

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONCERNED CITIZENS OF PINECREST  
SUE VILLAGE OF PINECREST TO FORCE REFERENDUM ON  
INITIATIVE THAT WILL ALLOW RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON FUTURE ZONING  
AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**

**PINECREST, FLORIDA** – On November 22, 2022, Concerned Citizens of Pinecrest obtained an alternative writ of mandamus compelling the Village of Pinecrest to schedule a referendum election on a citizen-initiated charter reform zoning proposal or show cause within 20 days as to why they will not follow the law.

Over the summer, Concerned Citizens of Pinecrest collected the required signatures for a petition to amend the Village Charter to allow Pinecrest voters to control major zoning changes instead of politicians and special interests. If approved by voters, the charter amendment would require 60 percent voter approval for future amendments to the zoning code, including amendments to land development regulations, increases in residential density, authorization of uses not currently authorized, and on whether to allow hotels or accommodation units per acre and increase lot coverage.

The Village Charter requires the Village to hold a special election concerning the adoption of the charter amendment between 60 and 120 days after the necessary number of petitions were certified by the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections. The Village failed to do so.

On November 21, 2022, Concerned Citizens of Pinecrest sued in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court in Miami Dade County. On November 22, 2022, the Court found that the petitioners had made an initial showing that they are entitled to a special election on their proposed charter amendment. If the Village does not immediately schedule an election, they have twenty days to convince a Miami circuit court judge why they do not have to comply.

“We are excited that our neighbors will have the opportunity to control development in Pinecrest and not politicians and special interests.” says Laura McNaughton, a longtime resident of Pinecrest, volunteer and founder of Concerned Citizens of Pinecrest.

“We are honored to represent Concerned Citizens of Pinecrest. The right of the people to petition their government is fundamental to upholding the rule of law and preserving the integrity of the electoral process.” says Jesus Suarez, a partner of Continental PLLC, the law firm representing Concerned Citizens of Pinecrest.

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CONTINENTAL PLLC is a national boutique law firm committed to election integrity and upholding the rule of law. Members of the firm include experienced trial and appellate lawyers, entrepreneurs, legislators, a diplomat, retired high-ranking government officials, and political leaders. The firm advises clients in Washington D.C., Florida, and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The firm’s practice areas include Complex Commercial Litigation and Corporate Bankruptcy, Investigations and White-Collar Defense, and Government Law.