

ORDINANCE NO.: 2025-__

ORDINANCE RELATING TO PUBLICATION OF LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; CREATING HERNANDO COUNTY CODE SECTION 1-12; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION OF LEGALLY REQUIRED ADVERTISEMENTS AND NOTICES ON A PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE OF THE COUNTY, AS PERMITTED BY FLA. STAT. § 50.0311; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE, PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF CONFLICTING POSITIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. § 50.011 provides requirements relating to the publication of legal notices, including requirements relating to the types of newspapers and print publications that may be utilized for official legal advertisements and notices placed by local governments; and,

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. § 50.011 also provides that such advertisements and notices may instead be placed on a publicly accessible website, as provided in Fla. Stat. § 50.0311; and,

WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. § 50.0311 in turn provides that “[a] governmental agency may use the publicly accessible website of the county in which it lies to publish legally required advertisements and public notices if the cost of publishing advertisements and public notices on such website is less than the cost of publishing advertisements and public notices in a newspaper”; and,

1 WHEREAS, Fla. Stat. § 50.0311 further provides that, if a governmental agency utilizes a
2 publicly accessible County website to provide required advertisements and notices, a link to such
3 advertisements and notices shall be conspicuously placed “[o]n the website’s homepage or on a page
4 accessible through a direct link from the homepage” and “[o]n the homepage of the website of each
5 governmental agency publishing notices on the publicly accessible website or on a page accessible
6 through a direct link from the homepage”; and,

7 WHEREAS, in addition, the statute requires any governmental agency using a publicly
8 accessible County website to publish advertisements and notices to also “provide notice at least once
9 per year in a newspaper of general circulation or another publication that is mailed or delivered to
10 all residents and property owners throughout the government’s jurisdiction, indicating that property
11 owners and residents may receive legally required advertisements and public notices from the
12 governmental agency by first-class mail or e-mail upon registering their name and address or e-mail
13 address with the governmental agency,” and to “maintain a registry of names, addresses, and e-mail
14 addresses of property owners and residents who have requested in writing that they receive legally
15 required advertisements and public notices from the governmental agency by first-class mail or
16 e-mail”; and,

17 WHEREAS, this Board finds that to the extent the cost of publishing advertisements and
18 public notices on a County-designated publicly accessible website is less than the cost of publishing
19 advertisements and public notices in a newspaper, it is in the best interest of the County to maintain
20 a County website in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 50.0311, so that the County, and possibly other

1 governmental agencies located within the County, may utilize the website to provide legal
2 advertisements and notices; and,

3 WHEREAS, however, the County Code contains requirements that various legal
4 advertisements and notices be placed in a newspaper of general circulation or similar print
5 publication; and

6 WHEREAS, these requirements to advertise or provide notice in a newspaper are ubiquitous
7 throughout the County Code, appearing in innumerable chapters and sections; and,

8 WHEREAS, accordingly, this Board wishes to create a new provision in the County Code
9 to specifically address online publication of County legal advertisements and notices, and to provide
10 that such County advertisements and notices may be placed on a publicly accessible website of the
11 County, to the extent permitted by law;

12 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
13 COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA:

14 **Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are approved and incorporated
15 herein.

16 **Section 2. Publication of Notices on Publicly Available Website.** A new Section 1-12 of
17 the Hernando County Code, to be entitled “Advertisement and Notice by Publication on Publicly
18 Accessible Website of the County,” is hereby created to read as follows:

19 [Advertisement and Notice by Publication on Publicly Accessible Website of the](#)
20 [County.](#)

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, wherever in this Code an
2 advertisement or notice is required to be published by the County in a newspaper of
3 general circulation or other print publication, such advertisement or notice may
4 instead be provided on a publicly accessible website, as permitted by Fla. Stat. Ch.
5 50, provided that:

6 (1) The cost of providing advertisements and public notices on such
7 website is less than the cost of publishing advertisements and public notices in a
8 newspaper; and,

9 (2) Publication on such website conforms with the requirements of Fla.
10 Stat. § 50.0311; and,

11 (3) Publication on such website is made within the time frame required
12 by this Code for the respective advertisement or notice, and includes all information
13 required by the respective Code provisions.

14 (b) To the extent state or federal law imposes additional requirements relating
15 to the publication of particular advertisements or notices, nothing in this section shall
16 be deemed to supersede or supplant such requirements.

17 **Section 3. Severability.** It is declared to be the intent of the Board of County
18 Commissioners that if any section, subsection, clause, sentence, phrase, or provision of this
19 ordinance is for any reason held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect
20 the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 4. Inclusion in the Code. It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, and it is hereby provided, that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances of Hernando County, Florida. To this end, the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention, and that the word “ordinance” may be changed to “section,” “article,” or any other appropriate designation.

Section 5. Conflicting Provisions Repealed. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon receipt of official acknowledgment from the office of the Secretary of State of Florida that this ordinance has been filed with said office.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY in Regular Session this _____ day of _____ 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Attest: _____
DOUG CHORVAT, JR.
Clerk

By: _____
BRIAN HAWKINS
Chairman

Approved for Form and Legal Sufficiency



County Attorney's Office