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November 6, 2019

City Commission of Panama City
501 Harrison Ave.
Panama City, FL 32401

RE: Consideration of Intent to use Uniform Collection Method

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

The City of Panama City in 2014 adopted the Uniform Collection Method to collect abatement costs that were incurred by the City on properties that had been determined nuisances by the Code Enforcement Magistrate. A special assessment roll was adopted in June, 2014 and then assessments were placed on the property tax bill for those property owners.

After the initial backlog of nuisance assessments were handled, the City has not placed special assessments on the property tax bills; however, as result of the property damages as a result of Hurricane Michael and the increase in City abatement costs through Code Enforcement the City Staff recommends the City once again have special assessments on the property tax bills in 2020 for such nuisance abatement costs. In order to do so, the Commission must provide notice of the intent to use the Uniform Collection Method. This notice must be published for four (4) consecutive weeks prior to a public hearing adopting the Resolution to use the Uniform Collection Method.

Attached is the proposed Notice of Intent that includes other possible assessments the City could evaluate in early 2020. By publishing this notice, the Commission is under no obligation to move forward with the Uniform Collection Method. However, due to the deadlines required by statute, this method cannot be elected unless it is noticed prior to the end of the year.

In October 2019, the Panama City Beach passed its resolutions electing to use the Uniform Method of Collection for Fire Service Assessments, Nuisance Abatement Assessments, and Infrastructure Special Assessments.

Also, the notice provided for your review is based on the Notice that Bay County issued on November 5, 2019. Each type of special assessment will have to be adopted by a separate resolution, however, even after adoption, the City is under no obligation to impose assessments.

If the City decides to use the Uniform Collection Method, it will not be assessed until fiscal year 2020. This will provide plenty of time to review which assessments the Commission would like to utilize.

Yours Truly,
BURKE BLUE

Nevin J. Zimmerman, Esq.

cc: Mark McQueen, City Manager
Darlene Hachmeister, City Clerk-Treasurer

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO USE UNIFORM METHOD OF COLLECTING
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS**

The City of Panama City, Florida (the "City") hereby provides notice, pursuant to section 197.3632(3)(a), Florida Statutes, of its intent to use the uniform method of collecting non-ad valorem special assessments throughout the city limits of the City, for the cost of providing capital improvements, and/or essential services, and/or unpaid assessments, rates, fees and charges or amounts equivalent thereto associated with among other things, administration, operations, maintenance, capital improvements and/or capital equipment and other essential services within the City, including but not limited to programs for fire rescue services; roadway maintenance and improvements; canal maintenance and improvements; street lighting operations, maintenance and improvements; sidewalk maintenance and improvements; abatement of code violations, nuisances, and unsafe structures; storm water maintenance and improvements; and other public services and facilities allowed by law, commencing for the Fiscal Year beginning on October 1, 2020 and continuing until discontinued by the City. The City will consider the adoption of a resolution electing to use the uniform method of collecting such assessments authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, at a public hearing to be held at 8:00 a.m. on December 10, 2019, in the Bay County Government Building, 840 West 11th Street, Panama City, Florida. Such resolution will state the need for the levy and will contain a legal description of the boundaries of the real property subject to the levy. Copies of the proposed form of resolution, which contains the legal description of the real property subject to the levy, are on file at the Office of the City Commission, located at City Hall, 501 Harrison Avenue, Panama City, Florida. All interested persons are invited to attend.

This notice of intent to use the uniform method of collection in no way obligates the City to implement any program of non-ad valorem special assessments. It simply preserves this collection method.

In the event any person decides to appeal any decision by the City with respect to any matter relating to the consideration of the resolution at the above-referenced public hearing, a record of the proceeding may be needed and in such an event, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the public hearing is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence on which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Manager's Office at (850) 872-3001, at least 7 days prior to the date of the hearing.