

Prepared By: Maria Jose  
Martin County  
Growth Management Department  
2401 S.E. Monterey Road  
Stuart, FL 34996

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 21-1.2**

**A RESOLUTION OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO INITIATE TEXT  
AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, every 5 years, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) updates the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP); and

**WHEREAS**, the 2045 LRTP has recently been adopted, replacing the 2040 LRTP, and accordingly, Chapter 5, Transportation Element, of the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan should be amended in order to be consistent with the 2045 LRTP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, Section 1-11, Amendment Procedures, states that the Martin County Board of County Commissioners may, by resolution, initiate a request to amend, modify, add to, or change the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan

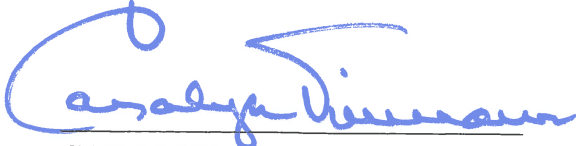
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

The Martin County Board of Commissioners herein initiates a Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment to Chapter 5, Transportation Element, of the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, and any other chapters of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan as needed to achieve consistency.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2021.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA



CAROLYN TIMMANN,  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT  
COURT AND COMPTROLLER

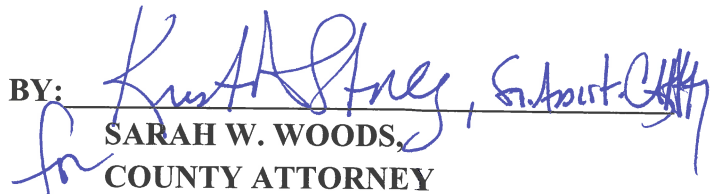
BY:



STACEY HETHERINGTON, CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

BY:



SARAH W. WOODS,  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

# Public Notice



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## Vaccines

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figures and/or estimates of vaccinations reported large gaps in vaccinations.

The publicly operated Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System, which requires employees to report their vaccination status, had among the highest known vaccination numbers of the hospitals contacted for this story.

Spokeswoman Kim Savage said last week that the organization's overall staff vaccination rate was 65%. About 90% of its 1,000 physicians and medical staff have at least one of two required shots, Savage added. The health care system has held its own vaccination clinics to encourage employee compliance.

"We will continue encouraging vaccination at other community and retail vaccination sites for new employees and those who were initially hesitant," Savage said in an email.

The private Naples-based NCH Healthcare System, Collier County's largest hospital operator, said that more than 65% of its staff — including physicians, contractors and vendors — has

been fully vaccinated. But spokesman Shawn McConnell says that reporting is not required.

Like other hospitals, NCH does not require employees to get shots. But McConnell said that could eventually change.

"NCH is currently discussing the decision to mandate vaccines once FDA approval for the vaccines is granted, however, a final decision has not been made at this time," he said.

Flagler Health+, which operates Flagler Hospital in St. Johns County, estimates that 55% of its employees have been vaccinated. St. John's County, home to historic St. Augustine, is consistently ranked as one of Florida's healthiest (and wealthiest) counties.

Spokeswoman Gina Mangus said the healthcare system provides an education program in order to support informed decision-making when it comes to vaccines.

"The voluntary COVID-19 policy was established at the inception of vaccine availability, in collaboration with our inter-professional COVID-19 vaccination team and our ethics committee," Mangus said in an emailed statement.

"As with all of our policies, we will continue to monitor, evaluate and make

adjustments should they be deemed necessary."

### Safety issue?

All hospitals contacted for this story maintain that patient safety is not being compromised, even if large shares of their employees aren't vaccinated.

Front-line workers are required to wear masks at all times and COVID-19 patients are quarantined under standards set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, they say.

Mary Briggs, a spokeswoman for the Lee Health hospital system, said all hospital employees caring for COVID-19 patients are provided with special protective gear. But, like other hospital systems contacted, it won't require staff to alert others if they have not been vaccinated.

Lee Health, for instance, requires a "Flu Proof" sticker for badges of employees who receive mandatory influenza vaccine shots every year. Employees are allowed to opt out for medical and/or religious reasons. Before COVID-19, those not flu-vaccinated had to also wear masks in inpatient areas. Now everyone does.

Still, the federal Occupational Safety

and Health Administration earlier this month published new rules to protect workers from COVID-19, a threat it called a "grave danger."They include rules on social distancing, mask-wearing and allowing employees time to get vaccinated.

They stop short of requiring vaccinations, however. But more hospitals are likely going to do that on their own, said Adalja, the senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

"What I think will happen is more hospitals will start to do this, especially after you had the court decision in favor of Houston Methodist (a hospital that started requiring them)," he said. "I think that will embed them."

He added: "I would encourage them to just have the courage to just do it," he said.

"Truth is on the side of the vaccine, not on the vaccine-hesitant health care workers."

Nikki Ross, a reporter for The Daytona Beach News-Journal, contributed to this report

Frank Gluck is a watchdog reporter with The News-Press and the Naples Daily News. Connect with him at [fgluck@news-press.com](mailto:fgluck@news-press.com) or on Twitter: @FrankGluck

## Water

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members. "We didn't talk about human health."

Shifting the conversation from environmental to public health concerns is important, though it was an unpopular opinion when he spoke out about it three years ago.

"I received some criticism from some officials and business leaders who feared it would hurt tourism," Lord said.

It took similar rhetoric and actions from local leaders such as U.S. Rep. Brian Mast, R-Palm City, to begin to change water management policy to keep people safe, Lord said.

"We have a congressman who made it a big issue to work on improving water quality and stopping discharges. We have a governor who seems sympathetic to us and has given us his support," Lord said. "I think we owe a debt of gratitude to the blue-green algae. It changed the conversation."

### Cleveland Clinic give patients unique water pollution questionnaire

The hospital has been proactive and is prepared to help patients exposed to toxic and otherwise harmful algae, Lord said.

"We know when it's cyanobacteria season. We have to prepare for it every year. We have signs in our emergency rooms," Lord said. "We have a questionnaire we give to patients. It's a form we developed. We're the only hospital in America passing this form out."

The form asks patients if they have symptoms typical from exposure to harmful algae such as nausea, vomiting, skin rash, eye irritation or respiratory issues. But more research is needed on the long-term effects of cyanobacteria exposure, Lord said.

Some preliminary research indicates a link between long-term inhalation of the toxin microcystin with fatal liver disease and neurological ailments such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's diseases. BMAA is the suspected culprit.

"I'm in the business of taking care of sick people," Lord said, "but I'd like to be in the business of keeping people well."

### What the future holds for Cleveland Clinic Martin Health CEO

Lord said he hopes to see the day when there are no Lake Okeechobee discharges; when most of the excess water is diverted south into the Everglades where it is needed; and when water is clean in Lake O as well as stormwater runoff from agricultural lands into the C-23 and C-24 canals in St. Lucie and Martin counties, respectively.

When Lord retires at the end of the year, he hopes to spend more time fishing with his grandsons in search of snook and spotted seatrout.

"I also look forward to continuing to advocate for clean water," he said. "My happiest memories here involve fishing in the Indian River Lagoon, the St. Lucie River and the (St. Lucie) Inlet. I love the rivers and the creatures that live in them."

The Rivers Coalition, founded in 1998 after particularly destructive Lake O discharges, includes 50 organizations, homeowner associations, businesses, clubs and individuals.

They advocate ending Lake O discharges and cleaning the polluted St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon waters.

Thursday was the group's first in-person meeting since February 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Ed Killer is TCPalm's outdoors writer. Sign up for his and other weekly newsletters at [profile.tcpalm.com/newsletters/manage](mailto:profile.tcpalm.com/newsletters/manage). Friend Ed on Facebook at Ed Killer, follow him on Twitter @tcpalmekiller or email him at [ed.killer@tcpalm.com](mailto:ed.killer@tcpalm.com).



Rob Lord, president of Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, speaks to the Rivers Coalition on June 24 about the human health problems created by harmful algae. Ed Killer/TCPALM

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Martin County will conduct public hearings on July 13, 2021 beginning at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the items may be heard, to review the following items:

1. Comprehensive Plan Amendment 21-01, Chapter 5, Transportation Element: A request to amend the text of Chapter 5, Transportation Element of the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan.

2. AN ORDINANCE OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT 21-06, MAGGY'S HAMMOCK PARK, AMENDING THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP OF THE MARTIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTING PROVISIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

In conjunction with:

3. A RESOLUTION OF MARTIN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING AN APPLICATION TO CHANGE THE ZONING DISTRICT FROM R-1B, SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, TO PC, PUBLIC CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND PS-1, PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT OR THE MOST APPROPRIATE ZONING DISTRICT ON 5.4 ACRES AT S.E. KUBIN AVENUE, NORTH OF MAGGY'S HAMMOCK PARK, PORT SALERNO.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. The meeting will be held in the Commission Chambers on the first floor of the Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Written comments may be mailed to: Paul Schilling, Director, Martin County Growth Management Department, 2401 S.E. Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996. Copies of the items will be available from the Growth Management Department. For more information, contact the Growth Management Department at (772) 288-5495.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding are entitled, at no cost, to the provision of certain assistance. This does not include transportation to and from the meeting. Please contact the Office of the ADA Coordinator at (772) 320-3131, or the Office of the County Administrator at (772) 288-5400, or in writing to 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL, 34996, no later than three days before the hearing date. Persons using a TTY device, please call 711 Florida Relay Services.

If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at the meetings or hearings of any board, committee, agency, council, or advisory group, that person will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record should include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

