

**Participation Agreement for Publication of Legal Notices
on County Designated Publicly Accessible Website**

This Participation Agreement ("Participation Agreement") is made and entered into by and between St. Lucie County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida ("County"), and the City of Port St. Lucie, a local government existing under the laws of the State of Florida ("Local Government") (each a "Party," and collectively the "Parties").

RECITALS

A. During the 2022 legislative session, the Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 7049, which created Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes.

B. Effective January 1, 2023, Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, authorizes a local governmental agency to publish legal notices under specified conditions on a publicly accessible website, owned or designated by the applicable county, instead of in a print newspaper.

C. Local Government represents that it is a governmental agency as defined in Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes. Local Government desires to utilize County's designated publicly accessible website for certain required notices and advertisements.

A. Pursuant to Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, County designated CivicPlus, LLC ("Website") as County's publicly accessible website for publication of notices and advertisements ("Publications").

Now, therefore, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Recitals. The truth and accuracy of each clause set forth above is acknowledged by the Parties and incorporated herein.
2. Designation of Website. County has entered into an agreement with Website ("Website Contract") for Publications. At any time, in its sole discretion and upon at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice to Local Government in accordance with the Notices section of this Participation Agreement, County may designate a different entity as County's publicly accessible website pursuant to Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes. Any such new designation shall be automatically effective upon the date stated in County's notice without the need for an amendment to this Participation Agreement, and upon the effective date the new website shall be the "Website" for purposes of this Participation Agreement.
3. Utilization of Website. Local Government may utilize the Website for its Publications if and to the extent it elects to do so. Nothing in this Participation Agreement obligates Local Government to utilize the Website for any Publication. However, any utilization of Website by Local Government for Publications pursuant to Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, shall be

obtained exclusively through the Website Contract and not through any other contract or procurement method, and in a manner of the County's choosing. Local Government agrees that no other website is County's designated publicly accessible website, and Local Government agrees it will not take any action to challenge or otherwise attempt to disqualify the designation of Website (or any substitute website pursuant to Section 2 above) as the properly designated website of County pursuant to Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes.

4. Term. The term of this Participation Agreement shall commence upon the date it is fully executed by the Parties ("Effective Date") and shall continue until terminated by either Party as otherwise provided herein, for a period not to exceed five (5) years, with the option to renew upon mutual agreement of the Parties.

5. Compliance with Notice Requirements. For the duration of this Participation Agreement, Local Government shall comply with all applicable requirements, obligations, duties, and procedures set forth in Chapter 50, Florida Statutes ("Notice Requirements"), as may be amended from time to time, relating to any Publications published on the Website. County shall have no responsibility for ensuring that Local Government, the Website, or the Publications comply with the Notice Requirements or any other applicable law, rule, or regulation and Local Government shall be solely responsible for verifying and ensuring its eligibility to utilize the Website in accordance with section 50.0311 and for adherence to all applicable requirements, obligations, duties, procedures, and conditions set forth in Chapter 50 of the Florida Statutes.

6. County Actions are Ministerial. Local Government acknowledges that any and all Publications of Local Government are prepared by Local Government and not by County, and that any and all actions of County in conjunction with or relating to the designation of the Website for use by Local Government are, and shall be construed at all times as, purely ministerial acts.

7. Costs and Payment. Local Government is solely responsible for the timely payment of all fees and costs associated with its Publications and use of the Website. Local Government shall utilize the Website Contract to obtain from Website any applicable services Local Government requires relating to Publications and shall pay Website directly for all such services provided in connection with Publications. Additionally, Local Government shall be solely responsible for payment of any and all mailing costs or other costs associated with the Publications or otherwise incurred relating to the Publications pursuant to Chapter 50, Florida Statutes, including without limitation Section 50.0311(6), Florida Statutes. County shall not be responsible for any fees or costs associated with: (a) use of the Website by Local Government; (b) any Publication; or (c) compliance with Chapter 50, Florida Statutes. Local Government recognizes and agrees that if Local Government fails to timely pay Website, Website may terminate Local Government's access to the Website, and County shall have no liability to Local Government for such termination or lack of access.

8. Sovereign Immunity. Nothing herein is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by either Party nor shall anything included herein be construed as consent by either Party to be sued by a third party in any matter arising out of this Participation Agreement.

9. Indemnification. Local Government shall indemnify and hold harmless County and all of County's current, past, and future officers, agents, and employees (collectively, "Indemnified Party") from and against any and all causes of action, demands, claims, losses, liabilities, and expenditures of any kind, including attorneys' fees, court costs, and expenses, including through the conclusion of any appellate proceedings, raised or asserted by any person or entity not a party to this Participation Agreement, and caused or alleged to be caused, in whole or in part, by any breach of this Participation Agreement by Local Government, or any intentional, reckless, or negligent act or omission of Local Government, its officers, employees, or agents, arising from, relating to, or in connection with this Participation Agreement or any Publication. The obligations of this section shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Participation Agreement.

10. Termination. Either Party may terminate this Participation Agreement without cause upon at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the other Party. This Participation Agreement may also be terminated for cause by the aggrieved Party if the Party in breach has not corrected the breach within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice from the aggrieved Party identifying the breach. In addition, if the publication of electronic notices is determined to be illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction, or if the Florida Legislature modifies Florida law to prohibit utilization of County's designated publicly accessible website for Publications, this Participation Agreement will be deemed automatically terminated upon such finding becoming final or such law becoming effective, as applicable.

11. Notices. In order for a notice to a Party to be effective under this Participation Agreement, notice must be sent via either U.S. certified or first-class mail, or delivery by a reputable document delivery service, such as but not limited to, Federal Express, that provides a receipt showing the date and time of delivery, with a contemporaneous copy sent via e-mail, to the addresses listed below and shall be effective upon mailing. The addresses for notice shall remain as set forth herein unless and until changed by providing notice of such change in accordance with the provisions of this section.

FOR COUNTY:

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
ATTN: COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
2300 VIRGINIA AVENUE
FORT PIERCE, FL, 34982
Email: pio@stlucieco.gov

WITH COPY TO:

ST. LUCIE COUNTY
ATTN: COUNTY ATTORNEY
2300 VIRGINIA AVENUE
FORT PIERCE, FL 34982

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
ATTN: CITY CLERK
121 SW PORT ST. LUCIE BLVD
PORT ST. LUCIE, FL 34984
Email address: swalsh@cityofpsl.com

12. Prior Agreements. This Participation Agreement represents the final and complete understanding of the Parties regarding the subject matter of this Participation Agreement and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous negotiations and discussions regarding same. All commitments, agreements, and understandings of the Parties concerning the subject matter of this Participation Agreement are contained herein.

13. Assignment. Neither this Participation Agreement nor any term or provision hereof or right hereunder shall be assignable by either Party without the prior written consent of the other Party which shall not be unreasonably withheld. It is provided, however, this provision shall not be deemed to prohibit the County, in its sole discretion, from procuring any goods or services relating to the operation, maintenance, or use of the Website by the County or the Local Government.

14. Interpretation. The headings contained in this Participation Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not in any way affect the meaning or interpretation of this Participation Agreement. All personal pronouns used in this Participation Agreement shall include any other gender, and the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, unless the context otherwise requires. Terms such as "herein" refer to this Participation Agreement as a whole and not to any particular sentence, paragraph, or section where they appear, unless the context otherwise requires. Whenever reference is made to a section or article of this Participation Agreement, such reference is to the section or article as a whole, including all of the subsections of such section, unless the reference is made to a particular subsection or subparagraph of such section or article.

15. Severability. If any provision of this Participation Agreement is found to be unenforceable in any respect by any court of competent jurisdiction, that provision shall be deemed severed from this Participation Agreement and the balance of this Participation Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

16. Third-Party Beneficiaries. Neither Local Government nor County intends to directly or substantially benefit a third party by this Participation Agreement. Therefore, the Parties acknowledge that there are no third-party beneficiaries to this Participation Agreement and that no third party shall be entitled to assert a right or claim against either of them based upon this Participation Agreement, or to seek any interpretation or declaratory or injunctive relief pertaining to the Participation Agreement .

17. Law, Jurisdiction, Venue, Waiver of Jury Trial. This Participation Agreement shall be interpreted and construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of the State of Florida. The exclusive venue for any lawsuit arising from, related to, or in connection with this Participation Agreement shall be in the state courts of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit in and for St. Lucie County, Florida. If any claim arising from, related to, or in connection with this Participation Agreement must be litigated in federal court, the exclusive venue for any such lawsuit shall be in the United States District Court, or the United States Bankruptcy Court, for the

Southern District of Florida. **EACH PARTY EXPRESSLY WAIVES ANY RIGHTS IT MAY HAVE TO A TRIAL BY JURY OF ANY CIVIL LITIGATION RELATED TO THIS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.**

18. Amendments. No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document prepared with the same or similar formality as this Participation Agreement and executed on behalf of County and Local Government, respectively, by persons authorized to execute same on their behalf.

19. Representation of Authority. Each individual executing this Participation Agreement on behalf of a Party represents and warrants that they are, on the date they sign this Participation Agreement, duly authorized by all necessary and appropriate action to execute this Participation Agreement on behalf of such Party and that they do so with full legal authority.

20. Counterparts and Multiple Originals. This Participation Agreement may be executed in multiple originals, and may be executed in counterparts, whether signed physically or electronically, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same Participation Agreement.

21. Materiality and Waiver or Breach. Each requirement, duty, and obligation set forth herein was bargained for at arm's-length. Each requirement, duty, and obligation set forth herein is substantial and important to the formation of this Participation Agreement, and each is, therefore, a material term. Any Party's failure to enforce any provision of this Participation Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of such provision or modification of this Participation Agreement. A waiver of any breach of a provision of this Participation Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver of any subsequent breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of this Participation Agreement.

22. Compliance with Laws. Each Party shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in performing its duties, responsibilities, and obligations pursuant to this Participation Agreement.

(Remainder of this page intentionally left blank.)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have made and executed this Participation Agreement
this ____ day of _____, 2025

COUNTY

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

By: 
County Administrator

Date: 8/18/25

Approved as to form and correctness:

By: 
DSSL County Attorney

**FORM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT FOR PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES
ON COUNTY DESIGNATED PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NAME

ATTEST:

By: _____
Shannon Martin, Mayor

CITY CLERK

Print Name

_____ day of _____, 20____

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have approved this
Participation Agreement as to form and legal
sufficiency subject to execution by the
Parties:

City Attorney