, the Florida Legislature has empowered counties to establish Municipal Service Taxing Units ("MSTU"s), whereby a county may levy a tax within the MSTU for certain essential municipal services, including the provision of fire-rescue services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 125.01(1)(q), Florida Statutes, a municipality may be included within an MSTU, subject to approval by ordinance of the governing body of the municipality giving consent either annually or for a term of years; and

WHEREAS, Palm Beach County ("County") established an MSTU known as the Fire/Rescue MSTU to provide fire protection, fire rescue, advanced life support (or similar emergency services), fire code enforcement and other services necessary and incidental to the purpose for which the Fire/Rescue MSTU was created; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pahokee ("City") by Ordinance No. 2005-06 consented to its inclusion in the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU for a ten year term through December 31, 2015, as a mechanism to receive and fund County fire-rescue services through September 30, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the County by Ordinance No. 2005-064 amended the boundaries of

the Fire/Rescue MSTU to include the City for the duration of the term identified in City Ordinance No.2005-06, as such term may be extended by the City from time to time; and

WHEREAS, City Ordinance No. 2016-09 affirmed, continued and extended the City's consent and inclusion in the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU through December 31, 2025, and further provided that said consent and inclusion shall be deemed to continue through 7:30 a.m. on October 1, 2026, to the extent necessary to enable the County to provide within the City fire-rescue and related services funded by tax year 2025, including but not limited to the enforcement of the Fire Code and any other applicable laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission hereby desires to extend, for an additional ten (10) year period from December 31, 2025, through December 31, 2035, its consent to the inclusion of all the territory lying within the municipal boundaries of the City into the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU for County fire-rescue and related services within the City from October 1, 2026, until 7:30 a.m. on October 1, 2036, and believes that such inclusion is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Incorporation. The above recitals are herein incorporated by reference.

Section 2: Intent, Purpose and Consent: It is the intent, purpose, and effect of this Ordinance to comply with the provisions of Section 125.01(1)(q), Florida Statutes. The City Commission hereby extends and consents to the inclusion of all territory within the incorporated municipal boundaries of the City, as may be amended from time to time, within the County's Fire/Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit (the "Fire/Rescue MSTU"), which was established pursuant to enabling legislation adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County. The purpose of the enactment of this Ordinance is to extend the City's consent to be included in the County's Fire/Rescue

MSTU in order to enable the County to fund and provide fire-rescue and related services within the territorial limits of the City including, but not limited to, the County's enforcement of the Florida Fire Prevention Code and Palm Beach County Local Amendments thereto (collectively "Fire Code") and any other laws and regulations applicable within the Fire/Rescue MSTU.

Section 3: Effectiveness and Duration of Consent: The City's consent to be included in the Fire/Rescue MSTU is hereby extended effective from December 31, 2025, to be implemented for tax year 2026 in order to fund and provide County fire-rescue and related services within the City as of October 1, 2026, and to provide for the City's continuing inclusion in the Fire/Rescue MSTU without interruption. The City's consent to be included in the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU shall continue from December 31, 2025, for a term of ten (10) years through December 31, 2035; provided, however, that the City's consent and inclusion in the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU shall be deemed to continue through 7:30 a.m. on October 1, 2036, to the extent necessary to enable the County to provide within the City fire-rescue and related services funded by the final tax year including, but not limited to, the County's enforcement of the Fire Code and any other laws and regulations applicable within the Fire/Rescue MSTU.

Section 4: Effectiveness of Repeal: Should the City intend to repeal its consent to be included in the Fire/Rescue MSTU prior to its expiration on December 31, 2035, the City shall provide written notice to the County, by March 1st of any given year, of the City's intent to repeal this Ordinance and the consent provided herein effective December 31st of the same year. The County will then adopt an ordinance to remove the City from the Fire/Rescue MSTU as of said December 31st. The City shall adopt an ordinance to repeal this Ordinance and the consent provided herein, and shall provide a certified copy of the repealing ordinance to the County and to the Property Appraiser, by said December 31st. The City's inclusion in the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU shall terminate on said December 31st; provided, however, that the City's inclusion in the County's Fire/Rescue MSTU shall be deemed to continue through the following October

1st at 7:30 a.m. to the extent necessary to enable the County to provide within the City fire-rescue and related services funded by the final tax year, including, but not limited to, the County's enforcement of the Fire Code and any other laws and regulations applicable within the Fire/Rescue MSTU.

Section 5: Ad Valorem Millage Rate Limitation: The City acknowledges that by opting into the Fire/Rescue MSTU, it cannot levy an annual ad valorem millage rate that would exceed the ten (10) mill cap for municipal purposes when combined with the Fire/Rescue MSTU's annual ad valorem millage rate.

Section 6: Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances: All other City ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with any provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict. Notwithstanding the above, Ordinance No. 2016-09 shall not be deemed repealed by this Ordinance and shall expire as provided for therein; provided, however, that Ordinance No. 2016-09 and the term of consent identified therein shall be deemed to be extended to the extent necessary to enable the County to provide within the City fire-rescue and related services funded by the final tax year thereunder.

Section 7: Severability: If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Ordinance is for any reason held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, unconstitutional, inoperative or void, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

Section 8: Codification: The provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the code of ordinances of the City. The sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered to accomplish such, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or other appropriate word.

Section 9: Captions: The captions, section headings, and section designations used in this Ordinance are intended only for the convenience of users and shall have no effect on the interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 10: Effective Date: This Ordinance shall be effective December 31, 2025. Notwithstanding anything here to the contrary, the City's continuing

participation in the Fire/Rescue MSTU is contingent upon the County maintaining an ordinance including the City within the Fire/Rescue MSTU.

FIRST READING this 8th day of September, 2025.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON SECOND READING by the City Commission of the City of Pahokee, Florida, on this 23rd day of September, 2025.

Keith W. Babb, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Nylene Clarke, CMC, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

Burnadette Norris-Weeks, P.A.
City Attorney

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

VOTE:

Mayor Babb	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Vice Mayor Cowan-Williams	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner McDonald	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner McPherson	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)
Commissioner Scott	_____ (Yes)	_____ (No)