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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012 6:29:08 PM  
**Subject:** Proposal for Lee County Ordinance on the use of golf carts on Greater Pine Island

To the Honorable John Manning, Chairman, Lee County County Board of County Commissioners

Attached is a proposal for a Lee County Ordinance regulating the use of golf carts on Greater Pine Island. The proposal was drawn and approved in a series of Pine Island Town Hall meetings hosted by the Greater Pine Island Civic Association, Inc. in February, March, and April of this year. Each sentence of the proposal was approved by majority vote at one or more of those meetings, and on April 3, a vote was had to transmit this proposal to Lee County for your review, as well as your enactment if the proposal meets your approval. The April 3 Pine Island Town Hall vote to transmit the proposal to you was unanimous.

In addition, the proposal was reviewed by numerous local civic and homeowners associations all over Pine Island and Matlacha. Every local group that did so voted to be included in the proposal.

The proposal prohibits golf carts on Pine Island and Stringfellow Roads, but allows their use within the villages of St James City, Bokeelia, Pineland, and the side streets of Matlacha, as well as the rural side streets off Stringfellow Road. Operators must have a drivers license or be disabled, over 16 years of age, and prominently displaying a valid disabled permit (valid means, inter alia, issued in their name).

The proposal prohibits golf carts on the bicycle path except for motorized wheel chairs and golf carts operated by the disabled (under the same conditions described above).

During our town hall meetings, we learned that the use of golf carts has increased greatly in the United States, and many communities all over the country are doing as we are doing in designating where and how they should be allowed. In Lee County, golf carts have already been approved for road use in Boca Grande, Captiva, and parts of South Lee County and Cape Coral. Fort Myers has the matter under study.

We also learned that we have a sizable disabled population on Pine Island to whom the use of a golf cart is critical. To most others the golf cart is a second vehicle used to transport children to the bus stop, trash to the collection points, pick up mail, village shopping, landscaping, etc.

Town Hall attendees discussed the questions of inspections, special taxes, approval stickers, special insurance, and the like and were unanimously of the view that there is no need for any of those things.

Our hope is that the Lee County staff attorneys and traffic engineers and others will study our proposal over the summer and make recommendations that we can all review this fall. You will note that the draft is drawn to give Lee DOT very broad authority to deal with any safety or other issues that may arise.

I served as the moderator of the Town Hall Meetings and draftsman of the proposal. Any questions or comments should be addressed to me at the addresses listed below.

Thank you for consideration of our proposal.

Sincerely,

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