

Citizen Comments for the  
July 14, 2020 Meeting Agenda

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Non-Agendaed Items

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Darwin Gamble
	Address: 1248 Halifax Court, Tallahassee FL 32308
	Date Submitted: 7/11/2020 10:14:58 AM

After several months of noncompliance with the Sunshine Law, the Tallahassee City Commission on July 8 finally allowed the public to be heard during one of its virtual meetings. Now the Leon County Board of County Commissioners should do the same. When the Florida Legislature enacted what is now Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, it clearly intended to ensure that the public could speak and be heard during meetings of boards and commissions. The legislation had nothing to do with written comments or anything else, including charrettes.

Not one Governor's Executive order has waived any requirements in the Sunshine Law (Chapter 286). Residents in Martin County, Miami-Dade County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, and many other counties have been able to speak and be heard during virtual meetings of their boards and commissions since March. Leon County residents have not. The 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution entitles to every person in every state the equal protection of the laws of that state. It's not right that some Floridians can be heard during county commission meetings while others cannot.

The Leon County Board of County Commissioners needs to wake up, follow the law, and listen to the people.

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Feng Ji
	Address: 2555 Carthage Lane, Tallahassee, Florida, 32312
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 11:26:40 AM

Dear Sir:

The Covid-19 confirmed case is sharply increased in Leon county for the past two weeks.

I saw the following petition to lock down Leon county temporarily, I am very, very strongly to support this petition.

<https://www.wtxl.com/news/local-news/group-starts-petition-asking-leon-county-commission-to-enact-temporary-stay-at-home-order>

"TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTXL) — A petition circulating in Leon County is asking county commissioners to put the county on a temporary lockdown.

The petition asks for a seven to 14-day stay at home order, as well as scaling back to Phase 1 of reopening."

thank you very much for your time,

Yours Sincerely,

Feng Ji

# Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: kai qu
	Address: 5652 burnside cir
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 11:55:04 AM

Temporary lock down the county, action now, otherwise, we down to disaster. Reevaluting school reopening in August.

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #2

First and Only Public Hearing for the Type C Site and Development Plan  
Application for the Elizabeth Popular Spring Church on the Northwest  
Corner of Dempsey Mayo Road and Lonnie Road

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 2	Name: Sean K. Marston P.E.
	Address: 2851 Remington Green Circl Ste. D 32308
	Date Submitted: 7/14/2020 11:55:25 AM

I want to add the following statement to the BOCC regarding Elizabeth Springs Popular Church for the record:

Elizabeth Springs Popular (ESP) Church is proposing moving their church from Meridian Road to the intersection of Dempsey Mayo and Lonnie Road. The original church was built back in the early 1970's off Meridian Road adjacent to the Phipps property. The Church has been looking to expand for years. They originally were looking to expand at their current location but did not have sufficient land to expand their aging septic system.

Several years ago they purchased two lots off Dempsey Mayo totaling approximately 5 acres. UC2 has been working with the church for over a year developing a site plan that will meet their current needs and allow for future expansion as they deem necessary. This new location provides more infrastructure to support a new church development. ESP Church has already made a significant financial contribution in extending a sewer service over to the property by connecting to the sewer in the recently constructed Mahan Park Commercial Development. It has been a pleasure working with them on permitting the new church location and we look forward to a ground breaking.

We also want to thank Weldon Richardson (County Project Manager) for his assistance and guidance through the process. We have had minimal if any opposition for the project during the ARM and DRC meetings. We look forward to an approval vote from the Commission.

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 2	Name: Sean Marston
	Address: 5979 Ansel Ferrel Rd.
	Date Submitted: 7/14/2020 1:11:38 PM

Elizabeth Springs Popular (ESP) Church is proposing moving their church from Meridian Road to the intersection of Dempsey Mayo and Lonnie Road. The original church was built back in the early 1970's off Meridian Road adjacent to the Phipps property. The Church has been looking to expand for years. They originally were looking to expand at their current location but did not have sufficient land to expand their aging septic system. Several years ago they purchased two lots off Dempsey Mayo totaling approximately 5 acres. UC2 has been working with the church for over a year developing a site plan that will meet their current needs and allow for future expansion as they deem necessary. This new location provides more infrastructure to support a new church development. ESP Church has already made a significant financial contribution in extending a sewer service over to the property by connecting to the sewer in the recently constructed Mahan Park Commercial Development. It has been a pleasure working with them on permitting the new church location and we look forward to a ground breaking.

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The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #10

Approval of Five-Year Program Funding Agreement with  
the Council on Culture and Arts through FY 2025

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 10	Name: Kathleen Spehar
	Address: 1410 Chocksacka Nene
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 8:09:28 PM

Dear Commissioners- On behalf of the COCA Board of Directors, staff, and the arts, culture history and heritage sector, we look forward to continuing our work together for the good of our community. As we grapple with the impact of COVID- 19, we know our artists, creative businesses, cultural organizations and non-profits will play a key role in the success of our recovery. We look forward to working with you to ensure our arts, cultural and history/heritage sector stays a strong, vital part of our community .

With thanks,

Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director  
Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #16

Additional Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Funding

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 16	Name: Michelle Bono
	Address: 3493 Gardenview Way
	Date Submitted: 7/10/2020 10:19:21 AM

As a small business owner in Leon County, I want to thank you for the support you have already given to help keep businesses operational. While it is easy to focus on the large employers, the one- and two-person shops are also so important. I would like to add my voice to those encouraging your continued assistance by allocating a portion of the CARES Act funding to small business. It makes a difference in keeping our businesses open through the downturns from the COVID pandemic. Thank you for your consideration.

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 16	Name: Mike Goldstein
	Address: 217 W 2nd Avenue
	Date Submitted: 7/10/2020 1:28:01 PM

If passed this additional funding would greatly help small businesses hang on more than we already are and keep us going a little longer.

# Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 16	Name: Crystal Vinson
	Address: 1366 Blountstown Street
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 9:05:36 AM

I am supporting the CARES Act, and more specifically, the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program.

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 16	Name: Justine Spells
	Address: 1358 colonial dr #1
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 10:14:12 AM

Our businesses are suffering. Restaurants with a 50% capacity still cannot host large functions. My business booked multiple large functions every month and those events were instrumental in keeping us afloat.

We understand and take the COVID very seriously and have applied heavier rules than what's been asked of us since day one. The early shutdown for our county caused massive economic hardships and now in the slow summer months in a seasonal town, it's hard to recoup those numbers.

Finnegans, 5th and Thomas, Mellow Mushroom, Wells Brother's, Spear It, Fox & Stag, Fire Betty's, and now Chi Chi's have all closed 100% cause is the Corona Virus, I'm sure I missed some and I'm sure the list will keep on growing. These are just Food & Beverage businesses, one industry. There's far more small, local businesses that have shutdown as well.

Local businesses provide local jobs and have a larger percent of the money stay in the local economy. That's why it's imperative to ensure the local businesses survive.

Please give our businesses hope.

# Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 16	Name: Schneur Oirechman
	Address: 224 chapel drive
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 10:59:11 AM

Very important for pur community. Thank you



The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #25  
Status Report on a Potential Unmarked Cemetery within the  
Miccosukee Greenway

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 25	Name: Gloria Anderson
	Address: 3515 Easter Stanley Rd.
	Date Submitted: 7/11/2020 6:18:17 PM

Thank you for your assistance with the New Hope Cemetery Project in identifying this slave burial ground which has been abandoned, forgotten and built over. Many of our enslaved ancestors, great-grandparents and grandparents were born, worked died and are buried in the New Hope Cemetery upon these red clay hills of the Whitfield/Fleischmann/Welaunee Plantation.

The story is told that one of the Whitfield slaves was sent off to the Confederate Civil War with his sons to care for them if they were injured. It is told one was actually shot. His slave pulled the son out of the battle and stayed with him until he took his last breath. The father was indebted to the slaves family for his bravery, and many are buried in this cemetery.

When freedom came, some slaves left, but others had no where to go, so they became tenant farmers on the plantation and were buried on this plantation in they worked until around the mid 1940's when no more burials were allowed. This project has been very spiritual wherein on our visits we could feel the presence.

There were many oral histories told of life on Welaunee. There were recollections when the Miccosukee and Centerville Road were trails, later to dirt roads and then finally to paved roads.

Other stories of how the Indians lived among the slaves on the countryside in Leon County. Brush arbor churches were built such as Indian Branch 1860(todays St. Peter PB Church Centerville Rd) and Testreena 1871 (todays Testerina PB Church Miccosukee Road).

We want our children and your children and generations to come, to know this story through educational site visits, dedicated memorials, stories and more. Let us recognize, care, honor, protect and preserve this historical site in memory of those who dedicated their service and life in shaping our community.

Thank you.

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 25	Name: Jeffrey Shanks
	Address: 1425 Silver Pine Lane
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 9:11:40 AM

I am an archaeologist with the National Park Service and have investigated a number of unmarked cemeteries, including the unmarked cemetery located at the Capital City Country Club golf course. The unmarked African American cemetery located on the Miccosukee Greenway and Testarina Primitive Baptist Church is not an isolated phenomenon. A 1999 state task force conservatively estimated that there could be as many as 1500 abandoned cemeteries across Florida. That vast majority of these cemeteries contain African American burials dating from the early 19th through the early 20th centuries that have been erased by development, displacement of black communities, and other factors. Because the area surrounding Tallahassee contained the bulk of Florida's antebellum plantation system, many of those abandoned African American cemeteries are located in Leon County.

Currently there are gaps in the Florida statutes that should be protecting abandoned cemeteries like this and while there are legislative efforts underway to try and address this issue, it has not happened yet. This is still a very real problem and many of these sites are in danger of being destroyed or have already been destroyed. Because of the wide scope of this problem and the lack of consistent guidance from the statutes it may be advisable for municipal governments like Leon County to take action through local ordinances or by developing a technical advisory committee or task force to address the issue. NPS is always available as a potential resource to provide technical assistance as needed.

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #29

Consideration of Amendment to Emergency Ordinance No. 20-15

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 29	Name: Kelly Fleck
	Address: 2436 Arvah Branch Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32309
	Date Submitted: 7/13/2020 12:54:57 PM

The mask mandate has had horrible ramifications. The language is vague. Personally, I suffer chronic severe migraines which are triggered by many things (light, noise, perfume) including trouble breathing. I have tried various masks and they all cause migraines within 15 minutes. I have been refused treatment at my own primary care doctor's office for refusal to wear a mask!! I have been verbally assaulted by strangers in Walmart when not wearing a mask. I cannot attend church. It's gotten to the point where I just don't want to go anywhere. I have done a lot of reading on this virus, as I am sure many people have, and I firmly of the opinion that masks cause more harm than good. It causes one to breathe in recycled carbon dioxide. It causes one to touch one's face often which brings germs to the face. I have read that the lack of oxygen from masks causes brain damage especially to children. As we prepare for school to start, I'm very worried about my child having to wear a mask at school. The covid numbers are up because of more testing. Please end the mandatory mask requirements immediately.

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #34

Ratification of the July 14, 2020 Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Workshop

## Board of County Commissioners, July 14, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 34	Name: Dr. Claudette Harrell
	Address: 1017 Epping Forest Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32317
	Date Submitted: 7/14/2020 6:05:47 PM

This email serves to thank you for the below email and the opportunity to provide comments. I humbly request your support and consideration to include the Tallahassee Urban League, Inc., as a partner in the CARE Program to dedicate funding allocations as a human services nonprofit organization to not only serve a low-income, poverty stricken and disenfranchised area of our community but county-wide as well.

As you already know, the Frenchtown community is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Tallahassee, Florida. As a community-based organization located in Frenchtown, a low-privatization area, the State of Florida identified the community as the lowest Reading and poverty level in the state. Systemic inequities for individuals with low-income and of color in Tallahassee disproportionately placed the Frenchtown community at-risk for poor, uneducated, African-American and Latinos. Aligned with its mission, the Tallahassee Urban League Inc., continues to empower African Americans, along with other minorities, and low-income families to realize their full human potential. This is achieved by fostering economic self-reliance, parity, and civil rights through specially-tailored programs that focus on housing, economic development, youth crime prevention, emergency food and shelter, health promotion, job referral, victim support services and historic preservation. Residents contact the Tallahassee Urban League daily for all forms of assistance including food, rent, mortgage payments, personal items, mental health and healthcare services, advocacy for such services as public housing, re-subsidizing housing, utilities and restoration of utility services.

As a county resident, I strongly encourage you to consider the Tallahassee Urban League, Inc. as a partner of the CARE Program and dedicate funding to support the services provided to our community.

Warm regards,

Dr. Harrell