



CITY OF MARCO ISLAND

To: City of Marco Island Planning Board
From: Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Date: January 9, 2026
Re: Amending The Code Of Ordinances To Allow For Legal Notices And Advertising On The Collier County Clerk Of Courts Website

Effective January 1, 2023, House Bill 7049 amended Chapter 50, Section 50.0311, Florida Statutes, to permit municipalities the opportunity to publish required legal notices and advertisements on a publicly accessible website (County Website).

Previously, all legal notices were required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

The City currently budgets approximately \$40,000–\$42,000 annually for legal noticing. The County has confirmed that there will be no cost to the City to post legal notices on the Collier County Clerk of Courts website.

Pursuant to Section 50.0311, all legal notices—except those related to Comprehensive Plan amendments, annexations, vacations, millage rates, and local ordinances—may be published on the County’s website, provided the City:

- Obtains approval from the City Council;
- Publishes notice of the change in publication method in a newspaper of general circulation at least once per year;
- Provides residents the option to receive notices via email or first-class mail upon registration with the City, and;
- Accepts all bids electronically.

To maximize the number of notices eligible for publication on the County’s website, the City recommends that the Planning Board approve the attached ordinance, which amends certain provisions of the Land Development Code and other miscellaneous sections of the City Code.

Chapter	Section
Chapter 1	
“General Provisions,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1-15, “Appeals”
Chapter 18	
“Environment, ”, Article VI - “Palm Lethal Yellowing (PLY) Disease,” Section 18-176	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 18-176 “Public Notice”
Chapter 40	
Section 40-37“Hideaway Beach District,”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 40-37 “Applicable Financial Disclosure, Noticing, And Reporting Requirements”
Chapter 54	
“Waterways” - Article IV, “Boat V Docking Facilities,” Division 2, “Regulations,”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 54-115, “Boat Dock Extensions, Protrusion, Or Encroachment Into The Riparian Setback”
Chapter 30	
“Land Development Code,” – Article I “In General”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 30-4, “Interpretations;” • Section 30-5, “Vested Rights;”
“Land Development Code,” – Article XI “Coastal Construction Setback Line Variance,”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 30-756, “Procedures For Obtaining Variances”
“Land Development Code,” – Article VII “Subdivision Standards”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 30-575, “Approval Procedure For Subdivision Plats” • Section 30-581, “Design Standards And Improvement Requirements”
“Land Development Code,” - Article IX, “Site Development Plans, Site Development Plan Amendment, Site Plans With Deviations, And Site Improvement Plan Standards,”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 30-673, “Site Development Plan, Site Development Plan Amendment, And Site Improvement Plan Submittal Requirements,” Sub-Section (10), “Neighborhood Information Meeting (NIM)”
“Land Development Code” Article XII, “Temporary Use Permits”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 30-794, “Model Homes And Model Sales Center Permits”
“Land Development Code” - Article VI, “Signage,”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 30-522, “Sign Permits”

Transitioning legal notices from newspapers to the County’s website will provide the following benefits:

- **Increased public access and transparency:** Newspaper circulation continues to decline and broadband penetration high on Marco Island with approximately 94% of Marco Island households having broadband access (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019–2023 American Community Survey). Website notices will remain posted for multiple days, compared to a single-day newspaper publication. The City will also provide a direct link from its homepage to the County’s legal notice webpage.

- **Improved staff efficiencies:** Affidavits of publication will be available more quickly through the County Clerk, and staff time associated with newspaper billing, payment processing, and reconciliation will be eliminated.
- **Cost savings:** Reduced legal noticing expenses may allow City resources to be redirected to other community priorities.

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