



# Council of North County Neighborhoods

CNCN, Pinellas County, Florida

## East Lake Tarpon Annexation Bill Talking Points

September 2011

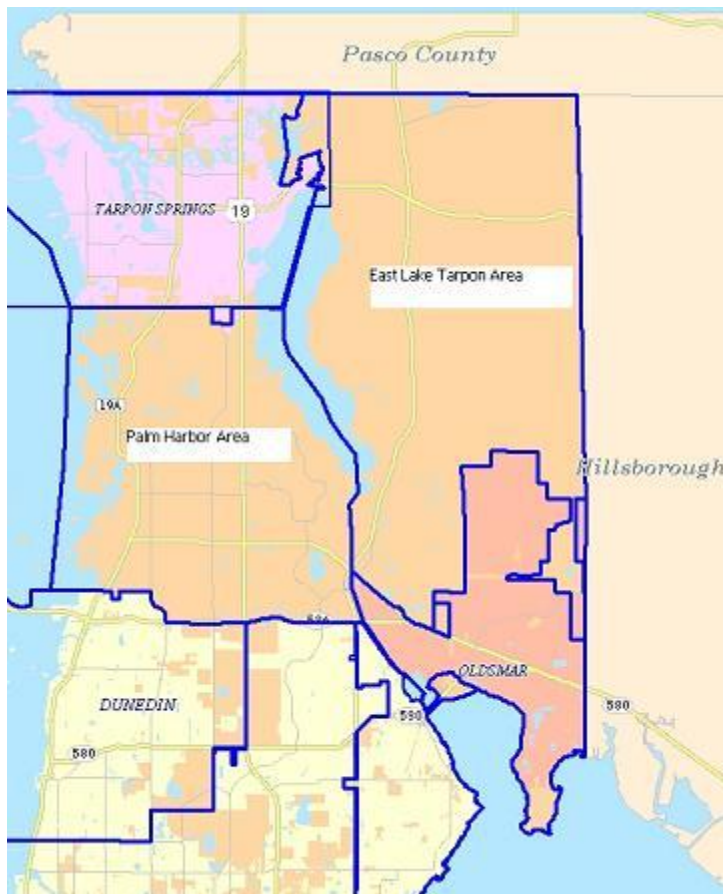
### Who is the East Lake Tarpon Community? Why are they against annexation?

1. East Lake Tarpon residents and communities do not want to be annexed by any city. They prefer to be part of unincorporated Pinellas County and be kept together as a single community that they have become during the past three decades.
2. Strong concern from residents about splintering the East Lake community by annexation
3. The East Lake Tarpon area of 33,000 residents has grown into a "community" with common goals and spirit.
4. When asked, virtually anyone in the county can immediately define where and what defines "East Lake"
5. Annexation attempt by Oldsmar proved residents desire to remain whole and part of the East Lake community by **rejecting the referendum in 2009 by a vote of 92% against being annexed by Oldsmar.**
6. Tierra Verde's successful All or None Legislation passed in 2009 set the precedent annexation protection.
7. Tighter budget concerns by cities increase the desire for increasing their tax base & East Lake demographics are attractive as a tax base
8. CNCN member communities when polled favor keeping East Lake whole and are against annexation
9. We ask for your support of this legislation to protect the area known as East Lake Tarpon from annexation

### The main points of the proposed legislation:

*A bill to be entitled*

*An act relating to the East Lake Tarpon Community, Pinellas County; providing requirements for the municipal annexation of the community; requiring a referendum of the electors within the community prior to such annexation; providing exceptions; describing the community boundaries; providing an effective date.*



**VISION:** East Lake Tarpon is a beautiful predominately family oriented residential area in the unincorporated area of Northern Pinellas County. It is bordered to the west by Lake Tarpon, to the east by the Hillsborough County Line, to the north by the Pasco County Boundary and to the south by Tampa road excluding the city of Oldsmar. Small business and limited commercial uses serve to support the residents of the community. Lake Tarpon to the west provides recreational boating activities and the Brooker Creek Preserve to the East provides many passive recreation opportunities to the residents. This area is known for its quiet, scenic neighborhoods of unique residential development communities providing a safe and fun place to grow up. It is:

1. One of the largest unincorporated areas in Pinellas County with 33,000 residents
2. Communities designed and built with similar demographics, philosophies and quality of life goals
3. Rapid, controlled growth of the area. From rural, almost 30 years ago to planned communities today



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4. 1980 US Census population 7,460 residents and 4,104 housing units, mostly rural
5. 2007 American Community Survey 32,683 population 17,985 housing units
6. Today East Lake is mostly built out, vibrant area of 100+ unique communities
7. We have 3 postal addresses, Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs, Oldsmar but are known as "East Lake"
8. Residents have resisted becoming a city in late 1990's early 2000
9. Residents of the cornerstone community East Lake Woodlands successfully defeated City of Oldsmar's annexation attempt in 2009 in a public referendum (92% against)
10. We are a taxing district and pay MSTU taxes to the county, separate taxes for our library and fire department.
11. We are a scenic and "green" community with the most undeveloped preserve land in the Brooker Creek Preserve which helps define the character of the community.



12. The area is a designated US Census district known as East Lake.
13. Google defines the area as East Lake on its maps
14. We have strong community associations and involved citizens and do not want to be part of a city.
15. The community has asked the Pinellas County Commission to adopt the "East Lake Tarpon Community Overlay" into the Comprehensive Plan which seeks to define the character and land use desires by the area residents. It will be voted on by the County commission in November 2011.

### CNCN sponsor of the legislation is:

A Florida not for profit organization (501c4) founded in 2007. The mission of the Council is to bring together the Northern Pinellas County's neighborhoods to promote communication and cooperation between member organizations, to foster a sense of community, to provide a forum for member organizations, and most important is to act as a neighborhood advocate for the benefit of our member organizations and to bring a common voice to government including and not limited to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners and the State Legislature.

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Exhibit A.

Proposed Annexation Area agreement between municipalities in Pinellas County and the County for future annexation indicates the predatory desires by surrounding cities for East Lake Tarpon unincorporated area dated 2009. Yellow area at the top right of map is East Lake Tarpon. It is due to this premeditated desire by surrounding cities to annex portions of East Lake Tarpon that this bill came into existence.

Notice the expected annexation area in blue indicating Oldsmar expected annexation of East Lake Woodlands and surrounding commercial and residential properties.

Notice green area as expected annexation by the city of Tarpon Springs of East Lake communities north and east of Lake Tarpon

