

CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA  
5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34652

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ADOPTION OF STORMWATER SERVICE ASSESSMENT

NOTICE DATE: JUNE 26, 2012

\*\*\*\*\*NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER\*\*\*\*\*

Dear City of New Port Richey Property Owner:

As required by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes, and City Ordinance No. 2012-1985 notice is given by the City of New Port Richey that an annual assessment for stormwater services may be levied on your property for Fiscal Year October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013 and future fiscal years. **THIS IS NOT A NEW ASSESSMENT PROGRAM; THE STORMWATER ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN IMPOSED SINCE 2001.** The past decade has brought increased awareness of the detrimental environmental impacts associated with stormwater runoff from developed property including degradation of surface waters, land erosion, flooding and collection of standing water on streets and property. In 2001, in response to public demand and increased federal regulations, the City initiated efforts to improve stormwater management services and provide a dedicated funding source for these services by creating a stormwater assessment program to generate revenues. The original stormwater assessments were imposed and collected on the November 2001 tax bill and subsequent years. However, since the City recently updated the stormwater assessment program it must provide this notice to all property owners of the updated assessment program.

Stormwater assessments are based upon the estimated amount of stormwater runoff generated by impervious surface on your property. Impervious surfaces include the rooftop, patios, driveways, parking lots and similar areas. The City has determined that the median single-family residence in the Stormwater Service Area includes 2,629 square feet of impervious surface, which is the value of one "equivalent residential unit" or "ERU Value." Single-family residential units, mobile home units and residential condominium units are charged one ERU. For general parcels, such as commercial parcels, the number of ERUs has been calculated individually for each parcel of property by dividing the impervious surface area by 2,629 square feet.

The annual Stormwater Service Assessment rate for Fiscal Year 2012-13 will be \$77.36 for each ERU. The maximum Stormwater Service Assessment rate that can be imposed without further mailed notice for future fiscal years is \$77.36 for each ERU. It is estimated that the City will collect \$1,045,409 from the Stormwater Service Assessments for Fiscal Year 2012-13. The below referenced parcel has been assigned the following ERUs and assessment amounts:

Number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs): [ERU]

The FY 2012-13 annual stormwater assessment for the above parcel is: \$[Amount]

The maximum annual stormwater assessment that can be imposed without further notice for future fiscal years is \$[Amount]

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m., or soon thereafter, on July 17, 2012, in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall, 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, Florida. Comments will be received on the proposed Stormwater Service Assessments, including their collection on the ad valorem tax bill. You are invited to attend and participate in the hearing. You may also file written objections with the City Council within twenty (20) days of the date of this notice. Please include your name, parcel number, and the reason you object to the assessment on all written objections. Objections should be forwarded as follows: City Clerk; Objections to Stormwater Non-ad Valorem Assessments; 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, Florida 34652. If you decide to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need a special accommodation or an interpreter to participate in this proceeding, please contact the City Clerk at (727) 853-1024 at least 4 days prior to the date of the hearing. If there is a mistake on this notice, it will be corrected. If you have any questions regarding the number of ERUs assigned to your property or the amount of the Stormwater Service Assessment, please contact Customer Service by telephone at (727) 853-1061.

Unless proper steps are initiated in a court of competent jurisdiction to secure relief within 20 days from the date of City Council action at the above hearing (including the method of apportionment, the rate of assessment and the imposition of assessments), such action shall be the final adjudication of the issues presented.

Copies of the City Ordinance, the Initial Assessment Resolution, and the preliminary assessment roll are available for inspection at the City Clerk's office in City Hall, located at 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, Florida, or on the City website at [cityofnewportrichey.org](http://cityofnewportrichey.org). The Stormwater Service Assessment will be collected by the Tax Collector of Pasco County, pursuant to Chapter 197, Florida Statutes; Florida law provides that failure to pay the Stormwater Service Assessment will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the assessed property which may result in a loss of title.

\*\*\*\*\*THIS IS NOT A BILL\*\*\*\*\*

[Owner Name]  
[Address1]  
[Address2]  
[City, State Zip]

Parcel Number:  
[ParcelNumber]  
Property Description:  
[ClassDescription]

## **Why Did I Receive This Notice?**

In 2001, the New Port Richey City Council established a Stormwater Utility Fund in the City in order to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act. These fees are based on an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) and City Council adopted an annual charge of \$40.32 per single family residence. This rate has not changed since the program was established 11 years ago. Please note:

- This is not a new program
- It has been imposed since 2001
- The rate has been \$40.32 since 2001

The stormwater assessment fees are paid by all developed properties in the City. If this fee was paid only with the property taxes, then those properties that are tax-exempt (governments, non-profit organizations, churches etc.) would not be paying for this service. These costs are used to cover the unfunded mandates imposed by the Federal government to keep our lakes, rivers and waters clean from pollutants, and reduce flooding of properties where applicable.

## **The Annual Fee:**

The proposed rate in the stormwater fee for fiscal year 2012-2013 is \$77.36 per Equivalent Residential Unit. The non-residential ERU calculation is the impervious area divided by 2,629 ERU value = total ERU's.

- For the average single family homeowner, the new stormwater fee per year will be:  
OLD FEE \$40.32 INCREASE +\$37.04 = NEW FEE PER ERU \$77.36
- The \$37.04 annual increase works out to be about the cost of dinner for 2 at a nice restaurant. This may seem like a lot however, there has not been an increase in 11 years.
- This will bring the program to 100% cost recovery and allow the City to remain in compliance with the Federal mandates.

## **What Services Will the Stormwater Assessment Provide?**

- Street sweeping
- Distribution of sand bags (when necessary)
- Mowing retention/detention ponds and right of ways
- Compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements (pollutants)
- Maintenance of over 40 miles of stormwater pipes & over 800 stormwater structures.

While we regret the City has to look toward increasing this assessment; we are obligated to stay in compliance, otherwise we would be in violation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit which may result in substantial fines and penalties to the City. This would not be a popular choice as many of our residents enjoy our easy access to the beautiful lakes, the Pithlachascotee River and the Gulf of Mexico.