

ORDINANCE NO. 22-012

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE; AMENDING **CHAPTER 12, ELECTIONS, SECTION 12-6, ELECTION DISTRICTS**, BY AMENDING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN ELECTION DISTRICT 1 AND ELECTION DISTRICT 2; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Article 6, Section 58 of the City Charter states: "The City of Fort Pierce shall have two (2) election districts to be known as District 1 and District 2. The boundary between said districts shall be determined by ordinance of the City Commission on a periodic basis. The district boundaries shall be adjusted in accordance with population changes as reported by the official U.S. census, so that the population of the two (2) districts remains approximately equal."; and

WHEREAS, the official 2020 U.S. Census shows that a disparity in the population of the two election districts necessitates a redetermination of the boundary between District 1 and District 2; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission retained the services of Kurt Spitzer and Associates (hereinafter "KSA") to provide professional redistricting services for the City of Fort Pierce; and

WHEREAS, after reviewing the Census data in detail, KSA produced two (2) map options for consideration which meet the criteria commonly used in the redistricting process and result in the district boundaries being as nearly equal to one another as possible; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Pierce released the proposed maps to the public via press release, posting on the City's website, maintaining on physical display in the City's lobby, and notices of the public input workshop beginning on February 11, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission held a public workshop soliciting public input on March 23, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. in City Commission Chambers; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission held a public workshop soliciting public input on March 29, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in City Commission Chambers; and

WHEREAS, after public input and discussion, the consensus of the City Commission was to proceed with Map Alternative 1, a copy of which is attached to this ordinance for reference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida as follows:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 12, Section 12-6 is hereby amended as follows:

- (a) The city shall be and is hereby divided into two election districts, ~~formerly known as qualifying districts~~. District 1 shall consist of all of that territory lying north and west of a certain dividing line, dividing the city into two districts. District 2 shall consist of all that territory lying on the mainland south and east of a certain dividing line, dividing the city into two districts, and shall further contain all of that territory referred to as the beach area on Hutchinson Island within the city limits.

- (b) The dividing line between the two election districts, formerly known as qualifying districts, shall be and is hereby established as the centerline of that portion of Okeechobee Road, beginning from the western boundary of the city and running east to Virginia Avenue; thence along the centerline of that portion of Virginia Avenue running east from Okeechobee Road to ~~23rd Street~~ South 13th Street; thence along the centerline of that portion of ~~23rd Street~~ South 13th Street running north from Virginia Avenue to Birch Street; ~~thence along the centerline of that portion of Birch Street running northeasterly from 23rd Street to 21st Street; thence along the centerline of that portion of 21st Street running north from Birch Street to Georgia Avenue; thence along the centerline of Georgia Avenue running east from 21st Street to 4th Street (U.S. Highway 1); thence along the centerline of 4th Street (U.S. Highway 1) running north to the north city limits.~~

SECTION 2. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable and if any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance but shall remain in effect, it being the legislative intent that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding the invalidity of any part.

SECTION 3. All ordinances, rules or regulations or parts of ordinances, rules or regulations in conflict herewith are and the same shall be repealed and shall be of no further force or effect whatsoever.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance is and the same shall become effective immediately upon final passage.

APPROVED AS TO FORM & CORRECTNESS:

TANYA M. EARLEY, Esq.,
City Attorney

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF ST. LUCIE

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, Mayor Commissioner and the City Clerk of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing and above Ordinance No. 22-012 was duly advertised by title only in the St. Lucie News Tribune on April 8, 2022; copy of said Ordinance was made available at the office of the City Clerk to the public upon request; said Ordinance was duly introduced, read by title only, and passed on first reading by the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, on April 18, 2022; and was duly introduced, read by title only, and passed on second and final reading on May 2, 2022 by the City Commission of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida.

IN WITNESS HEREWITH, we hereunto set our hands and affix the Official Seal of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, this 2nd day of May 2022.

Linda Hudson,

Mayor Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda W. Cox,
City Clerk

(City Seal)

MAP ALTERNATIVE 1

