



Request to advertise a public hearing to adopt an ordinance to establish Codes Enforcement Special Magistrates

*Alachua County
Board of County Commissioners
February 24, 2015*



Background Information

- Intent to use Special Magistrates for complex code violations and county-wide code violations (i.e. water quality, hazardous materials)
- Special Magistrates are commonly used in Florida
- Several counties utilize both a Codes Enforcement Board and Special Magistrate (i.e. Hillsborough, Collier, Seminole)



Special Magistrate

- Provides supplemental code enforcement process and option
- Does not replace Codes Enforcement Board
- Will be used primarily for county-wide code violations or complex cases
- Uses the same process and procedures as Codes Enforcement Board
- Estimated costs similar to existing process



Special Magistrates

Summary of terms and conditions:

- Appointed by Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
- Appoint one or more special magistrates
- Three-year term that may be renewed or terminated (by the BOCC)
- Compensation determined by contract
- Subject to the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees
- Provides for minimum qualifications



Special Magistrates

Minimum qualifications:

- Member, in good standing, with the Florida Bar at the time of appointment or reappointment and for the last 5 years
- Residence or place of business within Alachua County
- Reputation in the community for integrity, responsibility and professional ability
- Cannot be a county employee



Staff Recommendation

Approval to advertise a public hearing to consider the adoption of an ordinance to establish codes enforcement special magistrates.