



### **BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE**

Before the enactment of a proposed ordinance, the County shall prepare or cause to be prepared a business impact estimate in accordance with Section 125.66(3), Florida Statutes. This Business Impact Estimate may be revised following its initial posting.

**BOCC Meeting Dates:** Permission to Advertise: 6/3/25, 1<sup>st</sup> hearing: July 22, 2025, 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing: N/A

#### **Proposed Ordinance Title/Reference:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 50 - WATERWAYS, AND CREATING ARTICLE III – ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS, OF CHAPTER 50 - WATERWAYS, CREATING SECTION 50-31 DEFINITIONS, CREATING SECTION 50-32 APPLICABILITY, CREATING SECTION 50-33 DESIGNATED ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS, CREATING SECTION 50-34 ANCHORING RESTRICTIONS IN ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS, CREATING SECTION 50-35 EXEMPTIONS, AND CREATING SECTION 50-36 ENFORCEMENT, OF THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS WITHIN ST. LUCIE COUNTY WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE CITY OF FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; CONFLICTS; AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND INCLUSION IN CODE.**

#### **The Proposed Ordinance does does not fall under one of the following enumerated exceptions:<sup>1</sup>**

- The proposed ordinance is required for compliance with Federal or State law or regulation;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the issuance or refinancing of debt;
- The proposed ordinance relates to the adoption of budgets or budget amendments, including revenue sources necessary to fund the budget;
- The proposed ordinance is required to implement a contract or an agreement, including, but not limited to, any Federal, State, local, or private grant or other financial assistance accepted by the county government;
- The proposed ordinance is an emergency ordinance;
- The ordinance relates to procurement; or
- The proposed ordinance is enacted to implement the following:
  - a. Part II of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes, relating to growth policy, county and municipal planning, and land development regulation, including zoning, development orders, development agreements and development permits;
  - b. Sections 190.005 and 190.046, Florida Statutes, regarding community development districts;
  - c. Section 553.73, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Building Code; or
  - d. Section 633.202, Florida Statutes, relating to the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

A business impact estimate is not required for the above exceptions.

#### **Summary of Proposed Ordinance and Statement of Public Purpose to be Served:**

The Anchoring Limitation Areas (ALAs) as proposed will define an area in which a person may not anchor a vessel for more than forty-five (45) consecutive days in any six (6) month period, without leaving all anchoring limitation areas for at least twenty-four (24) hours and travelling to an area that is at least one (1) nautical mile away from all anchoring limitation areas, subject, however, to the exemptions in Section 327.4108(4)-(5), Florida Statutes. Two areas of navigable waters have been identified that satisfy the criteria set forth in Section 327.4108, Florida Statutes, for establishing anchoring limitation areas: each area has significant recreational boating traffic, each area is less than 100 acres in size, the combined size of the areas is less than 10 percent of St. Lucie County's navigable-in-fact waterways, and none of the areas include a mooring field or marina.

<sup>1</sup> F.S. 125.66(3)(c)(2023)

Increased boating traffic within the Fort Pierce Inlet has led to an increase in long-term mooring/anchoring within internal segments of Fort Pierce Harbor. Mooring within and adjacent to the primary federal navigation channel (and associated turning basin) poses a substantial navigation risk for boaters and the Port of Fort Pierce's current mega yacht operation. These risks prompted further investigation to promote safe navigation within and adjacent to the inlet's main navigation corridors. Two (2) Anchoring limitation Areas (per Section 327.4108 of Florida Statute) are proposed to help address St. Lucie County and City of Fort Pierce's marine navigation concerns.

**Estimate of Direct Economic Impact on Private/For Profit Businesses:**

- a. Estimate of Direct Business Compliance Costs: None, the proposed ordinance promotes active tending to marine vessels within proposed Anchoring Limitation Areas (ALA) to reduce the prevalence of derelict vessels within and adjacent to navigable waters within Fort Pierce Inlet.
- b. New Charges/Fees on Businesses Impacted: No fees are proposed. Vessels found to be out of compliance with the proposed ordinance may be fined by State law enforcement per F.S. 327.4108 (6).
- c. Estimate of Regulatory Costs: Per the F.S. and an associated interlocal agreement with the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Fort Pierce has committed to assist law enforcement with day-to-day observations and data collection. Additional state law enforcement presence will be required to assist in policing the proposed ALA's.

**Good Faith Estimate of Number of Businesses Likely Impacted:**

None

**Any Additional Information:**

None