

Woodie's Wash Shack has been authorized to reopen and provide its unique disinfecting services after seeking legal relief from a prior order of closure.

Woodie's Wash Shack is a state-of-the-art facility at 5601 66th Street North in St. Petersburg where both the exterior and interior of a vehicle may be disinfected effectively, safely, and in accordance with CDC guidelines.

These disinfecting services are now available to all essential workers under Governor Ron DeSantis's executive orders regarding Covid-19, such as medical personnel, law-enforcement officers, taxis, ride-sharing drivers, and food-delivery services.

All customers, regardless of their membership status at Woodie's, will need to declare themselves essential before disinfection may occur. Each vehicle will then proceed through a wash tunnel where disinfectant is applied to its exterior. The vehicle will thereafter advance to a separate station for disinfection of its interior.

Woodie's and its attorney, Rick Alvarez of Older Lundy & Alvarez in Tampa (<https://www.olalaw.com/meet-our-team/rick-alvarez/>), petitioned the court for emergency relief in a formal action against Barry A. Burton, as the County Administrator for Pinellas County, and Bob Gualtieri, as the Sheriff of Pinellas County. The action was assigned to circuit court judge, Thomas H. Minkoff.

"I am thankful to the sheriff for working through this on an expedited basis to approve our services to prevent the spread of Covid-19," said Donald Phillips, the operating manager of Woodie's.

"We attempted numerous times directly and through various agents for reconsideration of the decision to close us, but were unfortunately rebuffed or sent on a merry-go-round with each authority pointing to another."

"You might look no further than the County Attorney Jewel White's public comments about our efforts to see the initial resistance which required our action at the courthouse and through Rick Alvarez."

"Ms. White's public comments were either terribly misinformed or really intended to eliminate any practical path toward reconsideration without having to resort to a formal legal action."

"We simply wanted to repurpose our businesses in much the same way as auto manufacturers, distilleries and others have done and to provide much needed help to our community."

"Thankfully, Sheriff Gualtieri, quickly and honorably arranged a meeting and inspected our facility."

"Finally, I cannot say enough about the measured and pragmatic way Judge Minkoff conducted himself and his reasoned approach to resolving this matter. These are unusual circumstances for which there truly is no precedent."

"We are glad that Woodie's can be serve the public welfare and get our economy working again!"