

Mailing of Pelican Bay MSTBU Advisory Board Election Ballots Compromised

Clerk of Courts, Dwight Brock, recently discovered that the list of record title owners provided to the Clerk by the Property Appraiser and used to mail ballots for the Pelican Bay MSTBU Advisory Board election was incorrect. The Clerk became aware of the problem after receiving questions from property owners about the balloting and because an inordinate number of ballots were returned by the U.S. Postal Service as “undeliverable.” After looking into the matter, the Clerk verified that in some instances current property owners in Pelican Bay did not receive a ballot and, in other cases, former owners received ballots even though they no longer held title to a residential property in Pelican Bay. In addition, there were residential property owners who received duplicate ballots for the same property.

Ordinance No. 2002-27 sec. 8, E, ii states: ***For purposes of determining record title owners of property entitled to cast ballots, the listed record title owners of property as evidenced by the Collier County Property Appraiser’s tax rolls as of sixty (60) days prior to the balloting date shall be utilized and deemed conclusive. Not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the balloting date, the Property Appraiser shall provide the Clerk and the Board of County Commissioners with the list of all parcels within the Unit, each parcel’s identification number, the names of the property owners and their addresses, with said list designating each parcel as either residential /commercial/ other (based upon the Property Appraiser’s classification system).***

The Property Appraiser is addressing the problem by providing the Clerk with a corrected list.

To ensure the integrity of the Pelican Bay election, the Clerk, in consultation with the county attorney, will meet with the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 to recommend that they declare the first mailing invalid and approve a second mailing of ballots to all residential property owners using the Property Appraiser’s corrected list. The BCC will also be asked to approve a revised election schedule.

Dwight Brock emphasized that each ballot contains a unique property identification number and security code to ensure that any ballot received will be verified before being counted. All reissued ballots will be printed on colored paper to distinguish them from the ballots in the first mailing.

Assuming the BCC approves the recommended revised schedule at their meeting on February 12, 2013, the second mailing of ballots will be completed by February 20th and all completed ballots must be returned to the Clerk of the Circuit Court’s office, by mail or in person, no later than 5:00 PM on March 22, 2013.

The BCC will appoint the new elected Advisory Board members at its meeting on March 26th.

A copy of this Public Notice, with links to the [Ordinance No. 2002 -27](#) and a [list of candidates](#) will be posted in the News Room on www.collierclerk.com

For more information contact:

Robert D. St. Cyr, Director of Community Outreach
Clerk of the Circuit Court, Collier County
Telephone (239) 252 – 6879
Robert.StCyr@collierclerk.com