

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, FLORIDA, TO CONSIDER ADOPTION, LEVY, AND IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY TO DEFRAY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONTINUAL READINESS TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Commission of the City of Springfield, Florida, will hold a public hearing at the City Commission Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at City Hall, 3529 E. 3rd Street, Springfield, Florida, 32401 for the purpose of hearing interested parties with respect to the following proposed special assessments.

The City of Springfield (the "City") has in place a dedicated funding source for the provision of fire protection services and facilities through the imposition of non-ad valorem assessments, sometimes referred to as special assessments, against certain improved and vacant real property located within the City limits. The special assessments are allocated among assessable tax parcels according to a two-tiered methodology pursuant to which a portion of the costs attributable to the City's continual readiness to provide fire protection services to be shared equally among all tax parcels on a per parcel basis (Tier 2), and a portion of the remaining costs of service availability will be shared in accordance with the relative value of improvements for each tax parcel in the City as compared to the value of improvements for all tax parcels in the City (Tier 1). This is the same method that the City has employed for several years.

All affected property owners have the right to appear at the public hearing and to file written comments and objections with the City Commission prior to the public hearing. Written comments and objections should be sent to the City of Springfield City Hall, 3529 E. 3rd Street, Springfield, FL, 32401, Attn: City Clerk.

The contemplated special assessment offers a reasoned approach for sharing and apportionment premised upon two distinct tiers or classes of assessment allocations: Tier 1 – a sharing of benefits, burdens, and costs for fire protection services and facilities based upon the relative value of improvements for each tax parcel in the City as compared to the value of improvements for all tax parcels in the City; and, Tier 2 – a sharing of benefits, burdens, and costs for fire protection services and facilities through a per tax parcel allocation premised upon the annual budgetary necessity of maintaining a continual state of preparedness and readiness to serve. Each tax parcel within the City is uniquely identified by the county property appraiser using a parcel identification number. The preliminary fire service assessment roll is available online at <http://springfield.fl.gov/fireassessment.html> or at the City Clerk's Office located at City Hall, 3529 E. 3rd Street, Springfield, Florida, 32401.

The special assessment funds, in part, the costs associated with providing fire protection services and facilities each year. The remainder of the fire protection budget will be funded with other legally available revenues of the City. The combination of funding sources offers a significant tax equity tool which will reduce dependence on property taxes alone as the sole source of funding for fire protection services, reduce the demand on the City's other legally available funds, and is intended to achieve a more equitable, balanced, sustainable and dedicated means of funding the City Fire Department's service mission over time. By this approach the Commission is asking the owners of all property within the City, which enjoys the value and benefit of the assemblage of fire protection-related essential

services and facilities, to contribute and, in part, participate in paying for the continual availability of fire protection service and facilities in our community.

The assessment will be collected pursuant to the tax bill collection method as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and the annual assessment will include fees imposed by the county property appraiser and tax collector and will be adjusted as necessary to account for any statutory discounts which are necessitated when employing the efficiencies of collecting the assessments annually on the same bill as property taxes.

If approved by the City Commission after the conclusion of the public hearing, the special assessment for each tax parcel will not exceed the sum of (i) \$0.76 per \$1,000 of the value of improvements attributed to the tax parcel by the county property appraiser (Tier 1) plus (ii) \$88.31 per tax parcel (Tier 2) together with (iii) a share of administration and collections costs associated with the annual assessment totaling \$4.56 per parcel.

The dollar amount of the proposed special assessment attributable to each tax parcel can be viewed and is available online at <http://springfield.fl.gov/fireassessment.html> or at the City Clerk's Office located at City Hall, 3529 E. 3rd Street, Springfield, Florida, 32401. Please take the opportunity to review the additional information available online.

This Notice is intended to inform all constituents about the City's efforts to effectively budget and use a blend of legally available revenues to meet fire service obligations, reduce costs, be efficient and continue to provide a reasonable level of service. The mission of the City's Fire Department is to always stand ready to protect the lives and property of the community through exemplary fire education, prevention, suppression and associated emergency rescue services. This special assessment provides a supplemental and dedicated means to accomplish these responsibilities and will serve as an additional and equitable means to address the overall management and budgeting responsibilities of the City Commission.

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if any person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this public meeting, such person may need to ensure a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Persons with a disability, such as vision, hearing, or speech impairment, or persons needing other types of assistance, and who wish to attend City Commission meetings or any other board or committee meeting, should contact the City Clerk in writing, or may call (850) 872-7570 for information regarding available aids and services.

/s/ DONALD "LEE" PENTON
CITY CLERK
City of Springfield, Florida
