

Citizen Comments for the  
October 13, 2020 Meeting Agenda

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Non-Agendaed Items

## Board of County Commissioners, October 13, 2020 Citizen Comments

Non-Agenda	Name: Kathleen Spehar
	Address: 2124 Dozier Dr
	Date Submitted: 10/12/2020 4:53:49 PM

Dear Commissioners- At your September 29th meeting, a provision to extend the existing Leon CARES program to a wide variety of non-profit organizations unanimously approved. This showed outstanding leadership and great understanding of what our community really needs, Since then, the Council on Culture & Arts (COCA), The Institute for Non-Profit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) and United Partners For Human Services (UPHS) have been working with Shington Lamy and the Division of Human Services staff to prepare our community to apply for this opportunity, including over 168 attendees at last week's information webinar. After two days of pre-application prep with several community leaders, the program launched Wednesday morning. Since then, we've been fielding calls, answering emails, providing technology support, and assisting a variety of non-profits to apply for the program.

This program allows us to blanket the sector with the resources needed to continue their important work and service our community at this crucial time. On behalf of our sector, thank you for allocating these much-needed resources to non-profit organizations. Your leadership and vision will be strongly reflected in the ways non-profits continue to positively impact our community.

With appreciation,

Felina Martin, Executive Director, The Institute for Non-Profit Innovation and Excellence (INIE)

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

Amber Tynan, Executive Director, United Partners For Human Services (UPHS)

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #9

Request to Reschedule the Workshop on Affordable Housing  
Initiatives in Leon County

## Board of County Commissioners, October 13, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 9	Name: Sara McCabe
	Address: 2808 Wood Hollow Ct
	Date Submitted: 10/10/2020 8:21:35 PM

This item seeks Board approval to reschedule the "Workshop on Affordable Housing Initiatives in Leon County" (discussion of inclusionary housing and housing accessibility for low-income residents) until March 23, 2021.

This workshop was requested in March 2020!! I do not think it is appropriate or fair to make citizens wait ONE YEAR to hear what the County is doing to address the issue of affordable housing for low-income residents in Leon County....ONE YEAR!!! This workshop was requested in MARCH 2020!

The workshop was to include a report of the County's efforts to meet the critical need for affordable housing: 1) an analysis of the County's list of properties designated for affordable housing, 2) an update on the alignment of County and City affordable housing programs and 3) implementation of the Affordable Housing Workgroups recommendations."

ALSO, LET'S HEAR DETAILS ABOUT HOW \$432K OF FEDERAL CARES MONEY IS BEING SPENT ...."The County was allocated \$432,255 from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) in State CARES Act funds to provide housing assistance to County residents impacted by COVID-19...that must be expended by December 30, 2020.... [T]he Housing Services Division has been aggressively focused on implementing programs such as emergency housing repair, homeownership counseling and other eligible programs to ensure that the CARES Act funds are utilized to assist Leon County homeowners and tenants.

CITIZENS HAVE A RIGHT TO A REPORT NOW!

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #11

Proposed Revisions to Leon County Personnel Policies and  
Procedures, Section VII - Attendance and Leave – Teleworking

## Board of County Commissioners, October 13, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 11	Name: Tom Brantley
	Address: 3213 N Shannon Lakes Dr
	Date Submitted: 10/12/2020 7:13:22 PM

<p>3213 N Shannon Lakes Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32309 October 12, 2020 Leon County Commission 301 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32301</p> <p>RE: Letter of Support &amp; Request to Modify Staff Teleworking Policy – Agenda item #11</p> <p>Dear Honorable Chairman &amp; Members of the Board:</p> <p>As a 32-1/2 year employee of Leon County (mid 1988-Present), I was grateful for being extended a laptop and opportunity back in April to perform telework for what I understood was the duration of Covid-19 pandemic. This is because of double pneumonia suffered in 1997, following my inhalation poisoning by the ingestion of toxic insecticides being applied inside of County buildings by County staff, just two years after I was promoted from Chief of Engineering Design in Public Works to Director of Facilities Management in Management Services (Report of Injury is dated November 1997).</p> <p>In 2016, I entered the FRS-DROP after a successful 30-year career including the focal point of 21-1/2 years work as Leon County Facilities Director, followed by return to Public Works and resuming the management of several large-scale capital projects which have consisted of our first three sanitary sewer retrofit installations (Woodside Heights, Belair &amp; Annawood), the replacement of collapsing retaining walls outside of County buildings, replacing failed industrial floor slabs (Solid Waste Management Transfer Station), replacement of antiquated primary electrical components (inside the Bank of America building with another pending at Courthouse), repairing a failing earthen dam (Centerville Trace), also constructing various replacement park structures (at Canopy Oaks Park, Kate Ireland Park and Vause Landing) and constructing the Bradfordville Volunteer Fire Department.</p> <p>However, unbeknownst to me until this Covid-19 pandemic first appeared was a certain remnant condition of my preceding on-the-job injury that appears to be of a lasting nature. Some 23-years after my perceived recovery, the doctors have had to explain to me and write letters to the County indicating that I'm now a prime party for developing and/or spreading the Covid-19 infection due to the inhalation pneumonia's residual scarring of my lungs. Also, being 61-years of age, taking medications for a mild case of hypertension, having blood type A+ and following prior surgeries for artificial joint implants (both hips), all combines to put me into a high-risk category for concocting or conveying this disease to others as a bit of "spreader". This is what my doctors have all had to inform Leon County.</p> <p>So, while I do support this policy as a great achievement of the County, I do appeal to you for an insertion of more positive introduction to be added to the policy stating its foundation in our reaction to the Covid-19 pandemic, also stating our proactive steps, such as investment in laptop computers and interactive tools like Zoom, but also adding a clause to this policy prioritizing and accommodating pre-existing conditions. I'd love to finish out my remaining 10-months of DROP doing what I do best, without making any life-death decisions.</p> <p>My closing prayer and hope is for everyone's safety and well-being, also for a prompt release of new vaccines and treatments for Covid-19 disease that have overtaken parts of our world. I expect to be one of the first in-line to receive these when such advancements are released.</p> <p>Respectfully yours, Tom Brantley</p> <p>Thomas P. Brantley, MSCE, PE, PLS, CGC, CUC Chief of Building Engineering - Public Works</p>	<p>BY CITIZEN INPUT PORTAL TO BOARD</p>
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The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #12

Maintenance Agreement with Florida Department of  
Transportation for the Landscaping of the Medians along North  
Monroe Street from the Gadsden County Line to Interstate 10



## Board of County Commissioners, October 13, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 12	Name: Danielle Irwin
	Address: 3185 Ferns Glen Dr.
	Date Submitted: 10/12/2020 7:25:26 PM

As we consider our fertilizer ordinance and hopefully strengthening that to reduce the amount of nutrients making their way into our waterbodies (both engineered and natural ones), we should look for other opportunities to effect change in landscaping best management practices outside of the fertilizer ordinance. One such opportunity is the maintenance of the median on North Monroe. FDOT has been maintaining the landscaping of the median for 2 years and it is time for us to assume the long-term maintenance to the tune of \$90,000 per year.

My asks:

1. Prohibit the herbicide known as glyphosate and Roundup.
2. Prohibit fertilizer application during the wet season unless new landscaping has been planted, in which case it can be fertilized during a 60 day establishment period.
3. Specify only native plants for any new landscaping or replanting of the median.

Please work to get these included in the maintenance contract with FDOT. My requests will help to reduce the costs of maintaining the median while protecting public health and the health of our waterbodies. Thank you.

The following Citizen Comments  
were received for Agenda Item #20

Bid Award for the Construction of Daniel B. Chaires  
Baseball Field Improvements

## Board of County Commissioners, October 13, 2020 Citizen Comments

Agenda Item 20	Name: Marcy Palmer
	Address: 4773 Chaires Crossroad
	Date Submitted: 10/13/2020 9:36:34 AM

We want to be on record AGAINST this bid award for the 60/90 ball field at Chaires Park and particularly at this time in our Covid-19 budget crisis. An earlier e-mail said this issue had been tabled because of the "enormous budget shortfall." This construction project is now more than DOUBLE the original estimated cost, and is NOT prudent use of taxpayer money. This project was ill-advised from the beginning. It is not an appropriate location and is destroying what is left of the more natural parts of this park. Years ago, promises were made between the existing Commission and a citizen's board to maintain a large portion of this property for walking trails and PASSIVE use, such as a multi-purpose unlit field - this agreement was ignored by a later Commission. I understand that half a million dollars have already been spent by the county, trying to save money on the construction, by doing the prep work and grading ahead of actual construction...

The Little League and the Babe Ruth (60/90 field) do not even BEGIN to pay for the construction or the long-term, ongoing maintenance of these fields, parking, roads, concession stands, lighting or restrooms. We the TAXPAYERS do. It is amazing that we have a pandemic and right now it is ill-advised to even participate in team sports, much less spend valuable dollars on this at this time.

Fred and Marcy Palmer

Chaires