

**SUMTER COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPEALING THE VILLAGES FIRE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE 98-17; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County (“Board”) has adopted the Sumter County Code of Ordinances, which serve as the laws and regulations of Sumter County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance 98-17 establishing the Villages Fire District; and,

**WHEREAS**, Sumter County has established a standard level of service through staffing, contracted services, and mutual aid for the provision of fire rescue services within the County;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interest of efficiency and effectiveness for the delivery of fire rescue services to consolidate its fire assessment district into a single assessment district consisting of the entire unincorporated areas of Sumter County, to include the former boundaries of the Villages Fire District, and the incorporated areas of Sumter County, including Bushnell, Center Hill, Coleman, Webster, and Wildwood municipalities; and,

**WHEREAS**, to achieve a consolidated single fire assessment district in Sumter County, it is necessary to repeal Ordinance 98-17, which created the Villages Fire District.

**WHEREAS**, the Board, after the appropriate publication of notice of its intention to consider this Ordinance, has determined that in consideration of the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, it is in the best interests of Sumter County, Florida to approve this ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY** the Board of County Commissioners of Sumter County, Florida, as follows:

**SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to repeal Ordinance 98-17 for the reasons set forth in the above Whereas clauses, which are incorporated herein, *in haec verba*.

**SECTION 2. AUTHORITY.**

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section I of the Florida Constitution and Sections 125.01 and 125.66 of the Florida Statutes, the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners

has all powers of local self-government to perform county functions and render county services and facilities except when prohibited by law, including the authority to amend its Code of Ordinances.

**SECTION 3. REPEAL ORDINANCE 98-17.** Ordinance 98-17 is hereby repealed, and the Villages Fire District is dissolved. Fire rescue services will continue to be provided to the properties within the former Villages Fire District through a consolidated single fire rescue assessment district serving the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

**SECTION 4. GEOGRAPHIC CONSOLIDATION.** With the repeal of Ordinance 98-17, those properties lying within the geographic boundaries of The Villages Fire District now fall within the geographic boundaries of The Sumter County Fire District, and for purposes of special assessments, are consolidated into The Sumter County Fire District as that term is defined in the Preliminary Rate Resolution for the Sumter County Fire District adopted on August 11, 2020, in which the methodology and rates are identical to those set forth in the Preliminary Rate Resolution for The Villages Fire District also adopted on August 11, 2020.

**SECTION 5. CONFLICTS AND REPEALER.**

This Ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of the Ordinances of Sumter County, Florida, except where the provisions of this Ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such Ordinances, in which event all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance, or application hereof, is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion or application shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

**SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Once adopted by the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, this Ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2021.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a duly called session of the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, this 13th day of October, 2020.

**GLORIA HAYWARD  
SUMTER COUNTY CLERK**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,  
SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ATTEST:**

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DEPUTY CLERK

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Printz  
Chairman

Approved as to form for the  
reliance of The Sumter County  
Board of County Commissioners,  
only:

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Jennifer C. Rey, Esq.  
The Hogan Law Firm, County Attorney