VILLAGE OF PINECREST

MINUTES

VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008, 7:00 P.M.

PINECREST MUNICIPAL CENTER/COUNCIL CHAMBER
12645 PINECREST PARKWAY
PINECREST, FLORIDA

I. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:** The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:00 p.m. Present were the following:

Councilmember Joseph M. Corradino
Councilmember Jeff Cutler
Councilmember Gail D. Serota
Vice Mayor Nancy L. Harter
Mayor Gary C. Matzner

Village Manager Peter Lombardi
Village Clerk Guido Inguanzo
Village Attorney Cynthia Everett

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The mayor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Vice Mayor Harter made a motion adopting the minutes of the special meeting of January 3, 2008, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2008, the minutes of the workshop meeting of January 15, 2008, and the minutes of the special meeting of January 17, 2008. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corradino and adopted by a unanimous voice vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

IV. **AGENDA/ORDER OF BUSINESS:** There were no changes to the agenda.

V. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:** The mayor delivered the 2008 State of the Village address pursuant to Section 2.2(a)(iii) of the Village Charter. A transcript of the speech begins on Page 6 of these minutes.

The mayor presented a proclamation to the coaches and members of the Pinecrest Premier Mini Cannons recognizing the team's championship win at the Orange Classic International Tournament.

Police Chief John Hohensee made a presentation regarding the Police Department's 2007 Annual Report.

Jerry Chiocca, of Rachlin, LLC, the Village's auditor, made a presentation regarding the 2006-2007 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Councilmember Cutler made a motion accepting the report. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harter and adopted by a unanimous voice vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

The Council heard a presentation from Special Counsel Bruce Rogow, via telephone, and discussed options in the matter of *Miami-Dade County v. Village of Pinecrest, a municipal corporation, Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., in his official capacity as Village Clerk for the Village of Pinecrest, Indian Creek Village, a municipal corporation, and Marilane Lima, in her official capacity as Village Clerk for Indian Creek Village.*

Cindie Blanck, 6400 Southwest 123 Terrace, and Cindy Lerner, 5901 Moss Ranch Road, addressed the Council.

The Council considered the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO PRESENT THE VILLAGE'S ELECTORS WITH A BALLOT QUESTION RELATING TO THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES PROVIDING FIRE RESCUE SERVICES IN LIEU OF THE MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT; PROVIDING THAT THE ELECTION SHALL BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2008; PROVIDING FOR BALLOTING VIA U.S. MAIL; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR REGISTRATION; PROVIDING FOR CANVASSING BOARD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Cutler made a motion adopting the resolution. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harter. Resolution 2008-10 was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

VI. **ORDINANCES:** There were no ordinances considered by the Council.

VII. **RESOLUTIONS:** The Council discussed the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO BID FOR THE POTABLE WATER SYSTEM BACKBONE PROJECT AS PER THE PLANS ENGINEERED BY C3TS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The following residents addressed the Council: Raul Galliano, 6265 Southwest 104 Street; Ben Gilbert, 5979 Southwest 104 Street; Peggy Fisher, 9300 Southwest 61 Court; Olive Frye, 6350 Southwest 112 Street; Ruth Cain, 7025 Southwest 96 Street; Bette Schaffel, 6333 Southwest 104 Street; Wallis Chefitz, 9315 Southwest 61 Court; Joseph Smith, 9820 Southwest 62 Court; Joyce Ritter, 6560 Southwest 96 Street; Randall Levenson, 13201 Old Cutler Road; Karen Mashburn, 6101 Moss Ranch Road; and Rick Suarez, 10401 Southwest 62 Avenue.

Ramon Castella, of C3TS, the Village's consulting engineer on the project, participated in discussions with the Council.

Councilmember Serota made a motion adopting the resolution. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harter. Resolution 2008-5 was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Serota, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

The Council discussed the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, AWARDING BID FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DRAINAGE AND PAVEMENT PROJECT TO JVA ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR, INC.; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Vice Mayor Harter made a motion adopting the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corradino. Resolution 2008-6 was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

The Council discussed the following resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT WITH PINECREST HEALTH AND FITNESS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE WELLNESS CENTER AT THE PINECREST COMMUNITY CENTER; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Michael Estevez, of Pinecrest Health and Fitness, Inc., addressed the Council.

Councilmember Cutler made a motion adopting the resolution. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Harter. Resolution 2008-7 was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

The Council discussed the following resolution:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, WAIVING FEES FOR POLICE SERVICES FOR THE GARDEN SOIREE TO BE HELD AT PINECREST GARDENS ON FEBRUARY 29, 2008 BY THE COMMUNITY CHARITABLE FUND; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Karen Mashburn, of the Community Charitable Fund, addressed the Council.

Councilmember Corradino made a motion adopting the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cutler. Resolution 2008-8 was adopted by a unanimous voice vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

The Council discussed the following resolution:

> A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, WAIVING FEES FOR POLICE SERVICES FOR THE TASTE OF PINECREST TO BE HELD AT PINECREST GARDENS ON MARCH 9, 2008 BY THE PINECREST BUSINESS ASSOCIATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilmember Cutler made a motion adopting the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Corradino. Resolution 2008-9 was adopted by a unanimous voice vote. The vote was as follows: Councilmembers Corradino, Cutler, Serota, Vice Mayor Harter, and Mayor Matzner voting Yes.

VIII. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** The clerk presented the submissions from the Village's Logo Contest conducted pursuant to the Council's November 13, 2008 directive. The Council deferred consideration of the matter to a future meeting.

The clerk submitted copies of the following proclamations issued by the mayor:

- Valerie Swanson Day (February 1, 2008)
- Pinecrest Premier Mini Cannons' Day (February 5, 2008)

IX. **PLANNING:** There were no planning matters considered by the Council.

X. **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS:** The following schedule of future meetings was presented to the public:

- VILLAGE COUNCIL
  TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008, 7:00 P.M.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council
this 18th day of March, 2008:

Gary C. Matzner
Mayor

IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT A MEETING OR HEARING, THAT PERSON WILL NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED (FLORIDA STATUTES).

2008 State of the Village
Mayor Gary C. Matzner

This past year, Pinecrest, like all Florida municipalities and counties faced the unprecedented challenge of rolling back ad valorem taxes by 23.1 percent. In the case of Pinecrest, it meant rolling back taxes to an historic low rate of 1.95 mills, which saved Pinecrest property owners almost $1,774,000 last year. In addition, the January 29th property tax amendment to the Florida Constitution will result in an additional $350,000 in tax savings next year. Of course this savings to our tax payers translates into a corresponding reduction of revenues to the Village.

To meet this challenge the Village adopted an austere budget of $31,573,000 which included cutting expenses, reducing staffing of non-essential personnel, limited salary increases and reduced hours of operation at our parks. In conjunction we also limited the number of capital improvements. Due to the efforts of Village Manager Peter Lombardi and the Village Council we were able to avoid raising taxes and still maintain a healthy reserve of $7,268,000.

Looking at results for last year, strictly by the numbers, the Village had revenues of $18.2 million and expenditures of about $17.2 million. Village personnel currently authorized by the Village Council stands at 120 full-time and 42 part-time staff, about the same as the prior year – a reduction of 3 full-time and 3 part-time positions from last year.

In terms of accomplishments, we will dedicate our new Pinecrest branch of the Miami-Dade Library System and Community Center at Pinecrest Gardens in March. I am most pleased that this project will include our first dedicated Soccer field along with a vita course.

Next month, we will also complete and dedicate Flagler Grove Park, which will have the Village's first lighted Soccer Fields. The park, which is located at 104th Street and 77th Avenue, will also have a boundless playground, which gives access to children with special needs.

The Village completed the lighting of the Red Road Linear Park on Red Road between Kendall Drive and Killian Drive. This project was welcomed by bikers and joggers alike who get up early in the morning or exercise after work. I hope they enjoy it.

We completed the design of a water system for the nearly 40% of the Village without potable water or fire hydrants. After surveying and meeting with affected residents, the Village Council approved moving forward to install the spine or backbone for the system without cost to the residents, by utilizing funds from Miami-Dade County's general obligation bonds. We will put out to bid this portion of the system next month, which will bring access to County water to about 300 families by next year. We look forward to the challenge of finding the financing to complete the system over the next four years.

We also commenced the restoration of the historic original entrance building at Pinecrest Gardens that faces Red Road and expect to complete the project by the end of the year. Unfortunately, we don't plan on selling hot dogs and sodas on the Red Road side of the building.

As we watched the cost of our County Fire Rescue service continue to climb to an all time high of $9.3 Million to Pinecrest residents last year, we began a dialogue with other

municipalities about alternatives. Base on about 1,100 calls for rescue and fire services in the Village last year, it equates to over $9,000 for each call by a Village resident. Meanwhile, Miami-Dade County, instead of addressing the rising cost to taxpayers, chose instead to prevent municipalities from opting out of the County Fire District. By passing a timely resolution, the Village Council acted decisively to reserve the right for Pinecrest to opt out of the Fire District. We are in the process of discussing the City of Coral Gables providing these services to Pinecrest residents at considerable savings to taxpayers. As we move forward on this issue over the coming months, I urge the Council to allow residents the right to vote on their choice for fire rescue services.

Finally, after almost twelve years of steady decline the number of major crimes inched up this past year. Despite the small increase, we still have one of the lowest crime rates in the County. Chief John Hohensee's annual police report with statistics is available online. I would remind all Pinecrest residents to help reduce the opportunity for crime by remembering to lock their cars, even in their driveways, and be vigilant as they return home from grocery shopping or the mall. If you see an unfamiliar truck or other vehicles in your neighborhood, I would encourage you to call the Pinecrest Police Department at 305-231-2100.

I look forward to many of our residents joining us for the opening of the Library and Community Center, which I hope it will make Pinecrest Gardens the center piece of our community.