

**BOARD OF COUNTY
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March 19, 2007

Susan H. Churuti
County Attorney

The Honorable Ronnie E. Duncan, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

RE: County Appropriation of Tarpon Woods

Dear Chairman Duncan:

At the request of Jim Smith, Property Appraiser, I have been asked to investigate an issue involving the County's removal of trees on Mr. Smith's property. Currently I represent both the Property Appraiser and the Board of County Commissioners in your official capacities. Thus, I am required under the rules of professional conduct of the Florida Bar to explain the potential for conflicts of interest when the representation of multiple clients in a single matter is undertaken. I have attached a copy of rule 4-1.7, which relates to my professional obligation to you.

Although at this present time, both parties are interested in investigating and resolving this issue, the risk of a multiple representation is that your interests may diverge in the future. At that juncture, or in the case this matter moves into litigation, I will promptly withdraw from both sides and allow you to make another selection as to who you wish to hire as the attorney to represent you.

If you have any questions with regards to this matter, please do not hesitate to call. I am requesting that the Chair be authorized to approve this representation by signing the attached consent.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Churuti
County Attorney

Ronnie E. Duncan, Chairman

SHC:sme
Attachment

cc: Jim Smith, Property Appraiser
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PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
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