



KEN BURKE, CPA

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER - PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

Clerk of the County Court • Recorder of Deeds • Clerk and Accountant of the Board of County Commissioners • Custodian of County Funds • County Auditor • Clerk of the Water and Navigation Control Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Pinellas Clerk Releases 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Popular Annual Financial Report

The office of Ken Burke, Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, released the *Citizens' Guide to County Finances (Citizens' Guide)*, also known as the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015.

The *Citizens' Guide* is an easy-to-read financial report designed to help Pinellas County citizens understand where County revenues come from and where the money is spent. The *Citizens' Guide* presents a synopsis of the County's financial health and is based on the CAFR. The *Citizens' Guide* summarizes the essential information contained in the CAFR and provides an overview of the areas of responsibility and the operations of the County. The CAFR outlines the County's financial position and operating activities for the year in great detail and in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Pinellas County for its CAFR for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014. This was the 34th consecutive year that Pinellas County has achieved this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR. This report must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

The County has also received GFOA's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 for its separately issued PAFR. The County has received this award for the ninth consecutive year for reports whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

The County has once more applied for these awards for the CAFR and PAFR submitted for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015.

To view Pinellas County's PAFR and CAFR, visit the Clerk's website www.mypinellasclerk.org and click on Financial Reports. Other County financial reports, including Investments Reports and Bonded Debt Reports, can also be found on the Financial Reports page of the Clerk's website.

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ABOUT THE CLERK'S OFFICE:

The Clerk of the Circuit Court was established as a public trustee by the Florida Constitution in 1838. The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as the Clerk of Courts, the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor, Recorder and Custodian of all county funds.