ORDINANCE NO. 98-01

AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO CRIME PREVENTION IN ORANGE COUNTY; PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF FINES UPON CRIMINAL OFFENDERS; PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION AND ACCOUNTING OF SUCH FINES; SETTING FORTH THE ALLOCATION OF SUCH FINES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. Short Title. This ordinance shall be known as the “Orange County Safe Neighborhood Crime Prevention Fund Ordinance” and shall be codified in Section 14-9 of the Orange County Code.

Section 2. Findings. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) hereby makes the following findings of fact:

A. Counties are authorized by Section 775.083, Florida Statutes, to adopt ordinances imposing additional fines upon criminal offenders to provide funding for safe neighborhood programs under Sections 163.501 through 163.523, Florida Statutes.

B. The provision of funding to safe neighborhood programs under Sections 163.501 through 163.523, Florida Statutes, is in the public interest of the residents of Orange County.

Section 3. Authority. This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority granted to the Board in Section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. Imposition of Fines. Pursuant to Section 775.083, Florida Statutes, the Board hereby imposes, in addition to any other fine, penalty, or cost imposed by any other provision of law, a fine upon any person who, with respect to a charge, indictment, or prosecution commenced in
Orange County, pleads guilty or nolo contendere to, or is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for, a felony, a misdemeanor, or a criminal traffic offense under state law, or a violation of any municipal or county ordinance if the violation constitutes a misdemeanor under state law. The fine shall be fifty dollars ($50.00) for a felony and twenty dollars ($20.00) for any other offense. The fine shall be imposed by the court in accordance with the provisions of Section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

Section 5. Collection of Fine: Administrative Fee. The Clerk of the Court shall collect and deposit the fines in the appropriate Orange County account for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance. The Clerk of the Court will retain an administrative fee of five percent (5%) of each fine collected to provide for, maintain and operate the circuit and county courts.

Section 6. Disbursement of Funds. The funds collected from fines imposed by this Ordinance shall be accounted for and retained in a separate Orange County special revenue fund designated as the “Crime Prevention Fund”. Such funds shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of Section 775.083, Florida Statutes, and the provisions of this Ordinance. The Board, in consultation with the Orange County Sheriff, shall expend such funds for the costs of collecting the fines and for crime prevention programs in Orange County, including Orange County Safe Neighborhood Improvement Districts.

Section 7. Allocation of Funds. The funds collected from the fines imposed by this Ordinance shall annually be allocated by the Board to Orange County Safe Neighborhood Improvement Districts. For the first ten year period following the effective date of this Ordinance, the first one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars ($125,000.00) of crime prevention funds collected pursuant to this Ordinance, shall be reserved annually for allocation to the Orange Blossom Trail Local Government Neighborhood Improvement District, prior to any other allocation of crime
prevention funds collected pursuant to this Ordinance. Following such allocation of funds to the Orange Blossom Trail Local Government Neighborhood Improvement District, the Board shall allocate remaining funds to any other Orange County Safe Neighborhood Improvement District and to the Orange Blossom Trail Local Government Neighborhood Improvement District. At the expiration of each annual period within the ten year period, any allocated funds which have not been disbursed shall be returned to the Crime Prevention Fund established by this Ordinance. Upon expiration of the ten year period described above, the Board may allocate and disburse such crime prevention funds to Orange County Safe Neighborhood Improvement Districts as the Board deems appropriate.

Section 8. Annual Budget. Prior to receipt of funds as provided in this Ordinance, any Orange County Safe Neighborhood District must submit an annual budget to the Orange County Office of Management and Budget upon the date set by the Orange County Office of Management and Budget.

Section 9. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect thirty calendar days following passage of this Ordinance.