

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Information for Special Town Council Meeting on: July 11, 2024

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

FROM: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates for Commercial Solid Waste Collection and Disposal - Adoption of Assessment Roll and Service Assessments for FY25
Resolution No. 080-2024

DATE: June 27, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Town staff recommends Town Council adopt Resolution No. 080-2024, which is the Preliminary Assessment Resolution for the proposed Non-Ad Valorem Service Assessments for the Commercial Solid Waste Collection and Disposal rates for FY25.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Non-Ad Valorem Assessment process that causes special assessments implemented by the Town to appear on a property owner's property tax bill, dovetails with the statewide budget and millage rate adoption schedule. Accordingly, it is time to begin the formal steps of implementing the FY25 proposed service assessments for the collection and disposal of commercial solid waste that will appear on a property owner's tax bill mailed on or about November 1, 2024.

By adopting Resolution No. 080-2024, you will be initiating a process whereby each affected property owner will be advised of the amount of their proposed service assessment and the date, time, and place of the public hearing to adopt the final assessment, and associated assessment roll on the Property Appraiser's TRIM notice, and by letter from the Town issued in late August of this year.

The Commercial Solid Waste Collection for FY25 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment uses a rate analysis methodology using the Palm Beach County Solid Waste Authority's reporting and is calculated as follows:

Cost Description	Amount
Service for 5-day customers	\$388,147
Service for 7-day customers	\$367,623
Service for apartments	\$138,650
Total Assessment Revenues	\$894,420
Total Direct Cost for Commercial Solid Waste Collection	\$536,588
Disposal Cost (\$42/ton collected)	\$316,183
Total Net Cost	\$852,771

To employ a defensible assessment methodology to ensure that property owners are only paying costs in proportion to the benefits they derive from the services or costs related to the services, we again used the methodology developed in 2003 which was previously found by the Town Council to provide benefits from the services that were/are in proportion to the assessments to be allocated to each benefitted property and that the apportionment of the special benefits to each benefitted property is fair and reasonable. This methodology was again validated and reviewed recently with the original consultant.

In order to place assessments on the property tax bill, which virtually assures that the Town will receive payment and avoid having to create an internal billing and collection function, a number of steps are required to be taken in coordination with the Tax Collector and Property Appraiser. The Tax Collector charges a fee for the work they undertake on the Town's behalf that is one percent (1%) of the value of the assessments. These costs are passed on to a property owner being assessed. In addition, since a property owner can receive a four percent (4%) discount for early payment of their property tax bill in November of each year, the assessments have to be adjusted upward by like amount to ensure the sum needed to pay expenses is realized in full. All totaled, for every \$100 in assessments the Town needs to collect, the assessment will be approximately \$105 in order to net the \$100 needed.

The additional five percent (5%) is attributable as follows:

- Tax Collector – 1%
- Potential early property tax bill payment discount – 4%
- Total – 5%

The Town's proposed FY25 net assessment of \$852,771 is derived by reducing the required gross total assessment of \$894,420 by these factors.

Resolution No. 080-2024 formally initiates the process to implement the intended assessments for FY25. The Resolution describes the property to be assessed, the services to be provided, determines the estimated cost to be assessed for the next fiscal year commencing on October 1, 2024, delineates which properties will be assessed, and, among other things, directs staff to take certain required steps to effectuate the assessment process. The final public hearing will begin at 5:01 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers on September 11, 2024.

Resolution No. 080-2024 is attached hereto. The FY25 Preliminary Assessment Roll and estimated assessments for this service are indicated in Appendix C of Resolution No. 080-2024. These estimates are subject to change as all items associated with the assessment are finalized for the property owner's notice and Final Assessment Resolution to be considered in September. Resolution No. 080-2024 sets rates from which the assessment can be calculated for each property.

The notices that property owners will receive from the Town prior to the final public hearing via first class mail and the TRIM notice provided by the Property Appraiser alerts the property owner to their right to object or call to the Town's attention any mistakes that they believe may have been made in applying the assessment formula to any given property. The law recognizes the difficulties that can exist in the assessment process and creates a check and balance into the process whenever an assessment is proposed for the first time, or there is an increase in the cost or method in calculating the assessment.

Non-Ad Valorem Assessment rates for commercial solid waste collection are established as follows, with a comparison to the prior year's rate:

	<u>FY24</u>	<u>FY25</u>
1. Apartments	\$ 13.20Unit/Month	\$ 14.70 Unit/Month
2. Low Volume (5 day)	\$ 0.029/SF/Year	\$ 0.029/SF/Year
3. Medium Volume (5 day)	\$ 0.193/SF/Year	\$ 0.191/SF/Year
4. High Volume (5 day)	\$ 0.844/SF/Year	\$ 0.834/SF/Year
5. Low Volume (7 day)	\$ 0.036/SF/Year	\$ 0.037/SF/Year
6. Medium Volume (7 day)	\$ 0.246/SF/Year	\$ 0.252/SF/Year
7. High Volume (7 day)	\$ 1.075/SF/Year	\$ 1.101/SF/Year

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

This is a "zero-sum" initiative, in that revenues are intended to balance/offset the costs. It is anticipated that this action will provide and generate the requisite funding. All direct costs borne by the Town to accomplish this service are paid for by the properties benefiting, as opposed to all property owners in Town.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

This Resolution has been reviewed by the Town Attorney for legal form and sufficiency. This Resolution was developed and prepared by the law firm of Nabors, Giblin, and Nickerson, who previously prepared the Town's ordinances that established Chapter 90 of the Town Code pertaining to Special Assessments.

Attachment

cc: Robert Miracle, Deputy Town Manager
Jason Debrincat, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works
Joanne O'Connor, Town Attorney
Chester Purves, Services Division Manager
Dean Mealy, Procurement and Contracts Manager
Melissa Ladd, Budget Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 080-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF COMMERCIAL SOLID WASTE; ESTABLISHING THE ESTIMATED ASSESSED COST AGAINST THE PROPERTIES THAT WILL BE BENEFITTED THEREBY; DIRECTING THE TOWN MANAGER TO PREPARE AN UPDATED SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT ROLL; ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE ASSESSMENT ROLL AND REIMPOSITION OF THE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS AND THEIR COLLECTION PURSUANT TO THE UNIFORM ASSESSMENT COLLECTION ACT; DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 90, Article II, of the Town of Palm Beach Code of Ordinances (the "Code"), the Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 25-03), the Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 44-03), Article VIII, Section 2, Florida Constitution, the Town of Palm Beach Charter, Sections 166.021 and 166.041, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS.

(A) This Resolution constitutes the Preliminary Rate Resolution, as designated in the Code, and initiates the annual process for updating the Solid Waste Assessment Roll and directing the reimposition of Solid Waste Service Assessments within the Town of Palm Beach for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024.

(B) All capitalized words and terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Code, Section 102-1 of the Town of Palm Beach Code of Ordinances, the Initial Assessment Resolution, the Final Assessment Resolution, and the Preliminary Rate

Resolution (Resolution No. 107-2017) adopted in 2017. Unless the context indicates otherwise, words imparting the singular number include the plural number, and vice versa.

SECTION 3. INTERPRETATION. Unless the context indicates otherwise, words importing the singular number include the plural number, and vice versa; the terms "hereof," "hereby," "herein," "hereto," "hereunder" and similar terms refer to this Resolution; and the term "hereafter" means after, and the term "heretofore" means before, the effective date of this Resolution. Words of any gender include the correlative words of the other gender, unless the sense indicates otherwise.

SECTION 4. FINDINGS. The legislative determinations embodied in the Code, the Initial Assessment Resolution, the Final Assessment Resolution, and Resolution No. 107-2017, are affirmed and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 5. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL SERVICES.

(A) Upon the imposition of the Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs against Assessed Property located within the incorporated areas of the Town, the Town shall cause Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs to be provided to such Assessed Property. All or a portion of the Solid Waste Cost shall be paid from proceeds of the Solid Waste Service Assessments.

(B) It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that each parcel of Assessed Property has been and will continue to be benefited by the Town's provision of Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities and programs in an amount not less than the Solid Waste Service Assessment upon such parcel computed in the manner set forth in this Preliminary Rate Resolution.

SECTION 6. DETERMINATION OF SOLID WASTE COST; ESTABLISHMENT OF SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS.

(A) The Solid Waste Cost to be assessed and apportioned among benefited parcels for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2024, is estimated to be \$894,420.

(1) \$138,650 of the Solid Waste Cost is allocated to Apartments in accordance with the methodology set forth in the Assessment Report.

(2) \$755,770 of the Solid Waste Cost is allocated to Commercial Property in accordance with the methodology set forth in the Assessment Report.

(3) The approval of this Preliminary Rate Resolution determines the amount of the Solid Waste Cost. The remainder of the Town's budget for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs shall be funded from available Town revenue other than Solid Waste Service Assessments.

(B) For the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2024, in which Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities and programs are imposed, the Solid Waste Cost shall be allocated among all Tax Parcels of Apartments and Commercial Property within the Town in accordance with the method of apportionment provided in Section 6 of Resolution No. 107-2017, as described in more detail in the Assessment Report.

(C) The following rates of assessment for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs are hereby approved for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024:

Property and Service Type	Annual Assessment Rate	Billing Unit
Apartments	\$175.27	Per Dwelling Unit
Commercial Property – 5 Day Service		
Low Volume	\$0.029	Per Square Foot
Medium Volume	\$0.191	Per Square Foot
High Volume	\$0.834	Per Square Foot
Commercial Property – 7 Day Service		
Low Volume	\$0.037	Per Square Foot
Medium Volume	\$0.252	Per Square Foot
High Volume	\$1.101	Per Square Foot

(D) The rate of the Solid Waste Service Assessments established in this Preliminary Rate Resolution shall be the rates applied by the Town Manager in the preparation of the initial Solid Waste Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year commencing October 1, 2024, as provided in Section 7 of this Preliminary Rate Resolution.

SECTION 7. SOLID WASTE ASSESSMENT ROLL.

(A) The Town Manager is hereby directed to prepare, or cause to be prepared, an updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024, in the manner provided in Section 90-63 of the Code.

(B) Such updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll shall contain the following:

1. a summary description of all Assessed Property within the Town conforming to the description contained on the Tax Roll,
2. the name and address of the owner of record of each Tax Parcel as shown on the Tax Roll, and
3. the amount of the initial Solid Waste Service Assessment for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs attributable to each Tax Parcel.

(C) The updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll shall be open to public inspection. The foregoing shall not be construed to require that the initial Solid Waste Assessment Roll be in printed form if the amount of the Solid Waste Service Assessment for each Tax Parcel of Assessed Property can be determined by use of a computer terminal available to the public.

(D) It is hereby ascertained, determined, and declared that the foregoing method of determining the Solid Waste Service Assessments for Solid Waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs is a fair and reasonable method of apportioning the Solid Waste Cost among parcels of Assessed Property.

SECTION 8. PUBLIC HEARING. There is hereby established a public hearing to be held by the Town Council at 5:01 p.m. on September 11, 2024, in the Town of Palm Beach Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 360 South County Road, Palm Beach, Florida, to consider reimposition of the Solid Waste Service Assessments, approval of the Solid Waste Assessment Roll, and collection of the Solid Waste Service Assessments pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

SECTION 9. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION. Upon completion of the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll, the Town Manager shall publish a notice of the public hearing authorized

by Section 8 hereof in the manner and the time provided in Section 90-64 of the Code. Such notice shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as Appendix A. The notice shall be published no later than August 20, 2024.

SECTION 10. NOTICE BY MAIL.

(A) If Section 90-68(c) of the Town Code so requires, upon completion of the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll, the Town Manager shall, at the time and in the manner specified in Section 90-65 of the Town Code, provide first class mailed notice of the public hearing authorized by Section 8 hereof to each property owner proposed to be assessed at the address indicated on the Tax Roll. Such notice shall be in substantially the form attached hereto as Appendix B. For Tax Parcels with exempt "home addresses" pursuant to Section 119.071(4), Florida Statutes, the Town Manager shall work with the Property Appraiser and/or Tax Collector for provision of notice. The notices shall be mailed no later than August 20, 2024.

(B) In accordance with Chapter 92-264, Laws of Florida, as amended, a special act relating to the Property Appraiser, the Town Council shall provide additional notice of the Solid Waste Service Assessment as part of the notice of proposed property taxes under Section 200.069, Florida Statutes, the truth-in-millage notification.

(C) If the Town Council determines that the notice provided under Paragraph (B) of this Section 10 also fulfills the requirements of Paragraph (A) of this Section 10, then the separate mailing requirement described in Paragraph (A) will be deemed to be fulfilled by the notice described in Paragraph (B).

SECTION 11. METHOD OF COLLECTION. The Assessments shall be collected pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED in a special, adjourned session of the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach assembled this 11th day of July, 2024.

Danielle H. Moore, Mayor

Bobbie D. Lindsay, Town Council President

Lewis S.W. Crampton, Council President Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Julie Araskog, Town Council Member

Edward A. Cooney, Town Council Member

Kelly Churney, Acting Town Clerk

Bridget Moran, Town Council Member

APPENDIX A

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED

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FORM OF NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED

To Be Published by August 20, 2024

NOTICE OF HEARING TO REIMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICE ASSESSMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach will conduct a public hearing to consider reimposing non-ad valorem special assessments for the provision of solid waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs against commercial property and apartments within the boundaries of the Town of Palm Beach for the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024.

The hearing will be held at 5:01 p.m. on September 11, 2024, in the Town of Palm Beach Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 360 South County Road, Palm Beach, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed special non-ad valorem assessments. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the Town Council within 20 days of this notice.

Pursuant to section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if you decide to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing or at any subsequent meeting to which the Town Council has continued its deliberations, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Manager's Office at (561) 838-5410 or through the Florida Relay Service by dialing 1-800-955-8770 for voice callers or 1-800-955-8771 for TDD callers, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

The assessment for your property will be based all or in part, on the type of commercial designation assigned, including apartments and the number of apartments located on a specific parcel, frequency of solid waste collection service, square footage of the property and volume of solid waste (using commercial land use volume generation rates as determined by the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County) and approved by the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach,

as these values were assigned upon the initiation of the assessment program with the adoption of the Initial Assessment Resolution (No. 25-03) and as amended by subsequent official Town modification of assessment criteria for those commercial properties assessed or added to the Commercial Customer Solid Waste Collection Services program since its inception.

The rates of assessment for the fiscal year commencing on October 1, 2024, are as follows:

Property and Service Type	Annual Assessment Rate	Billing Unit
Apartments	\$175.27	Per Dwelling Unit
Commercial Property – 5 Day Service		
Low Volume	\$0.029	Per Square Foot
Medium Volume	\$0.191	Per Square Foot
High Volume	\$0.834	Per Square Foot
Commercial Property – 7 Day Service		
Low Volume	\$0.037	Per Square Foot
Medium Volume	\$0.252	Per Square Foot
High Volume	\$1.101	Per Square Foot

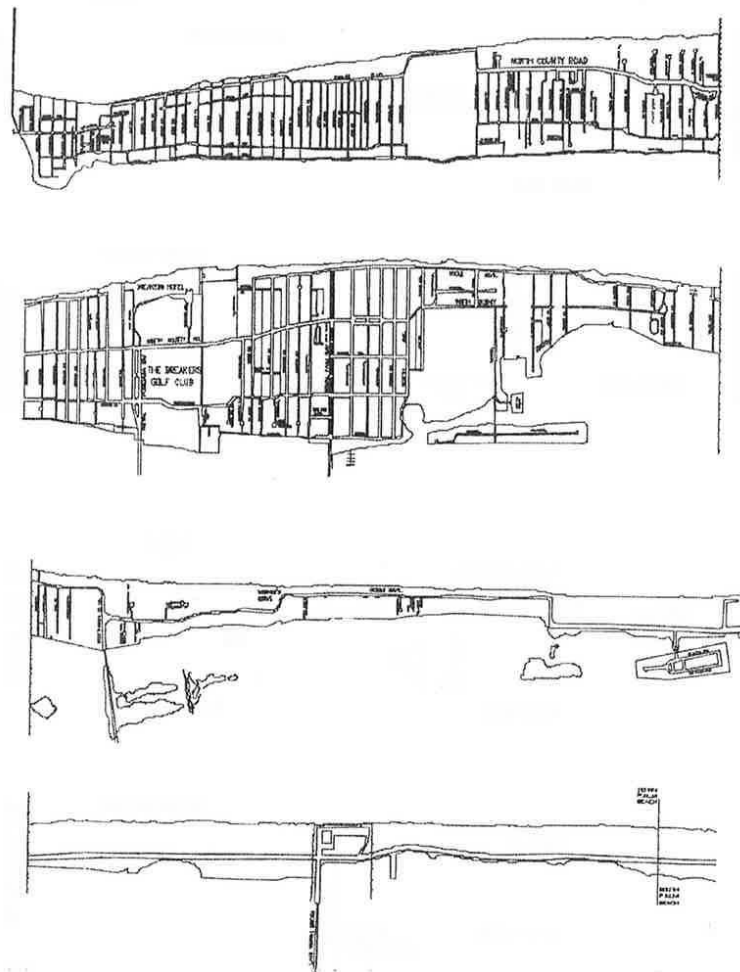
A more specific description of the services and the method of computing the assessment for each parcel of property are set forth in the Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 25-03), the Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 44-03), Resolution No. 107-2017, and the Preliminary Rate Resolution for FY 23-24 (Resolution No. ____-2024). Copies of Chapter 90, Article II of the Town Code, the above referenced resolutions, and the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll for the upcoming fiscal year are available for inspection at the office of the Town Manager, located at Town Hall, 360 South County Road, Palm Beach, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill to be mailed in November 2024, as authorized by section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will

cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Town Council action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Manager's Office at (561) 838-5410, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

MAP OF ASSESSMENT AREA



APPENDIX B

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE MAILED

APPENDIX B

FORM OF NOTICE TO BE MAILED

**Town Council of the
Town of Palm Beach, Florida
Address
Town of Palm Beach, FL**

TOWN OF PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE
FOR COLLECTION OF NON-AD VALOREM
ASSESSMENTS
NOTICE DATE: AUGUST 20, 2024

**Owner Name
Address
City, State Zip**

Tax Parcel #: _____
Legal Description: _____
Sequence #: _____

As required by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, notice is given by the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida, that an annual assessment for commercial solid waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs using the tax bill collection method, may be levied on your property for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025, and future fiscal years. The purpose of this assessment is to fund solid waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs benefiting apartments and commercial property within the incorporated area of the Town. The use of an annual special assessment to fund commercial solid waste collection and disposal services, facilities, and programs benefiting property classified as commercial and apartments and receiving Town of Palm Beach solid waste collection and disposal services is a fair, efficient and effective means of funding these needed services.

The total annual solid waste assessment revenue to be collected within the Town, is estimated to be \$894,420 for the Fiscal Year 2024-25. The assessment for your property will be based all or in part, on the type of commercial designation assigned, including apartments and the number of apartments located on a specific parcel, frequency of solid waste collection service, square footage of the property and volume of solid waste (using commercial land use volume generation rates as determined by the Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County) and approved by the Town Council of the Town of Palm Beach.

A more specific description of the services and the method of computing the assessment for each parcel of property are set forth in the Initial Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 25-03), the Final Assessment Resolution (Resolution No. 44-03), Resolution No. 107-2017, and the Preliminary Rate Resolution for FY 24-25 (Resolution No. 080-2024). Copies of Chapter 90, Article II of the Town Code, the above referenced resolutions, and the updated Solid Waste Assessment Roll for the upcoming fiscal year are available for inspection at the office of the Town Manager, located at Town Hall, 360 South County Road, Palm Beach, Florida.

The following information applies to the above parcel:

Property classification and service type: [i.e. Apartment, Low Volume 5-Day Commercial]

Number and type of assessment units: [i.e. 30 dwelling units, 10,000 square feet]

Total Solid Waste Service Assessment: \$_____

The maximum annual Solid Waste Service Assessment for the above parcel for the fiscal year commencing on October 1, 2024, and future fiscal years: \$_____.

A public hearing will be held at 5:01 p.m. on September 11, 2024, in the Town of Palm Beach Town Council Chambers, Town Hall, 360 South County Road, Palm Beach, Florida, for the purpose of receiving public comment on the proposed Solid Waste Service Assessments. You and all other affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the Town Council within 20 days of this notice. Pursuant to section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if you decide to appeal any decision made by the Town Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing or at any subsequent meeting to which the Town Council has continued its deliberations, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Manager's Office at (561) 838-5410 or through the Florida Relay Service by dialing 1-800-955-8770 for voice callers or 1-800-955-8771 for TDD callers, at least two (2) business days prior to the date of the hearing.

Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of Town Council action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

Both the non-ad valorem assessment amount shown on this notice and the ad valorem taxes for the above parcel will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill mailed in November 2024. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title.

If there is a mistake on this notice, it will be corrected. If you have any questions regarding your assessment, please contact the Town Manager's Office at (561) 838-5410, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

*** * * * * THIS IS NOT A BILL * * * * ***