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Reply To: West Palm Beach

March 16, 2020

Pam E. Booker, City Attorney
City of Westlake
4001 Seminole Pratt Whitney Road
Westlake, FL 33470

Re: SID Authority to Bond

Dear Pam:

This letter is to respond to your email dated March 5, 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to explain why SID disagrees with the City’s position on the bonding issue based upon the City’s Charter, the Interlocal Agreement with SID, ULDC Chapter 11, and as a matter of state law.

Legal Background

As you well know, the City’s Charter declares “the City shall not exercise any function or provide any service being performed by or provided by Seminole Improvement District at any time prior to the Transition Date.” *City of Westlake* Charter, §13.H. The City’s charter is the “paramount law of a municipality,” *City of Miami Beach v. Fleetwood Hotel, Inc.*, 261 So.2d 801, 803 (Fla. 1972), and the City cannot undertake actions that are directly contrary to the provisions of its charter. *See West Palm Beach Golf Comm’n v. Callaway*, So.2d 880 (Fla. 4th DCA) (finding an ordinance could not be enforced where it was in conflict with the unambiguous authority of the charter); *Neapolitan Enterprises, LLC v. City of Naples*, 185 So.3d 585, 593 (2016) (stating “A municipality ‘engages in an ultra vires act when it lacks the authority to take the action under statute or its own governing laws.’”) (further punctuation and citations omitted).

SID is empowered to construct and maintain a number of public works and utilities, including water, wastewater, drainage, irrigation, water management, parks, recreation facilities, roads, and related activities. Chapter 2000-431, Laws of Florida. The Interlocal Agreement between the City and SID also specifically states that SID shall be the exclusive provider of and shall have the exclusive authority to construct, operate, and maintain facilities for potable water,

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wastewater, reclaimed water, and irrigation water services; shall have the ability to construct, improve, pave and maintain roads; and shall have exclusive power to construct and maintain works for surface water management and control. It also provides that SID “shall have the exclusive authority to set requirements and standards for, review, approve, and issue permits for facilities: 1) depicted in its Water Control Plan, and 2) addressed in sections [governing parks; potable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water service; irrigation water service; roadways and transportation infrastructure; and surface water management and drainage].” Therefore, the City has no jurisdiction to undertake construction or maintenance activities related to the items within SID’s jurisdiction.

Critically, the Interlocal Agreement also provides “Each Party shall only review those items or matters over which it has jurisdiction, and no party shall deny a permit or authorization on grounds over which it has no jurisdiction.” *Interlocal Agreement*, § 18.f.

As a Matter of Platting

Although part of a broader discussion, this particular line of dialog started with the City’s refusal to accept a bond that accompanied an application for the ISTF Plat (Pods I and J) because SID was listed on a rider as an additional obligee. As I understand it, the City is relying on the County ULDC, Chapter 11 for this refusal.

You have stated that that bond is being requested as a part of the platting process, and that platting is solely a City function. As you state in your email, Chapter 177, *Florida Statutes*, contains the state law platting requirements. However, nothing in Chapter 177 mandates either construction of or bonding for required improvements as a condition of platting. Those requirements have been added by Westlake as a matter of policy over and above what is required by Chapter 177. Attached is a copy of the entirety of Chapter 177 with any reference to the word “bond” highlighted. The requirements for a plat are set out in section 177.091. As you can see, that section does not, as a matter of content, require a bond as a condition of plat approval or recording. We have never claimed that SID may exercise platting authority. While the City enjoys platting authority, it may not use platting as a means to expand its authority beyond what is permitted by its Charter.

The purpose of the bond is not to secure the *plat*, it is to secure construction of the *required improvements* on the land being platted. The majority of the required improvements under

ULDC Chapter 11 – including stormwater management systems, wastewater systems, potable water systems, utilities, and parts of the access and circulation system – fall within SID’s exclusive jurisdiction. Under the Charter and the Interlocal Agreement, construction of those required improvements is solely a SID function – that is, even if the City were to call the bond and collect the funds, it would be unable to undertake the construction of the improvements. *Neapolitan Enterprises, LLC v*, 185 So.3d at 593; *Interlocal Agreement*.

This makes Westlake different from other jurisdictions, including Palm Beach County, that require bonding of required improvements prior to plat recordation. Those jurisdictions have the legal ability to construct the required improvements should the developer fail to do so. The City simply does not have that authority.

We understand that the City has not yet adopted its own land development regulations governing platting, and so relies on Chapter 11 of Palm Beach County’s ULDC for its bonding and platting requirements. However, the City’s interim use of Chapter 11 of the ULDC does not authorize the City to exceed its Charter limitations. *See West Palm Beach Golf Commission v. Callaway*, 604 So.2d 880, 881 (Fla. 4th DCA, 1992) (finding provisions of ordinance in conflict with City Charter invalid). Chapter 11 contemplates a jurisdiction that has the legal authority to construct required infrastructure improvements. The City does not have that authority. The City cannot use Chapter 11 of the ULDC to evade the explicit restrictions contained in the Charter reserving to SID the power to develop infrastructure in the City.

Moreover, Chapter 11 of the ULDC does not itself include a bond as a plat sufficiency requirement. Chapter 11.D.1.B. of the ULDC contains the content requirements for a final plat; “the plat ... shall conform to the requirements of this Section.” Like the provisions of section 177.091, Florida Statutes, a bond is not listed as a requirement in this Section. The surety requirement is found elsewhere in Art. 11, in Chapter B, Subdivision Requirements, or Chapter E, Required Improvements, and not in Chapter D, platting. While it may be a requirement of recordation of the plat under Art. 11, it is not a required element of the plat. That reinforces the notion that the bond is not for the plat; it is for the successful completion of improvements. The City’s interest in seeing that improvements are successfully completed prior to recording a plat can clearly be satisfied by relying on SID’s certification.

Adding SID as an additional obligee on the bond does not remove the City’s ability to call the bond, or impact the City’s ability to use bond funding to complete items within the City’s

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jurisdiction. Rather, it helps ensure that in the event the developer does not complete the required improvements, those items outside the City's jurisdiction can be completed by the only governmental entity with the legal ability to do so – SID. This is consistent with the terms and the intent of the Interlocal Agreement, and only acts to streamline the process. It also may allow the City to bond for the full price of the required improvements, where it is otherwise questionable that the City could legally request a bond for items it has no authority to construct. It can only benefit the City to allow developers to list SID as an additional obligee on all required improvements bonds so the City can be assured there is a legal mechanism to complete any unfinished required improvements.

ISTF Plat

While the larger bonding discussion between SID and the City continues, SID urges the City to accept the bond that contains the rider listing SID as an additional obligee, as it has done in the past. The bond for Ilex Way – Phase III also attached an “Additional Obligee Rider” stating that SID is an Additional Obligee, granting SID similar rights as the City to use the bond to fund the required improvements in the event the developer failed to do so. I note that as of yet, no legal explanation has been provided as to why that is impermissible.

If you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to call me.

Very truly yours,



Robert P. Diffenderfer

RPD/lb

Enclosure

c: Ken Cassel
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Select Year: 2019 ▼

The 2019 Florida Statutes

Title XII
MUNICIPALITIES

Chapter 177
LAND BOUNDARIES
CHAPTER 177
LAND BOUNDARIES

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PART I
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PART II
COASTAL MAPPING
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PART III
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(ss. 177.501-177.510)

PART I
PLATTING

- 177.011 Purpose and scope of part I.
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- 177.031 Definitions.
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- 177.111 Instructions for filing plat.
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- 177.131 Recordation of the Department of Transportation official right-of-way maps and other governmental right-of-way maps.
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- 177.142 Renaming of subdivisions and streets on plats and maps.
- 177.151 State plane coordinate.

177.011 Purpose and scope of part I.—This part shall be deemed to establish consistent minimum requirements, and to create such additional powers in local governing bodies, as herein provided to regulate and control the platting of lands. This part establishes minimum requirements and does not exclude additional provisions or regulations by local ordinance, laws, or regulations.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 33, ch. 79-164.

177.021 Legal status of recorded plats.—The recording of any plats made in compliance with the provisions of this part shall serve to establish the identity of all lands shown on and being a part of such plats, and lands may thenceforth be conveyed by reference to such plat.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 1, ch. 98-20.

177.031 Definitions.—As used in this part:

- (1) “Alley” means a right-of-way providing a secondary means of access and service to abutting property.
- (2) “Block” includes “tier” or “group” and means a group of lots existing within well-defined and fixed boundaries, usually being an area surrounded by streets or other physical barriers and having an assigned number, letter, or other name through which it may be identified.
- (3) “Board” means any board appointed by a municipality, county commission, or state agency, such as the planning and zoning board, area planning board, or the governing board of a drainage district.
- (4) “Governing body” means the board of county commissioners or the legal governing body of a county, municipality, town, or village of this state.
- (5) “Cul-de-sac” means a street terminated at the end by a vehicular turnaround.
- (6) “Developer” means the owners of record executing the dedication required by s. 177.081 and applying for approval of a plat of a subdivision pursuant to this part.
- (7)(a) “Easement” means any strip of land created by a subdivider for public or private utilities, drainage, sanitation, or other specified uses having limitations, the title to which shall remain in the name of the property owner, subject to the right of use designated in the reservation of the servitude.
 - (b) “Public utility” includes any public or private utility, such as, but not limited to, storm drainage, sanitary sewers, electric power, water service, gas service, or telephone line, whether underground or overhead.
- (8) “Survey data” means all information shown on the face of a plat that would delineate the physical boundaries of the subdivision and any parts thereof.
- (9) “Improvements” may include, but are not limited to, street pavements, curbs and gutters, sidewalks, alley pavements, walkway pavements, water mains, sanitary sewers, storm sewers or drains, street names, signs, landscaping, permanent reference monuments (P.R.M.s), permanent control points (P.C.P.s), monuments, or any other improvement required by a governing body.
- (10) “Professional surveyor and mapper” means a surveyor and mapper registered under chapter 472 who is in good standing with the Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers.
- (11) “Lot” includes tract or parcel and means the least fractional part of subdivided lands having limited fixed boundaries, and an assigned number, letter, or other name through which it may be identified.
- (12) “Municipality” means any incorporated city, town, or village.
- (13) “P.C.P.” means permanent control point and shall be considered a reference monument.
 - (a) “P.C.P.s” set in impervious surfaces must:
 1. Be composed of a metal marker with a point of reference.
 2. Have a metal cap or disk bearing either the Florida registration number of the professional surveyor and mapper in responsible charge or the certificate of authorization number of the legal entity, which number shall be preceded by LS or LB as applicable and the letters “P.C.P.”
 - (b) “P.C.P.s” set in pervious surfaces must:
 1. Consist of a metal rod having a minimum length of 18 inches and a minimum cross-section area of material of 0.2 square inches. In certain materials, encasement in concrete is optional for stability of the rod. When used, the concrete shall have a minimum cross-section area of 12.25 square inches and be a minimum of 24 inches long.

2. Be identified with a durable marker or cap with the point of reference marked thereon bearing either the Florida registration number of the professional surveyor and mapper in responsible charge or the certificate of authorization number of the legal entity, which number shall be preceded by LS or LB as applicable and the letters "P.C.P."

(c) "P.C.P.s" must be detectable with conventional instruments for locating ferrous or magnetic objects.

(14) "Plat or replat" means a map or delineated representation of the subdivision of lands, being a complete exact representation of the subdivision and other information in compliance with the requirement of all applicable sections of this part and of any local ordinances.

(15) "P.R.M." means a permanent reference monument which must:

(a) Consist of a metal rod having a minimum length of 18 inches and a minimum cross-section area of material of 0.2 square inches. In certain materials, encasement in concrete is optional for stability of the rod. When used, the concrete shall have a minimum cross-section area of 12.25 square inches and be a minimum of 24 inches long.

(b) Be identified with a durable marker or cap with the point of reference marked thereon bearing either the Florida registration number of the professional surveyor and mapper in responsible charge or the certificate of authorization number of the legal entity, which number shall be preceded by LS or LB as applicable and the letters "P.R.M."

(c) Be detectable with conventional instruments for locating ferrous or magnetic objects.

If the location of the "P.R.M." falls in a hard surface such as asphalt or concrete, alternate monumentation may be used that is durable and identifiable.

(16) "Right-of-way" means land dedicated, deeded, used, or to be used for a street, alley, walkway, boulevard, drainage facility, access for ingress and egress, or other purpose by the public, certain designated individuals, or governing bodies.

(17) "Street" includes any access way such as a street, road, lane, highway, avenue, boulevard, alley, parkway, viaduct, circle, court, terrace, place, or cul-de-sac, and also includes all of the land lying between the right-of-way lines as delineated on a plat showing such streets, whether improved or unimproved, but shall not include those access ways such as easements and rights-of-way intended solely for limited utility purposes, such as for electric power lines, gas lines, telephone lines, water lines, drainage and sanitary sewers, and easements of ingress and egress.

(18) "Subdivision" means the division of land into three or more lots, parcels, tracts, tiers, blocks, sites, units, or any other division of land; and includes establishment of new streets and alleys, additions, and resubdivisions; and, when appropriate to the context, relates to the process of subdividing or to the lands or area subdivided.

(19) "State plane coordinates" means the system of plane coordinates which has been established by the National Ocean Service for defining and stating the positions or locations of points on the surface of the earth within the state and shall hereinafter be known and designated as the "Florida State Plane Coordinate System." For the purpose of the use of this system, the zones established by the National Ocean Service in NOAA Manual NOS NGS 5, State Plane Coordinate System of 1983, shall be used, and the appropriate projection and zone designation shall be indicated and included in any description using the Florida State Plane Coordinate System.

(20) Surveying data:

(a) "Point of curvature," written "P.C.," means the point where a tangent circular curve begins.

(b) "Point of tangency," written "P.T.," means the point where a tangent circular curve ends and becomes tangent.

(c) "Point of compound curvature," written "P.C.C.," means the point where two circular curves have a common point of tangency, the curves lying on the same side of the common tangent.

(d) "Point of reverse curvature," written "P.R.C.," means the point where two circular curves have a common point of tangency, the curves lying on opposite sides of the common tangent.

(21) "Legal entity" means an entity that holds a certificate of authorization issued under chapter 472, whether the entity is a corporation, partnership, association, or person practicing under a fictitious name.

(22) "Monument" means a survey marker which must:

- (a) Be composed of a durable material.
- (b) Have a minimum length of 18 inches.
- (c) Have a minimum cross-section area of material of 0.2 square inches.
- (d) Be identified with a durable marker or cap bearing either the Florida registration number of the professional surveyor and mapper in responsible charge or the certificate of authorization number of the legal entity, which number shall be preceded by LS or LB as applicable.
- (e) Be detectable with conventional instruments for locating ferrous or magnetic objects.

If the location of the monument falls in a hard surface such as asphalt or concrete, alternate monumentation may be used that is durable and identifiable.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 2, ch. 72-29; s. 49, ch. 73-333; s. 6, ch. 82-179; s. 49, ch. 83-217; s. 42, ch. 91-45; s. 101, ch. 94-119; s. 1452, ch. 95-147; s. 2, ch. 98-20; s. 3, ch. 2004-366.

177.041 Boundary survey and title opinion or property information report required.—Every plat or replat of a subdivision submitted to the approving agency of the local governing body must be accompanied by:

(1) A boundary survey of the platted lands. However, a new boundary survey for a replat is required only when the replat affects any boundary of the previously platted property or when improvements which may affect the boundary of the previously platted property have been made on the lands to be replatted. The boundary survey must be performed and prepared under the responsible direction and supervision of a professional surveyor and mapper preceding the initial submittal of the plat to the local governing body. This subsection does not restrict a legal entity from employing one professional surveyor and mapper to perform and prepare the boundary survey and another professional surveyor and mapper to prepare the plat.

(2) A title opinion of an attorney at law licensed in Florida or a property information report showing that record title to the land as described and shown on the plat is in the name of the person, persons, corporation, or entity executing the dedication. The title opinion or property information report must also show all mortgages not satisfied or released of record nor otherwise terminated by law.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 1, ch. 72-77; s. 1, ch. 88-48; s. 3, ch. 98-20; s. 1, ch. 99-288; s. 1, ch. 2017-132.

177.051 Name and replat of subdivision.—

(1) Every subdivision shall be given a name by which it shall be legally known. For the purpose of this section, that name is the “primary name.” The primary name shall not be the same or in any way so similar to any name appearing on any recorded plat in the same county as to confuse the records or to mislead the public as to the identity of the subdivision, except when the subdivision is further divided as an additional unit or section by the same developer or the developer’s successors in title. In that case, the additional unit, section, or phase shall be given the primary name followed by the unit, section, or phase number. Words such as “the,” “replat,” or “a” may not be used as the first word of the primary name. Every subdivision’s name shall have legible lettering of the same size and type, including the words “section,” “unit,” or “phase.” If the word “replat” is not part of the primary name, then it may be of a different size and type. The primary name of the subdivision shall be shown in the dedication and shall coincide exactly with the subdivision name.

(2) Any change in a plat, except as provided in s. 177.141, shall be labeled a “replat,” and a replat must conform with this part. After the effective date of this act, the terms “amended plat,” “revised plat,” “corrected plat,” and “resubdivision” may not be used to describe the process by which a plat is changed.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 935, ch. 95-147; s. 4, ch. 98-20.

177.061 Qualification and statement required.—Every plat offered for recording pursuant to the provisions of this part must be prepared by a professional surveyor and mapper. The plat must be signed and sealed by that professional surveyor and mapper, who must state on the plat that the plat was prepared under his or her direction and supervision and that the plat complies with all of the survey requirements of this part. Every plat must also contain the printed name and registration number of the professional surveyor and mapper directly below the statement required by this section, along with the printed name, address, and certificate of authorization number

of the legal entity, if any. A professional surveyor and mapper practicing independently of a legal entity must include his or her address.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 102, ch. 94-119; s. 1453, ch. 95-147; s. 5, ch. 98-20.

177.071 Approval of plat by governing bodies.—

(1) Before a plat is offered for recording, it must be approved by the appropriate governing body, and evidence of such approval must be placed on the plat. If not approved, the governing body must return the plat to the professional surveyor and mapper or the legal entity offering the plat for recordation. For the purposes of this part:

(a) When the plat to be submitted for approval is located wholly within the boundaries of a municipality, the governing body of the municipality has exclusive jurisdiction to approve the plat.

(b) When a plat lies wholly within the unincorporated areas of a county, the governing body of the county has exclusive jurisdiction to approve the plat.

(c) When a plat lies within the boundaries of more than one governing body, two plats must be prepared and each governing body has exclusive jurisdiction to approve the plat within its boundaries, unless the governing bodies having said jurisdiction agree that one plat is mutually acceptable.

(2) Any provision in a county charter, or in an ordinance of any charter county or consolidated government chartered under s. 6(e), Art. VIII of the State Constitution, which provision is inconsistent with anything contained in this section shall prevail in such charter county or consolidated government to the extent of any such inconsistency.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 1, ch. 76-110; s. 1, ch. 77-152; s. 1, ch. 77-278; s. 103, ch. 94-119; s. 1, ch. 95-176; s. 6, ch. 98-20.

177.081 Dedication and approval.—

(1) Prior to approval by the appropriate governing body, the plat shall be reviewed for conformity to this chapter by a professional surveyor and mapper either employed by or under contract to the local governing body, the costs of which shall be borne by the legal entity offering the plat for recordation, and evidence of such review must be placed on such plat.

(2) Every plat of a subdivision filed for record must contain a dedication by the owner or owners of record. The dedication must be executed by all persons, corporations, or entities whose signature would be required to convey record fee simple title to the lands being dedicated in the same manner in which deeds are required to be executed. All mortgagees having a record interest in the lands subdivided shall execute, in the same manner in which deeds are required to be executed, either the dedication contained on the plat or a separate instrument joining in and ratifying the plat and all dedications and reservations thereon.

(3) When a tract or parcel of land has been subdivided and a plat thereof bearing the dedication executed by the owners of record and mortgagees having a record interest in the lands subdivided, and when the approval of the governing body has been secured and recorded in compliance with this part, all streets, alleys, easements, rights-of-way, and public areas shown on such plat, unless otherwise stated, shall be deemed to have been dedicated to the public for the uses and purposes thereon stated. However, nothing herein shall be construed as creating an obligation upon any governing body to perform any act of construction or maintenance within such dedicated areas except when the obligation is voluntarily assumed by the governing body.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 2, ch. 79-86; s. 7, ch. 98-20; s. 2, ch. 99-288.

177.085 Platted streets; reversionary clauses.—

(1) When any owner of land subdivides the land and dedicates streets, other roadways, alleys or similar strips on the map or plat, and the dedication contains a provision that the reversionary interest in the street, roadway, alley or other similar strip is reserved unto the dedicator or his or her heirs, successors, assigns, or legal representative, or similar language, and thereafter conveys abutting lots or tracts, the conveyance shall carry the reversionary interest in the abutting street to the centerline or other appropriate boundary, unless the owner clearly provides otherwise in the conveyance.

(2) As to all plats of subdivided lots heretofore recorded in the public records of each county, the holder of any interest in any reversionary rights in streets in such plats, other than the owners of abutting lots, shall have 1 year from July 1, 1972, to institute suit in a court of competent jurisdiction in this state to establish or enforce the right, and failure to institute the action within the time shall bar any right, title or interest, and all right of forfeiture or reversion shall thereupon cease and determine, and become unenforceable.

History.—ss. 1, 2, ch. 72-257; s. 50, ch. 73-333; s. 936, ch. 95-147.

177.086 Installation of cul-de-sacs.—In the event a municipality or county installs a cul-de-sac on a street or road under its jurisdiction and thereby discontinues use of any existing street or road right-of-way, such discontinuance shall not operate to abandon or vacate the unused right-of-way unless the governing body of the municipality or county adopts a resolution or ordinance, as appropriate, vacating the unused right-of-way.

History.—s. 73, ch. 87-243.

177.091 Plats made for recording.—Every plat of a subdivision offered for recording shall conform to the following:

(1) It must be:

(a) An original drawing made with black permanent drawing ink; or

(b) A nonadhered scaled print on a stable base film made by photographic processes from a film scribing tested for residual hypo testing solution to assure permanency.

Marginal lines, standard certificates and approval forms shall be printed on the plat with a permanent black drawing ink. A print or photographic copy of the original drawing must be submitted with the original drawing.

(2) The size of each sheet shall be determined by the local governing body and shall be drawn with a marginal line, or printed when permitted by local ordinance, completely around each sheet and placed so as to leave at least a 1/2-inch margin on each of three sides and a 3-inch margin on the left side of the plat for binding purposes.

(3) When more than one sheet must be used to accurately portray the lands subdivided, an index or key map must be included and each sheet must show the particular number of that sheet and the total number of sheets included, as well as clearly labeled matchlines to show where other sheets match or adjoin.

(4) In all cases, the letter size and scale used shall be of sufficient size to show all detail. The scale shall be both stated and graphically illustrated by a graphic scale drawn on every sheet showing any portion of the lands subdivided.

(5) The name of the plat shall be shown in bold legible letters, as stated in s. 177.051. The name of the subdivision shall be shown on each sheet included. The name of the professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity, along with the street and mailing address, must be shown on each sheet included.

(6) A prominent “north arrow” shall be drawn on every sheet included showing any portion of the lands subdivided. The bearing or azimuth reference shall be clearly stated on the face of the plat in the notes or legend, and, in all cases, the bearings used shall be referenced to some well established and monumented line.

(7) Permanent reference monuments must be placed at each corner or change in direction on the boundary of the lands being platted and may not be more than 1,400 feet apart. Where such corners are in an inaccessible place, “P.R.M.s” shall be set on a nearby offset within the boundary of the plat and such offset shall be so noted on the plat. Where corners are found to coincide with a previously set “P.R.M.,” the Florida registration number of the professional surveyor and mapper in responsible charge or the certificate of authorization number of the legal entity on the previously set “P.R.M.” shall be shown on the new plat or, if unnumbered, shall so state. Permanent reference monuments shall be set before the recording of the plat. The “P.R.M.s” shall be shown on the plat by an appropriate symbol or designation.

(8) Permanent control points shall be set on the centerline of the right-of-way at the intersection and terminus of all streets, at each change of direction, and no more than 1,000 feet apart. Such “P.C.P.s” shall be shown on the plat by an appropriate symbol or designation. In those counties or municipalities that do not require subdivision improvements and do not accept bonds or escrow accounts to construct improvements, “P.C.P.s” may be set prior to the recording of the plat and must be set within 1 year of the date the plat was recorded. In the counties or

municipalities that require subdivision improvements and have the means of insuring the construction of said improvements, such as **bonding** requirements, "P.C.P.s" must be set prior to the expiration of the **bond** or other surety. If the professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity of record is no longer in practice or is not available due to relocation, or when the contractual relationship between the subdivider and professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity has been terminated, the subdivider shall contract with a professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity in good standing to place the "P.C.P.s" within the time allotted.

(9) Monuments shall be set at all lot corners, points of intersection, and changes of direction of lines within the subdivision which do not require a "P.R.M." or a "P.C.P."; however, a monument need not be set if a monument already exists at such corner, point, or change of direction or when a monument cannot be set due to a physical obstruction. In those counties or municipalities that do not require subdivision improvements and do not accept **bonds** or escrow accounts to construct improvements, monuments may be set prior to the recording of the plat and must be set at the lot corners before the transfer of the lot. In those counties or municipalities that require subdivision improvements and have the means of ensuring the construction of those improvements, such as **bonding** requirements, monuments shall be set prior to the expiration of the **bond** or other surety. If the professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity of record is no longer in practice or is not available due to relocation, or when the contractual relationship between the subdivider and professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity has been terminated, the subdivider shall contract with a professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity in good standing who shall be allowed to place the monuments within the time allotted.

(10) The section, township, and range shall appear immediately under the name of the plat on each sheet included, along with the name of the city, town, village, county, and state in which the land being platted is situated.

(11) Each plat shall show a description of the lands subdivided, and the description shall be the same in the title certification. The description must be so complete that from it, without reference to the plat, the starting point and boundary can be determined.

(12) The dedications and approvals required by ss. 177.071 and 177.081 must be shown.

(13) The circuit court clerk's certificate and the professional surveyor and mapper's seal and statement required by s. 177.061 shall be shown.

(14) All section lines and quarter section lines occurring within the subdivision shall be indicated by lines drawn upon the map or plat, with appropriate words and figures. If the description is by metes and bounds, all information called for, such as the point of commencement, course bearings and distances, and the point of beginning, shall be indicated. If the platted lands are in a land grant or are not included in the subdivision of government surveys, then the boundaries are to be defined by metes and bounds and courses.

(15) Location, width, and names of all streets, waterways, or other rights-of-way shall be shown, as applicable.

(16) Location and width of proposed easements and existing easements identified in the title opinion or property information report required by s. 177.041(2) must be shown on the plat or in the notes or legend, and their intended use shall be clearly stated. Where easements are not coincident with property lines, they must be labeled with bearings and distances and tied to the principal lot, tract, or right-of-way.

(17) All contiguous properties shall be identified by subdivision title, plat book, and page, or, if unplatted, land shall be so designated. If the subdivision platted is a part or the whole of a previously recorded subdivision, sufficient ties shall be shown to controlling lines appearing on the earlier plat to permit an overlay to be made; the fact of its being a replat shall be stated as a subtitle under the name of the plat on each sheet included. The subtitle must state the name of the subdivision being replatted and the appropriate recording reference.

(18) All lots shall be numbered either by progressive numbers or, if in blocks, progressively numbered in each block, and the blocks progressively numbered or lettered, except that blocks in numbered additions bearing the same name may be numbered consecutively throughout the several additions.

(19) Sufficient survey data shall be shown to positively describe the bounds of every lot, block, street easement, and all other areas shown on the plat. When any lot or portion of the subdivision is bounded by an irregular line, the major portion of that lot or subdivision shall be enclosed by a witness line showing complete data, with distances along all lines extended beyond the enclosure to the irregular boundary shown with as much

certainly as can be determined or as “more or less,” if variable. Lot, block, street, and all other dimensions except to irregular boundaries, shall be shown to a minimum of hundredths of feet. All measurements shall refer to horizontal plane and in accordance with the definition of the U.S. Survey foot or meter adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. All measurements shall use the $39.37 \div 12 = 3.28083333333$ equation for conversion from a U.S. foot to meters.

(20) Curvilinear lot lines shall show the radii, arc distances, and central angles. Radial lines will be so designated. Direction of nonradial lines shall be indicated.

(21) Sufficient angles, bearings, or azimuth to show direction of all lines shall be shown, and all bearings, angles, or azimuth shall be shown to the nearest second of arc.

(22) The centerlines of all streets shall be shown as follows: noncurved lines: distances together with either angles, bearings, or azimuths; curved lines: arc distances, central angles, and radii, together with chord and chord bearing or azimuths.

(23) Park and recreation parcels as applicable shall be so designated.

(24) All interior excepted parcels as described in the description of the lands being subdivided shall be clearly indicated and labeled “Not a part of this plat.”

(25) The purpose of all areas dedicated must be clearly indicated or stated on the plat.

(26) When it is not possible to show line or curve data information on the map, a tabular form may be used. The tabular data must appear on the sheet to which it applies.

(27) The plat shall include in a prominent place the following statements: “NOTICE: This plat, as recorded in its graphic form, is the official depiction of the subdivided lands described herein and will in no circumstances be supplanted in authority by any other graphic or digital form of the plat. There may be additional restrictions that are not recorded on this plat that may be found in the public records of this county.”

(28) All platted utility easements shall provide that such easements shall also be easements for the construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of cable television services; provided, however, no such construction, installation, maintenance, and operation of cable television services shall interfere with the facilities and services of an electric, telephone, gas, or other public utility. In the event a cable television company damages the facilities of a public utility, it shall be solely responsible for the damages. This section shall not apply to those private easements granted to or obtained by a particular electric, telephone, gas, or other public utility. Such construction, installation, maintenance, and operation shall comply with the National Electrical Safety Code as adopted by the Florida Public Service Commission.

(29) A legend of all symbols and abbreviations shall be shown.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 51, ch. 73-333; s. 1, ch. 87-266; s. 3, ch. 87-349; s. 1, ch. 90-320; s. 104, ch. 94-119; s. 1454, ch. 95-147; s. 8, ch. 98-20; s. 6, ch. 99-259; s. 3, ch. 99-288; s. 2, ch. 2017-132.

177.101 Vacation and annulment of plats subdividing land.—

(1) Whenever it is discovered, after the plat has been recorded in the public records, that the developer has previously caused the lands embraced in the second plat to be differently subdivided under and by virtue of another plat of the same identical lands, and the first plat was also filed of public record at an earlier date, and no conveyances of lots by reference to the first plat so filed appears of record in such county, the governing body of the county is authorized and directed to and shall, by resolution, vacate and annul the first plat of such lands appearing of record upon the application of the developer of such lands under the first plat or upon application of the owners of all the lots shown and designated upon the second and subsequent plat of such lands, and the circuit court clerk of the county shall thereupon make proper notation of the annulment of such plat upon the face of such annulled plat.

(2) Whenever it is discovered that after the filing of a plat subdividing a parcel of land located in the county, the developer of the lands therein and thereby subdivided did cause such lands embraced in said plat, or a part thereof, to be again and subsequently differently subdivided under another plat of the same and identical lands or a part thereof, which said second plat was also filed at a later date; and it is further made to appear to the governing body of the county that the filing and recording of the second plat would not materially affect the right

of convenient access to lots previously conveyed under the first plat, the governing body of the county is authorized by resolution to vacate and annul so much of the first plat of such lands appearing of record as are included in the second plat, upon application of the owners and developer of such lands under the first plat or their successors, grantees, or assignees, and the circuit court clerk of the county shall thereupon make proper notation of the action of the governing body upon the face of the first plat. The approval of a replat by the governing body of a local government, which encompasses lands embraced in all or part of a prior plat filed of public record shall, upon recordation of the replat, automatically and simultaneously vacate and annul all of the prior plat encompassed by the replat.

(3) The governing bodies of the counties of the state may adopt resolutions vacating plats in whole or in part of subdivisions in said counties, returning the property covered by such plats either in whole or in part into acreage. Before such resolution of vacating any plat either in whole or in part shall be entered by the governing body of a county, it must be shown that the persons making application for said vacation own the fee simple title to the whole or that part of the tract covered by the plat sought to be vacated, and it must be further shown that the vacation by the governing body of the county will not affect the ownership or right of convenient access of persons owning other parts of the subdivision.

(4) Persons making application for vacations of plats either in whole or in part shall give notice of their intention to apply to the governing body of the county to vacate said plat by publishing legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the tract or parcel of land is located, in not less than two weekly issues of said paper, and must attach to the petition for vacation the proof of such publication, together with certificates showing that all state and county taxes have been paid. For the purpose of the tax collector's certification that state, county, and municipal taxes have been paid, the taxes shall be deemed to have been paid if, in addition to any partial payment under s. 194.171, the owner of the platted lands sought to be vacated shall post a cash bond, approved by the tax collector of the county where the land is located and by the Department of Revenue, conditioned to pay the full amount of any judgment entered pursuant to s. 194.192 adverse to the person making partial payment, including all costs, interest, and penalties. The circuit court shall fix the amount of said bond by order, after considering the reasonable timeframe for such litigation and all other relevant factors; and a certified copy of such approval, order, and cash bond shall be attached to the application. If such tract or parcel of land is within the corporate limits of any incorporated city or town, the governing body of the county shall be furnished with a certified copy of a resolution of the town council or city commission, as the case may be, showing that it has already by suitable resolution vacated such plat or subdivision or such part thereof sought to be vacated.

(5) Every such resolution by the governing body shall have the effect of vacating all streets and alleys which have not become highways necessary for use by the traveling public. Such vacation shall not become effective until a certified copy of such resolution has been filed in the offices of the circuit court clerk and duly recorded in the public records of said county.

(6) All resolutions vacating plats by the governing body of a county prior to September 1, 1971, are hereby validated, ratified, and confirmed. Such resolutions shall have the same effect as if the plat had been vacated after September 1, 1971.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 1, ch. 79-86; s. 32, ch. 87-224; s. 9, ch. 98-20.

177.111 Instructions for filing plat.—After the approval by the appropriate governing body required by s. 177.071, the plat shall be recorded by the circuit court clerk or other recording officer upon submission thereto of such approved plat. The circuit court clerk or other recording officer shall maintain in his or her office a book of the proper size for such papers so that they shall not be folded, to be kept in the vault. A print or photographic copy must be filed in a similar book and kept in his or her office for the use of the public. The clerk shall make available to the public a full size copy of the record plat at a reasonable fee.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 1, ch. 76-110; s. 937, ch. 95-147; s. 7, ch. 99-259.

177.121 Misdemeanor to molest monument or deface or destroy map or plat.—It is a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083, for any person to molest any monuments

established according to this part or to deface or destroy any map or plat placed on public record.

History.—s. 1A, ch. 71-339; s. 10, ch. 98-20.

177.131 Recordation of the Department of Transportation official right-of-way maps and other governmental right-of-way maps.—

(1) The circuit court clerk of a county shall record in the public land records of the county any map prepared and adopted by the Department of Transportation or any other governmental entity as its official right-of-way map after the same has been approved by the appropriate governmental authority. The clerk shall use special plat books provided by the appropriate governmental authority for such maps, which shall be kept with other plat books. The clerk shall make available to the public a full size copy of the right-of-way maps at a reasonable fee.

(2) Sections 177.011-177.121 of this part are not applicable to this section. Upon request of the clerk, the Department of Transportation shall furnish without charge a reproducible copy of its right-of-way maps.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 11, ch. 98-20.

177.132 Preservation of unrecorded maps.—

(1) The clerk of the circuit court of a county may receive and copy, as unrecorded maps, otherwise unrecorded plats and maps, including sales maps, which describe or illustrate the boundaries and subdivision of parcels of land, but which do not necessarily indicate proper metes and bounds or otherwise comply with the recording requirements of this part. The receipt and copying of such documents shall not affect or impair the title to the property in any manner, nor shall it be construed as actual or constructive notice, but shall be for informational purposes only and shall not be referred to for the purpose of conveying property or for circumventing the lawful regulation and control of subdividing lands by local governing bodies. The clerk may maintain a separate book or other filing process provided by the county for this purpose. The clerk shall make reproductions of these copies available to the public at a reasonable fee.

(2) Sections 177.021-177.121 of this part shall not apply to this section.

History.—s. 2, ch. 76-110; s. 12, ch. 98-20.

177.141 Affidavit confirming error on a recorded plat.—In the event an error or omission in the data shown on any plat duly recorded under the provisions of this part is detected by subsequent examination or revealed by a retracement of the original survey of the lands shown on such recorded plat, the professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity responsible for the survey and the preparation of the plat as recorded may file an affidavit confirming that such error or omission was made. If applicable, the affidavit must state that the professional surveyor and mapper or legal entity has made a resurvey of the subject property in the recorded subdivision within the last 10 days and that no evidence existed on the ground that would conflict with the corrections as stated in the affidavit. The affidavit shall describe the nature and extent of such error or omission and the appropriate correction that in the affiant's professional opinion should be substituted for the erroneous data shown on the plat or added to the data on the plat. When such an affidavit is filed, it is the duty of the circuit court clerk to record the affidavit, and he or she must place in the margin of the recorded plat a notation that the affidavit has been filed, the date of filing, and the official book and page where it is recorded. The notation must also be placed on all copies of the plat used for reproduction purposes. The affidavit shall have no effect upon the validity of the plat.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 7, ch. 82-179; s. 105, ch. 94-119; s. 1455, ch. 95-147; s. 13, ch. 98-20.

177.142 Renaming of subdivisions and streets on plats and maps.—If the local governing body determines that a subdivision, street, or other name appearing on a recorded plat or map or an unrecorded map maintained by the clerk of the circuit court pursuant to s. 177.132 constitutes an ethnic or racial slur, the local governing body is authorized to change that name by ordinance. The clerk of the circuit court of the county shall place in the margin of the plat or map a notation that an ordinance has been passed changing the name, the date of the name change, and the book and page in the public records where the ordinance is recorded.

History.—s. 2, ch. 95-176.

177.151 State plane coordinate.—

(1) Coordinates may be used to define or designate the position of points on the surface of the earth within the state for land descriptions and subdivision purposes, provided the initial point in the description shall be tied to the nearest government corner or other recorded and well established corner. The state plane coordinates of a point on the earth's surface, to be used in expressing the position or location of such point in the appropriate projection and zone system, shall consist of two distances, expressed in meters or feet and decimals of the same. One position, to be known as the "Northing," shall give the position in a north and south direction; the other, to be known as the "Easting," shall give the position in an east and west direction. These coordinates shall be made to depend upon and conform to the origins and projections on the Florida State Plane Coordinate System and the geodetic control stations of the National Ocean Service within the state, as those origins and projections have been determined by such service. When any tract of land to be defined by a single description extends from one into the other of the above projections or zones, the positions of all points on its boundary may be referred to either of the zones or projections, with the zone and projection being used specifically named in the description.

(2) The position of points on the Florida State Plane Coordinate System shall be as marked on the ground by geodetic control stations established in conformity with standards adopted by the National Ocean Service for first-order and second-order work, the geodetic positions of which have been rigidly adjusted on the North American Datum of 1983, as readjusted in 1990, and the coordinates of which have been computed on the Florida State Plane Coordinate System. Any such station may be used for establishing a survey connection with the Florida State Plane Coordinate System.

History.—s. 1, ch. 71-339; s. 161, ch. 92-152; s. 106, ch. 94-119; s. 14, ch. 98-20.

**PART II
COASTAL MAPPING**

- 177.25 Short title.
- 177.26 Declaration of policy.
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- 177.28 Legal significance of the mean high-water line.
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- 177.38 Standards for establishment of local tidal datums.
- 177.39 Determination of mean high-water line or mean low-water line.
- 177.40 Admissibility of maps and surveys.

177.25 Short title.—This part shall be cited as the "Florida Coastal Mapping Act of 1974."

History.—s. 1, ch. 74-56.

177.26 Declaration of policy.—The Legislature recognizes the desirability of confirmation of the mean high-water line, as recognized in the State Constitution and defined in s. 177.27(15) as the boundary between state sovereignty land and uplands subject to private ownership, as well as the necessity for uniform standards and procedures with respect to the establishment of local tidal datums and the determination of the mean high-water and mean low-water lines, and therefore directs that uniform standards and procedures be developed.

History.—s. 2, ch. 74-56; s. 2, ch. 91-56.

177.27 Definitions.—The following words, phrases, or terms used herein, unless the context otherwise indicates, shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Apparent shoreline" means the line drawn on a map or chart in lieu of the mean high-water line or mean low-water line in areas where either or both may be obscured by marsh or mangrove, cypress, or other types of