



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - County Manager

J.2.

5/5/2026

Subject:

The Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard 2026 - Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER)
Submissions - **Time Certain 6:00 PM**

Fiscal Impact:

To be determined, as directed by the Board

Dept/Office:

County Manager's Office

Requested Action:

It is requested the Board of County Commissioners review citizen recommendations submitted through Speak Up Brevard and vote to accept the recommendation; accept the recommendation with revisions; or reject the recommendation; as required under the County Charter.

Summary Explanation and Background:

Brevard County Home Rule Charter, Section 2.9.10, specifically provides 'citizens':

"a mechanism for an individual, or an organized group of individuals to submit a formal written recommendation for the enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of County government to the County Commission on an annual basis."

In calendar year 2026, the County received 61 citizen recommendations.

The submission period for 2026 was scheduled beginning January 1 through January 31. Attached is a spreadsheet which identifies each citizen recommendation, the County Department that reviewed the recommendation and a staff recommendation to either accept, accept with revisions, or reject each citizen recommendation. Also included in the attachments are the details of each citizens' recommendation, and staff input relating to each recommendation.

Staff is requesting that the Board approve staff recommendations in a single motion for all the citizen recommendations. The Board may choose to pull those items from the staff recommendations that the Board would like to discuss and/or take alternative action on from the staff recommendation for particular Speak Up Brevard recommendations.

According to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter and Board Policy BCC-95, the Board of County Commissioners must take a final vote either to accept, accept with revisions, or reject within 120 days of the submittal date of the Speak Up Brevard recommendations. All Speak Up Brevard recommendations for this

cycle were received on or before January 31, 2026.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please include recommendations in the Clerk Memo.



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

May 6, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

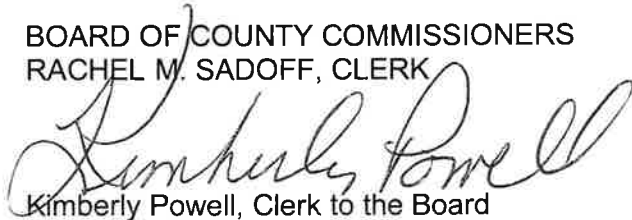
RE: J.2., The Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard 2026 – Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) Submissions

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on May 5, 2026, reviewed the CEER recommendations submitted through Speak Up Brevard and accepted staff's recommendations with revisions as required under the County Charter. Enclosed is the CEER recommendations.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/sj

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner
Budget
Finance

CEER ID	Submit Date	Assigned Department	Recommendation Title	Citizen Name	Recommendation	Does this reduce cost?
2026001	1/1/2026	Natural Resources Management	Implementing a Dynamic Flood Mitigation Strategy Utilizing Canaveral Locks	Tom Kennelly	Reject	No
2026002	1/1/2026	Public Works Department	Proper equipment for Public Works - More asphalt trucks	Tom Kennelly	Reject	No
2026003	1/1/2026	County Attorney	Government Policy: Citizen Journalism and Photography on Public Property	Tom Kennelly	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026004	1/1/2026	Natural Resources Management	Installing backflow preventers on storm water drains along the Indian River Dr	Tom Kennelly	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026005	1/1/2026	Emergency Management Office	Publis Service Radio Encryption	Daniel Elley	Reject	No
2026006	1/2/2026	Emergency Management Office	Encryption of radio channels	Seth D McCollum	Reject	No
2026007	1/3/2026	Planning And Development Department	ADA - Accessible Golf Cart Overpass	Joanne Maksym	Reject	No
2026008	1/4/2026	Public Works Department	Change Policies from Complaint Based - Reactive to more Proactive	John Myers	Accept w/ revisions, Reject	No
2026009	1/5/2026	County Manager's Office	Enforce Motor Vehicle Law	Caesar Velez	Reject	N/A
2026010	1/6/2026	County Manager's Office	Promote Beach Cleanups	Deborah A Sullivan	Accept w/ revisions	No

2026011	1/6/2026	Public Works Department	Viera rotary - Wickham Rd & Lake Andrew Dr	Michael Durante	Reject	No
2026012	1/6/2026	Public Works Department	Biking it	Ingrid Mellone	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026013	1/7/2026	Public Works Department	Median Endcaps	Lynda Alexander	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026014	1/7/2026	Natural Resources Management	Strengthen enforcement measures for privately owned retention ponds	Robert S Vail	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026015	1/7/2026	Natural Resources Management	Fix Indian River Drive in conjunction with SOIRL Septic to Server - funded	Tom Kennelly	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026016	1/7/2026	Public Works Department	Upgrade the storm water drain at Brookhill Dr and Indian River Dr	Tom Kennelly	Reject	No
2026017	1/7/2026	Natural Resources Management	water quality	Lynn Patow	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026018	1/8/2026	Emergency Management Office	encrypted transmission of county & city of Melbourne	Terri Fulon	Reject	No
2026019	1/9/2026	County Manager's Office	Improved Notification and Transparency	Traci Robinson	Reject	No
2026020	1/10/2026	Emergency Management Office	Provide a delayed unencrypted stream of the BCSO radio comms	Scott Moore	Reject	No
2026021	1/12/2026	County Manager's Office	Public Water Access	Margaret R	Reject	No
2026022	1/12/2026	Planning And Development Department	Enforcement residential being used commercial	Lesa Hersom	Reject	No
2026023	1/13/2026	County Manager's Office	Strengthen Zoning and Curtail Growth	Irene Soler	Reject	No

2026024	1/13/2026	Natural Resources Management	Inventory of Private Retention ponds	Robert S Vail	Reject	No
2026025	1/18/2026	County Attorney	Fix the Problem First with SOIRL	Judy L Trandel	Reject	No
2026026	1/19/2026	U/Brevard County Extension Services Office	Bee Hive Control	Denise Anderson	Reject	N/A
2026027	1/19/2026	Emergency Management Office	Removal of first responder radio traffic encryption	Amy Ketchum	Reject	No
2026028	1/19/2026	Housing And Human Services Department	Temporary housing for homeless and more affordable homes for lower income reside	Susan Douglas	Accept w/revisions	No
2026029	1/19/2026	Emergency Management Office	Stop Full Encryption of Public Safety Radios & Restore Transparency Without Risk	Sean Gildea	Reject	No
2026030	1/22/2026	Natural Resources Management	Monitor recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health	William R Klein	Reject	No
2026031	1/23/2026	Public Works Department	Improve Traffic Flow and Reduce Waste and Pollution with Roundabouts	Jennifer Dustin	Accept w/revisions	No
2026032	1/25/2026	Housing And Human Services Department	How to get help with my energy bill	Angela Grubius	Reject	N/A
2026033	1/25/2026	Emergency Management Office	Un-encryption of BCSO and BCFFR radio channels	Robert D Sullivan	Reject	No
2026034	1/25/2026	Emergency Management Office	Un-encryption of BCSO and BCFFR radio channels	Robert D Sullivan	Reject, duplicate	No

2026035	1/27/2026	County Attorney	City of Melbourne vs. Unincorporated Brevard County	Elaine Trotter	Reject	N/A
2026036	1/28/2026	Public Works Department	DEADLY STREET CORNER	Brielle Robinson	Reject	No
2026037	1/28/2026	Emergency Management Office	Project Warm Harbor	Melissa h Brandt	Reject	No
2026038	1/29/2026	Natural Resources Management	Storm Drain Steciling near St Johns River Watershed areas	WILLIAM A ZOBY	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026039	1/29/2026	Parks And Recreation Department	Fishing Line Recycling Tubes	WILLIAM A ZOBY	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026040	1/29/2026	Parks And Recreation Department	Signage Campaign at key recreational locations on the Saint Johns River	WILLIAM A ZOBY	Reject	No
2026041	1/29/2026	Solid Waste Department	Resumption of making "the fines" from yard waste	Thomas H Perez	Reject	No
2026042	1/29/2026	County Manager's Office	Sidewalks on A1A PLEASE	Elaine Trotter	Reject	N/A
2026043	1/29/2026	Natural Resources Management	Incentive Program for Low Impact Development	Laura E Wilson	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026044	1/30/2026	County Manager's Office	Commercial Spaceport Authority -- A Spaceport Task Force	Michael D Myjak	Previous CEER, accepted with revisions 2024	No
2026045	1/30/2026	Natural Resources Management	Soil Health Moonshot - Transform Brevard Soils into a Sustainable Living Filter	Robert Pickett	Reject	No
2026046	1/30/2026	Public Works Department	Lower The Dias	Kevin D Jeffrey	Reject	No

2026047	1/31/2026	Planning And Development Department	Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties	Elizabeth Baker	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026048	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Public Records Need to be Put on the Internet	Sarah K Hodge	Reject	No
2026049	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Intergovernmental Coordination/Ethics & Transparency	Mary L Harvey	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026050	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Board Reports	Sandra Sullivan	Reject	No
2026051	1/31/2026	County Attorney	District 1 staff	Lisa Mosier	Reject	No
2026052	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Infrastructure Surtax	Sandra Sullivan	Reject	No
2026053	1/31/2026	Planning And Development Department	Parks & Rec	Sandra Sullivan	Previous CEER, Rejected 2024	No
2026054	1/31/2026	Tourism Development Office	Tourism Beaches Funding	Sandra Sullivan	Reject	No
2026055	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Public Records Requests Transparency	Sandra Sullivan	Reject	No
2026056	1/31/2026	Natural Resources Management	Moratorium on Glyphosate	Sandra Sullivan	Reject	No
2026057	1/31/2026	Parks And Recreation Department	Parks Boards Better Efficiency	Sandra Sullivan	Reject	No
2026058	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Expand Transparency for Public Records	SARAH K HODGE	Reject	No
2026059	1/31/2026	County Manager's Office	Speak Up Brevard Workshop 2026	T. Alexandra Mott	Reject	No
2026060	1/31/2026	County Attorney	Review Frequently Requested Public Records to Improve Online Access	SARAH K HODGE	Accept w/ revisions	No
2026061	1/31/2026	Solid Waste Department	Recycling at Cocoa Landfill	Anne Hicks	Reject	No



February 11, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner Katie Delaney, District 1

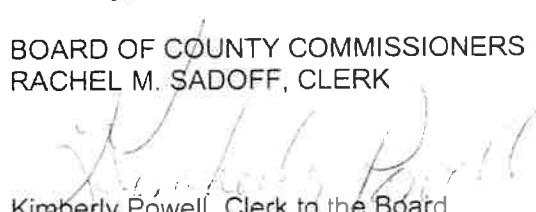
RE: Item J.2., 2026 Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard Workshop for Commissioners to Hear Citizen Effectiveness and Efficiency Recommendations (CEER)

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 10, 2026, discussed consideration of a workshop for the Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard CEER program but took no action; and authorized a time certain for the Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard CEER Program at the regularly scheduled Commission meeting, after staff recommendations, providing speakers five minutes to present their CEER.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK


Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: Commissioner Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5
County Manager
County Attorney



March 18, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner Katie Delaney, District 1

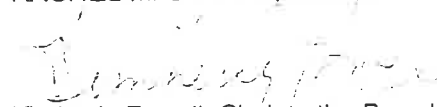
RE: Item J.5., Speak Up Brevard 2026 Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) Submitter Presentations

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on March 17, 2026, tabled receiving presentations from individuals who submitted CEERs as part of the 2026 Speak Up Brevard cycle, to the May 5, 2026, regular Board meeting, time certain at 6:00 p.m.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK


Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: Each Commissioner
County Manager

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 1, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026001



Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026001 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Tom Kennelly
Address	3711 Indian River Dr, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone	(321) 228-5314
Email	tekennellyp@gmail.com
Alternate Email	

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026001
Recommendation Title	Implementing a Dynamic Flood Mitigation Strategy Utilizing Canaveral Locks
Areas Affected	Storm water and flooding in northern Brevard
Department Affected	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Current problem	Executive Summary: Brevard County frequently experiences flooding events, exacerbated by hurricanes and seasonal rainfall. This proposal recommends a proactive, data-driven strategy involving continuous monitoring of St. Johns River water levels and

strategic opening of the Canaveral Locks to alleviate lagoon flooding, thereby reducing property damage, protecting residents, and improving lagoon health. This will require collaborative effort between the County EOC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Port Canaveral. Background: Recent flooding events, notably in northern Brevard during October 2025, highlighted the vulnerability of roadways and residential properties to lagoon overflow and storm water flooding. Without a coordinated response, damage is costly, disruptive, and can lead to significant resident distress. Proposed Action: Real-Time Monitoring: Establish continuous monitoring of the St. Johns River's Depth of Collection using the provided URL: <https://secure.sjrwmd.com/aqportal/Data/DataSet/Chart/Location/37375724/DataSet/Depth%20of%20Collection/YSI/Interval/Latest>. A trigger level of 1.9 meters will be utilized as a starting point, with consideration for adjusting this threshold based on historical data and hydrological modeling. Lock Operation Protocol: When the Depth of Collection consistently exceeds the trigger level, the following criteria will be used to determine the initiation and duration of Canaveral Locks opening: Ocean Tide: Opening should coincide with the nearing of low tide. Lagoon Water Level: Opening should occur when the lagoon water level is demonstrably higher than the surrounding land. Duration: Lock operation will continue until the lagoon water level significantly decreases (defined by a measurable drop of at least 0.5 meters) and the Depth of Collection falls below the trigger level. Coordination & Communication: The Brevard County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will serve as the central coordinating body, working directly with USACE and Port Canaveral to establish and execute this protocol. Clear communication channels and established response times are crucial.

Recommendation

Benefits (Expanded & Detailed): Rather than considering raising roads and other areas at great expense to the county eliminate the flooding using first principles thinking - eliminate the excess water Reduced Property Damage: Targeted drainage will minimize damage to roads (like Indian River Drive), homes, and infrastructure. This proactive approach is significantly more cost-effective than reactive flood response. Resident Protection: Provides a tangible mechanism to protect residents from flood damage and displacement, enhancing community resilience. Political Considerations (Reframed): While acknowledging the need for effective governance, this initiative is fundamentally about citizen safety and the responsible use of resources. Transparency and community engagement will be paramount. Lagoon Health Improvement: The process of draining excess freshwater will promote salinity balance within the lagoons, benefiting the delicate ecosystem and reducing the potential for algae blooms. This is a critical component often overlooked. Economic Impact: Reduced property damage translates to lower insurance premiums, less disruption to businesses, and a more stable local economy. Improved Flood Forecasting: Consistent monitoring and data collection will contribute to a more accurate understanding of flood dynamics within the region, informing future mitigation strategies. Potential Issues & Mitigation Strategies: Port Debris & Dredging: This is a valid concern. To mitigate this: Proactive Monitoring: Implement a system for continuous monitoring of the waterway leading to the locks for debris accumulation. Port Responsibilities: Clearly define Port Canaveral's responsibility for debris removal and establish a regular dredging schedule. This is something the Port can do for the citizens. Funding Mechanism: Explore options for dedicated funding for dredging, potentially through a portion of Port revenue. It is important to note that northern Brevard citizens are financially responsible for the Port and can be taxed for Port operations. The Port can give back to the community with this effort. Formal Agreement: Develop a written agreement outlining roles, responsibilities, communication protocols, and decision-making processes. Regular Meetings: Establish a standing committee involving representatives from each agency to discuss operational procedures and address potential challenges. Lock Operational Impacts: Consider potential impacts on maritime traffic and vessel operations. USACE should assess these impacts and implement measures to minimize disruption. Public Awareness: Develop a clear and accessible public awareness campaign to educate residents about the initiative, its purpose, and how it will be implemented. Next Steps: Conduct a hydrological assessment to refine the trigger level and optimize lock operation protocols. Secure formal agreements with USACE and Port Canaveral. Establish a dedicated monitoring system and communication network. Develop a comprehensive public awareness plan including an outreach to northern Brevard citizenry to strongly encourage their Port Commissioner to adopt this plan to help their community.

Attachments

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TEST.txt



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026001

CEER #2026001, titled Implementing a Dynamic Flood Mitigation Strategy Utilizing Canaveral Locks, was received by the County from Tom Kennelly.

Citizen Statement:

Executive Summary: Brevard County frequently experiences flooding events, exacerbated by hurricanes and seasonal rainfall. This proposal recommends a proactive, data-driven strategy involving continuous monitoring of St. Johns River water levels and strategic opening of the Canaveral Locks to alleviate lagoon flooding, thereby reducing property damage, protecting residents, and improving lagoon health. This will require collaborative effort between the County EOC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Port Canaveral.

Background: Recent flooding events, notably in northern Brevard during October 2025, highlighted the vulnerability of roadways and residential properties to lagoon overflow and storm water flooding. Without a coordinated response, damage is costly, disruptive, and can lead to significant resident distress.

Proposed Action:

Real-Time Monitoring: Establish continuous monitoring of the St. Johns River's Depth of Collection using the provided URL:
<https://secure.sjrwmd.com/aqportal/Data/DataSet/Chart/Location/37375724/DataSet/Depth%20of%20Collection/YSI/Interval/Latest>. A trigger level of 1.9 meters will be utilized as a starting point, with consideration for adjusting this threshold based on historical data and hydrological modeling.

Lock Operation Protocol: When the Depth of Collection consistently exceeds the trigger level, the following criteria will be used to determine the initiation and duration of Canaveral Locks opening:

Ocean Tide: Opening should coincide with the nearing of low tide.

Lagoon Water Level: Opening should occur when the lagoon water level is demonstrably higher than the surrounding land.

Main Line: (321) 633-2016

Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

Duration: Lock operation will continue until the lagoon water level significantly decreases (defined by a measurable drop of at least 0.5 meters) and the Depth of Collection falls below the trigger level.

Coordination & Communication: The Brevard County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will serve as the central coordinating body, working directly with USACE and Port Canaveral to establish and execute this protocol. Clear communication channels and established response times are crucial.

Citizen Recommendation:

Benefits (Expanded & Detailed):

Rather than considering raising roads and other areas at great expense to the county eliminate the flooding using first principles thinking - eliminate the excess water

Reduced Property Damage: Targeted drainage will minimize damage to roads (like Indian River Drive), homes, and infrastructure. This proactive approach is significantly more cost-effective than reactive flood response.

Resident Protection: Provides a tangible mechanism to protect residents from flood damage and displacement, enhancing community resilience.

Political Considerations (Reframed): While acknowledging the need for effective governance, this initiative is fundamentally about citizen safety and the responsible use of resources. Transparency and community engagement will be paramount.

Lagoon Health Improvement: The process of draining excess freshwater will promote salinity balance within the lagoons, benefiting the delicate ecosystem and reducing the potential for algae blooms. This is a critical component often overlooked.

Economic Impact: Reduced property damage translates to lower insurance premiums, less disruption to businesses, and a more stable local economy.

Improved Flood Forecasting: Consistent monitoring and data collection will contribute to a more accurate understanding of flood dynamics within the region, informing future mitigation strategies.

Potential Issues & Mitigation Strategies:

Port Debris & Dredging: This is a valid concern. To mitigate this:

Proactive Monitoring: Implement a system for continuous monitoring of the waterway leading to the locks for debris accumulation.

Port Responsibilities: Clearly define Port Canaveral's responsibility for debris removal and establish a regular dredging schedule. This is something the Port can do for the citizens.

Funding Mechanism: Explore options for dedicated funding for dredging, potentially through a portion of Port revenue. It is important to note that northern Brevard citizens are financially responsible for the Port and can be taxed for Port operations. The Port can give back to the community with this effort.

Formal Agreement: Develop a written agreement outlining roles, responsibilities, communication protocols, and decision-making processes.

Regular Meetings: Establish a standing committee involving representatives from each agency to discuss operational procedures and address potential challenges.

Lock Operational Impacts: Consider potential impacts on maritime traffic and vessel operations. USACE should assess these impacts and implement measures to minimize disruption.

Public Awareness: Develop a clear and accessible public awareness campaign to educate residents about the initiative, its purpose, and how it will be implemented.

Next Steps:

Conduct a hydrological assessment to refine the trigger level and optimize lock operation protocols.

Secure formal agreements with USACE and Port Canaveral.

Establish a dedicated monitoring system and communication network.

Develop a comprehensive public awareness plan including an outreach to northern Brevard citizenry to strongly encourage their Port Commissioner to adopt this plan to help their community.

Staff Analysis:

It is understandable why some may view opening the Canaveral Lock (lock) to reduce water levels in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) as a viable flood mitigation strategy. However, the lock is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and is, therefore, not under County jurisdiction. The USACE has confirmed that the lock is operated solely for navigational purposes due to prior damage resulting from its use for flood control.

Following Tropical Storm Fay, which produced up to 27 inches of rainfall and significantly elevated IRL water levels, the lock was opened for approximately one week to relieve flooding. During that time, substantial sand, silt, and debris migrated into the Port, damaging the lock and creating extensive operational issues. This ultimately required a costly, multi-year dredging and repair effort within the Port basin. The Trident submarine channel was also obstructed, raising military readiness concerns. As a result, the USACE does not support opening the lock for water level management on either a routine or event-driven basis. Maintaining reliable Port operations is critical to Brevard County, the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, rocket booster recovery, and cruise ship operations, particularly during and after major storm events.

Lastly, the control structures that can regulate flow to the IRL from the St Johns River (SJR) are all located south of the Melbourne Causeway and are under St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) control. In addition, the SJRWMD is already implementing real time flood mitigation controls on their operable structures in the SJR upper basin. Controlled systems to divert flow from the SJR to the IRL north of Cocoa do not currently exist and would be highly unlikely to be permitted regardless of lock operations.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026001, as the matter is outside the Board's jurisdiction and it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Section 2.9.10 of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 1, 2026 1:23 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026002

Recommendation # 2026002

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026002 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Tom Kennelly
Address 3711 Indian River Dr, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 228-5314
Email tekennellyp@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026002
Recommendation Title Proper equipment for Public Works - More asphalt trucks
Areas Affected Brevard roadways all throughout the county
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem "The repeated cold asphalt patching on Indian River Drive north of the 528 Expressway highlights a critical need for a more permanent solution. Public Works' responsiveness with cold patches is appreciated, but limited availability of hot asphalt equipment (currently one truck for the country) prevents long-term repairs. I suggest either procuring another hot asphalt truck or utilizing a contracted paving service." While Indian River Dr is the closets to a third world road I have seen in the County there are many roads that need repair. Don't build a parking garage for a rich developer when our roads are third world.
Recommendation Extended Road Lifespan: Addressing issues early prevents them from escalating into major, more expensive repairs. Reduced Need for Frequent Patching: Proper preventative maintenance (like overlays or reconstruction) avoids the constant, costly cycle of temporary patching. Efficient Use of Taxpayer Dollars: Investing in long-term road solutions is more cost-effective than continually dealing with reactive, short-term fixes. Since an asphalt truck may be a large financial commitment can it be used by

some of the smaller cities in Brevard County to help defer the cost? Note that there needs to be personnel to staff and work the truck and the associated repair.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Public Works Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940
321-617-7202

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Marc Bernath, Director of Public Works

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026002

CEER #2026002, Proper Equipment for Public Works – More Asphalt Trucks, was received by the County from Tom Kennelly.

Citizen Statement:

“The repeated cold asphalt patching on Indian River Drive north of the 528 Expressway highlights a critical need for a more permanent solution. Public Works’ responsiveness with cold patches is appreciated, but limited availability of hot asphalt equipment (currently one truck for the county) prevents long-term repairs. I suggest either procuring another hot asphalt truck or utilizing a contracted paving service.” While Indian River Dr is the closest to a third world road I have seen in the County there are many roads that need repair. Don't build a parking garage for a rich developer when our roads are third world.

Citizen Recommendation:

Extended Road Lifespan: Addressing issues early prevents them from escalating into major, more expensive repairs. Reduced Need for Frequent Patching: Proper preventative maintenance (like overlays or reconstruction) avoids the constant, costly cycle of temporary patching. Efficient Use of Taxpayer Dollars: Investing in long-term road solutions is more cost-effective than continually dealing with reactive, short-term fixes. Since an asphalt truck may be a large financial commitment can it be used by some of the smaller cities in Brevard County to help defer the cost? Note that there needs to be personnel to staff and work the truck and the associated repair.

Staff Analysis:

Both hot and cold patching methods are used to make temporary pothole repairs. The utilization of cold patch on Indian River Drive is limited to where water is inundating the roadway. Hot patch may only be utilized in those areas of Indian River Drive that are dry. The County utilizes hot patch whenever possible to make repairs. The use of cold patch on Indian



Public Works Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940
321-617-7202

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

River Drive has not been the result of patch truck unavailability. Records demonstrate Indian River Drive was hot patched 4 times last year and cold patched 10 times. Indian River Drive is on the road repaving list but has been deferred to coordinate the repaving with a SOIRL project.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject #2026002 because funding is not available to purchase equipment and fund personnel as recommended. A funding source would need to be identified as part of the budget process.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 1, 2026 2:01 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026003

Recommendation # 2026003

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026003 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Tom Kennelly
Address 3711 Indian River Dr, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 228-5314
Email tekennellyp@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026003
Recommendation Title Government Policy: Citizen Journalism and Photography on Public Property
Areas Affected
Department Affected
Current problem Many government employees and law enforcement officials think incorrectly that public property is private property and attempt to enforce rules in a manner allowed for private businesses but not public areas. Government employees are unaware of the level of openness and transparency we strive for in our government are are likely to make up rules on the spot to prevent that transparency especially when a citizen journalist is using a camera. Citizen journalism is especially important and relevant given the very recent fraud allegations in Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington State and the uncovering of the fraud by citizen journalists. Government officials could not speak out to the main stream media because they were in league with the fraudsters whereas citizen journalists give government officials another avenue to document fraud.
Recommendation Policy Statement: This policy aims to foster transparency and public access to information while safeguarding the operational integrity and security of government facilities. We recognize the growing role of citizen journalism and acknowledge the public's right to document events in the public interest. This policy seeks to create a

framework that encourages responsible reporting while protecting legitimate operational needs. I. Acknowledgement and Encouragement of Citizen Journalism Public Employee Photography: All public employees are subject to reasonable public observation and photography. We encourage responsible citizen journalism that contributes to a better understanding of government operations. We recognize that citizen journalists often act as an important check on authority and play a valuable role in informing the public. Open Access Policy: Government facilities are designed to be accessible to the public. We will strive to maintain an environment that supports open access, subject to reasonable restrictions outlined below. II. Restricted Areas & Signage Signage Requirements: All public lobbies and areas where citizen journalism is permitted will display clear and consistent signage. Removal of Prohibitive Signs: All existing signage prohibiting video photography or filming in public lobbies and common areas will be removed. New Signage: New signage will be prominently displayed at entrances to areas with specific restrictions, clearly stating the reason for the restriction (e.g., "Security Cameras Operational – Recording in Progress," "Restricted Area – Authorized Personnel Only," or "Sensitive Documents – No Photography"). Signage will be in multiple languages where appropriate. Trespassing Definitions: Trespassing will be strictly limited and applied only in cases where a citizen journalist: Breaks the Law: Violates any applicable laws or regulations while attempting to photograph or film. Creates a Disruptive Environment: Engages in behavior that significantly disrupts government operations, poses a safety hazard, or interferes with the performance of official duties. This includes, but is not limited to, persistent obstruction, refusal to comply with reasonable requests, or behavior intended to intimidate or harass staff. III. Staff Training & Interaction Staff Training: All public-facing staff will receive training on this policy, emphasizing: Positive Engagement: How to politely and professionally engage with citizen journalists, providing information about access restrictions and procedures. De-escalation Techniques: Strategies for respectfully disengaging from citizen journalists if they become disruptive, aggressive, or persistently violate the policy. Staff will be instructed to avoid confrontation but not hallucinate safety issues as an excuse not to deal with the public. Policy Knowledge: A thorough understanding of the policy's rationale and the reasons for any restrictions. Designated Contact Person: Each facility will designate a point of contact (e.g., information desk employee) to handle inquiries and address concerns from citizen journalists. However security is likely not staffed by government employees and should be avoided. IV. Protecting Sensitive Information Security Zones: Areas containing sensitive information (e.g., legal documents, personnel records, classified data) will be clearly marked as restricted zones. Access to these areas will be strictly controlled, and citizen journalists will be denied entry. Abuse use of preventative signage discouraged and it discourages transparency.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
FROM: Shannon Wilson, Assistant County Attorney
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026003

CEER #2026003, titled *Government Policy: Citizen Journalism and Photography on Public Property*, was received by the County from Mr. Tom Kennelly.

Citizen Statement:

Many government employees and law enforcement officials think incorrectly that public property is private property and attempt to enforce rules in a manner allowed for private businesses but not public areas. Government employees are unaware of the level of openness and transparency we strive for in our government are are likely to make up rules on the spot to prevent that transparency especially when a citizen journalist is using a camera. Citizen journalism is especially important and relevant given the very recent fraud allegations in Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington State and the uncovering of the fraud by citizen journalists. Government officials could not speak out to the main stream media because they were in league with the fraudsters whereas citizen journalists give government officials another avenue to document fraud.

Citizen Recommendation:

Policy Statement: This policy aims to foster transparency and public access to information while safeguarding the operational integrity and security of government facilities. We recognize the growing role of citizen journalism and acknowledge the public's right to document events in the public interest. This policy seeks to create a framework that encourages responsible reporting while protecting legitimate operational needs. I. Acknowledgement and Encouragement of Citizen Journalism Public Employee Photography: All public employees are subject to reasonable public observation and photography. We encourage responsible citizen journalism that contributes to a better understanding of government operations. We recognize that citizen journalists often act as an important check on authority and play a valuable role in informing the public. Open Access Policy: Government facilities are designed to be accessible to the

public. We will strive to maintain an environment that supports open access, subject to reasonable restrictions outlined below. II. Restricted Areas & Signage Signage Requirements: All public lobbies and areas where citizen journalism is permitted will display clear and consistent signage. Removal of Prohibitive Signs: All existing signage prohibiting video photography or filming in public lobbies and common areas will be removed. New Signage: New signage will be prominently displayed at entrances to areas with specific restrictions, clearly stating the reason for the restriction (e.g., "Security Cameras Operational – Recording in Progress," "Restricted Area – Authorized Personnel Only," or "Sensitive Documents – No Photography"). Signage will be in multiple languages where appropriate. Trespassing Definitions: Trespassing will be strictly limited and applied only in cases where a citizen journalist: Breaks the Law: Violates any applicable laws or regulations while attempting to photograph or film. Creates a Disruptive Environment: Engages in behavior that significantly disrupts government operations, poses a safety hazard, or interferes with the performance of official duties. This includes, but is not limited to, persistent obstruction, refusal to comply with reasonable requests, or behavior intended to intimidate or harass staff. III. Staff Training & Interaction Staff Training: All public-facing staff will receive training on this policy, emphasizing: Positive Engagement: How to politely and professionally engage with citizen journalists, providing information about access restrictions and procedures. De-escalation Techniques: Strategies for respectfully disengaging from citizen journalists if they become disruptive, aggressive, or persistently violate the policy. Staff will be instructed to avoid confrontation but not hallucinate safety issues as an excuse not to deal with the public. Policy Knowledge: A thorough understanding of the policy's rationale and the reasons for any restrictions. Designated Contact Person: Each facility will designate a point of contact (e.g., information desk employee) to handle inquiries and address concerns from citizen journalists. However security is likely not staffed by government employees and should be avoided. IV. Protecting Sensitive Information Security Zones: Areas containing sensitive information (e.g., legal documents, personnel records, classified data) will be clearly marked as restricted zones. Access to these areas will be strictly controlled, and citizen journalists will be denied entry. Abuse use of preventative signage discouraged and it discourages transparency.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt a policy to encourage citizen journalism at County government facilities.

As an initial matter, the CEER presumes that there is no Brevard County Government policy relating to the matter of citizen journalists or photography at County buildings. In May 2019, former County Manager Frank Abbate disseminated a managerial policy to all Brevard County Government employees regarding First Amendment auditors, who often identify as citizen journalists. County Manager Abbate's statement represents Brevard County Government's standing policy relative to the subjects of citizen journalism and photography on County property and is circulated from time to time to remind employees of their responsibilities in this regard. Following is an excerpt of that managerial direction:

Brevard County Government not only strives to be transparent, but also to be responsive and respectful to our residents and customers. I want to make staff aware of potential encounters with First Amendment Auditors, and to remind staff to always be professional and courteous. Be mindful at all times that there are protected First Amendment Rights that allow photography and filming inside and outside government buildings. Those constitutional protections include photographing and videotaping government officials and employees performing duties in a public place. However, please keep in mind that there also are areas of County building[s] that are not generally accessible to the public. We need to make sure those areas are clearly indicated through appropriate signage that restricts public access.

All of us must be prepared to respond to First Amendment Audits appropriately. If an encounter with First Amendment Auditor results in an actual or perceived violation of the auditor's constitutional or other protected rights, then the video will likely be posted on social media or serve as a basis for a claim or lawsuit.

If you believe someone from the public is in a restricted area, or is in a public access area but is impeding your ability to perform your work duties, making unreasonable demands, or you feel your personal safety is threatened, please calmly contact your supervisor for assistance. Understanding that these kinds of audits may happen, remaining calm, and knowing and carrying out your legal responsibilities appropriately, including not impeding the auditor's rights when they have the right to be in a public place, will be our best response.

Thanks for your careful review of this information. Supervisors, please share this information with those who do not have County e-mail service.

Further, the CEER broadly asserts that government employees "think incorrectly that public property is private property," and that they "are unaware of the level of openness and transparency we strive for in our government." Those sentiments are antithetical to

the mindset of our dedicated employees, and contrary to our longstanding policies and practice.

County employees recognize that the public has the right to engage in citizen journalism and photography in a manner that is not disruptive in appropriate areas of the County facilities. Individuals who refer to themselves as citizen journalists (also referred to as citizen auditors, first amendment auditors, etc.) have the same access rights as any other member of the public who comes to County facilities whether for specific services, to attend a meeting, to attend a protest, or other appropriate reasons.

However, focusing on the access of the citizen journalist, there is no right to unfettered access to the various county offices in which staff conduct their day-to-day functions. To provide direction to the public about where they are authorized/not authorized in the various areas of County facilities, the departments have posted signage in lobby and entrance areas advising “Employees Only Beyond This Point,” “Stop, Do Not Enter, Only County Employees Beyond this Point,” or similar signage.

While the citizen’s concerns are addressed by standing policy and practice, the County Attorney’s Office suggests that employee awareness of the existing managerial policy might be elevated by inclusion of the policy within an Administrative Order (AO) issued by the County Manager, and the provision of formal training through the Human Resources Department.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026003 with revisions. Specifically, it is recommended that the Board direct the County Attorney and County Manager to develop an Administrative Order memorializing the guidance set forth in existing Brevard County Government policy and providing for inclusion of the subject in new hire orientation sessions.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 1, 2026 2:54 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026004

Recommendation # 2026004

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026004 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Tom Kennelly
Address 3711 Indian River Dr, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 228-5314
Email tekennellyp@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026004
Recommendation Title Installing backflow preventers on storm water drains along the Indian River Dr
Areas Affected
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem The Problem: Rising Lagoon Levels & Road Flooding – A Growing Threat The Indian River Lagoon is a vital ecosystem, but it's also increasingly vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges. Brevard County's low-lying areas are experiencing more frequent and severe flooding events, driven by these lagoon inundations. When the lagoon rises, it simply flows over existing storm water drains, backing up onto roadways along Indian River Dr north of 528 causing: Traffic Disruptions: Road closures, significant delays, and economic losses due to stranded homeowners. Property Damage: Flooding into businesses, homes, and vehicles, leading to costly repairs and potential structural damage. Safety Hazards: Reduced visibility, increased risk of accidents, and potential contamination of roadways. Strain on Emergency Services: First responders diverted to flood response, potentially delaying other crucial services. Does this increase County liability?
Recommendation The Solution: Backflow Preventers – A Critical Layer of Protection Backflow preventers are simple, yet incredibly effective devices designed to reverse the flow of water. In this context, they are crucial to preventing lagoon water from backing up into

our drainage systems and onto roadways. Here's why they are a necessary investment: 1. Preventing Lagoon Water from Entering the Drain System: Core Functionality: Backflow preventers are designed to stop water from flowing backwards into the drain system. When the lagoon water level reaches a certain point, the preventer will shut off the flow, preventing it from surging back into the existing drainage infrastructure. Targeted Protection: They're placed at the outlets of storm drains, specifically where the lagoon water is most likely to enter – essentially acting as a gatekeeper. 2. Cost-Effectiveness & Long-Term Savings: Reduced Damage Costs: Preventing flooding saves taxpayers and property owners from costly repairs, vehicle damage from salt water, and business interruptions. Minimized Emergency Response Costs: Less flooding means fewer calls for road patching, freeing up resources for other priorities. 3. Modern Technology & Relatively Low Cost: Variety of Options: Backflow preventers come in various types (atmospheric, pressure-reducing, etc.) suitable for different drain configurations and budget levels. Affordable Investment: The cost of installing backflow preventers is relatively low compared to the potential damage they can prevent. It's a proactive, preventative measure, not a reactive one. 5. Alignment with Coastal Resilience Planning: Strategic Infrastructure: Installing backflow preventers is a key component of a broader coastal resilience strategy for Brevard County. It's a tangible step towards managing flood risk and protecting our communities. Supporting Sea Level Rise Adaptation: As sea levels continue to rise, these devices will become increasingly vital in mitigating the impacts of lagoon flooding. Recommendation: Brevard County should prioritize the installation of backflow preventers on storm water drains along the Indian River Lagoon, particularly in areas most vulnerable to backflow flooding. This investment will not only protect our infrastructure and property but also safeguard our environment and enhance the resilience of our coastal communities.

Attachments

NotRenderingCorrectlyInIE.docx
 Screenshot 2026-01-01 145059.png
 Screenshot 2026-01-01 145313.png
 TEST.txt

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Where These Systems are Used

Most backflow preventer installations are managed at the **city level**, though they often receive funding and coordination through **county-wide** resiliency plans or regional Water Management Districts.

City	Implementation Highlights
Miami Beach	One of the most aggressive users; they have installed dozens of check valves and paired them with massive pump stations to force water out even during high tides.
Fort Lauderdale	Actively installing tidal valves in neighborhoods like Las Olas and the Finger Islands, where King Tides frequently overtop storm drains.
St. Augustine	Uses "tide check valves" extensively in the Davis Shores neighborhood, which historically flooded monthly during high tides.
Hollywood	Utilizing "WayPro" and "WaStop" valves to reduce tidal backflow along the Intracoastal Waterway.
Pompano Beach	Engaged in a multi-year project to install tidal valves citywide to mitigate sea-level rise.
Delray Beach	Identified 58 public outfalls that require backflow prevention and has begun installing in-line check valves.

 [Export to Sheets](#)



Other notable locations include **Key Biscayne, New Smyrna Beach, Treasure Island,** and **St. Petersburg.**

The Limitations

While these valves are effective at stopping the sea, they create a new problem known as **"Rain-on-Tide" flooding**.

If it rains heavily while the tide is high, the valve stays shut to keep the ocean out. Because the "door" is closed, the rainwater has nowhere to go and begins to "stack up" on the streets. To solve this, cities like **Miami Beach** and **Fort Lauderdale** are increasingly forced to install **pumping stations**. These pumps are strong enough to force the rainwater through the closed valve and out into the ocean against the pressure of the tide. 

Note on Terminology: If you are searching for local ordinances, be sure to distinguish between **Stormwater Backflow** (the street flooding issue) and **Potable Water Backflow** (plumbing devices designed to keep sewage/chemicals out of your drinking water). Most Florida counties have strict mandates for the latter, while the former is a specialized civil engineering response to climate change.



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026004

CEER #2026004, titled Installing backflow preventers on storm water drains along the Indian River Dr, was received by the County from Tom Kennelly.

Citizen Statement:

The Problem: Rising Lagoon Levels & Road Flooding – A Growing Threat

The Indian River Lagoon is a vital ecosystem, but it's also increasingly vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surges. Brevard County's low-lying areas are experiencing more frequent and severe flooding events, driven by these lagoon inundations. When the lagoon rises, it simply flows over existing storm water drains, backing up onto roadways along Indian River Dr north of 528 causing:

Traffic Disruptions: Road closures, significant delays, and economic losses due to stranded homeowners.

Property Damage: Flooding into businesses, homes, and vehicles, leading to costly repairs and potential structural damage.

Safety Hazards: Reduced visibility, increased risk of accidents, and potential contamination of roadways.

Strain on Emergency Services: First responders diverted to flood response, potentially delaying other crucial services. Does this increase County liability?

Citizen Recommendation:

The Solution: Backflow Preventers – A Critical Layer of Protection

Backflow preventers are simple, yet incredibly effective devices designed to reverse the flow of water. In this context, they are crucial to preventing lagoon water from backing up into our drainage systems and onto roadways. Here's why they are a necessary investment:

1. Preventing Lagoon Water from Entering the Drain System:

Main Line: (321) 633-2016

Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

Core Functionality: Backflow preventers are designed to stop water from flowing backwards into the drain system. When the lagoon water level reaches a certain point, the preventer will shut off the flow, preventing it from surging back into the existing drainage infrastructure.

Targeted Protection: They're placed at the outlets of storm drains, specifically where the lagoon water is most likely to enter – essentially acting as a gatekeeper.

2. Cost-Effectiveness & Long-Term Savings:

Reduced Damage Costs: Preventing flooding saves taxpayers and property owners from costly repairs, vehicle damage from salt water, and business interruptions.

Minimized Emergency Response Costs: Less flooding means fewer calls for road patching, freeing up resources for other priorities.

3. Modern Technology & Relatively Low Cost:

Variety of Options: Backflow preventers come in various types (atmospheric, pressure-reducing, etc.) suitable for different drain configurations and budget levels.

Affordable Investment: The cost of installing backflow preventers is relatively low compared to the potential damage they can prevent. It's a proactive, preventative measure, not a reactive one.

5. Alignment with Coastal Resilience Planning:

Strategic Infrastructure: Installing backflow preventers is a key component of a broader coastal resilience strategy for Brevard County. It's a tangible step towards managing flood risk and protecting our communities.

Supporting Sea Level Rise Adaptation: As sea levels continue to rise, these devices will become increasingly vital in mitigating the impacts of lagoon flooding.

Recommendation:

Brevard County should prioritize the installation of backflow preventers on storm water drains along the Indian River Lagoon, particularly in areas most vulnerable to backflow flooding. This investment will not only protect our infrastructure and property but also safeguard our environment and enhance the resilience of our coastal communities.

Staff Analysis:

Backflow preventers can significantly reduce or eliminate backflow from the receiving water body upstream when water levels at the outfall point are higher than normal. They are particularly effective in tidally influenced systems. The Indian River Lagoon (IRL), however, is generally not tidally influenced except in areas immediately adjacent to

ocean inlets such as Sebastian Inlet. Backflow devices are also most effective where the outfall elevation is significantly higher than the receiving shoreline or river bottom, conditions that do not exist for most IRL outfalls.

Brevard County departments have installed flap gates, Tideflex valves, and similar devices at select locations. However, operational challenges have been encountered in the IRL environment. These devices require frequent maintenance, in excess of available resources, and can become clogged with biofouling organisms and debris, rendering them inoperable. Shoreline conditions in the IRL are dynamic, with sand, silt, and aquatic vegetation frequently accumulating along windward shorelines, particularly during strong southeast winds that often precede major storm events. In such conditions, debris buildup can prevent devices from opening properly, creating tailwater effects upstream and, in some cases, exacerbating flooding. Valves also require some upstream pressure to open, flat grades can therefore cause systems not to discharge. These issues have occurred during major storms, when access and staffing for maintenance is limited.

In addition, backflow preventers on pipes will not reduce flooding in a drainage basin if there are ditches and other open channel tributaries discharging into IRL within that basin. In those cases, elevated lagoon water levels can still back up through open channels, potentially offsetting or even worsening conditions if pipe outfalls are restricted.

Given these site-specific considerations, the County evaluates the feasibility and effectiveness of backflow prevention devices on a case-by-case basis.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026004 with revisions, as backflow preventers are already considered and employed on a case-by-case basis.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 1, 2026 5:54 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026005

Recommendation # 2026005

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026005 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Daniel Ellery
Address 1595 Rainsville Road Southeast, Palm Bay FL 32909
Phone (321) 427-7242
Email danielellery2000@gmail.com
Alternate Email danielellery2000@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026005
Recommendation Title Publis Service Radio Encryption
Areas Affected
Department Affected PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP
Current problem Radio encryption has significantly reduced transparency within your county by limiting public access to information that was once readily available through open radio communications. In the past, citizens, journalists, and community watchdogs could monitor police and emergency channels to stay informed about ongoing incidents and local safety concerns. However, with encryption, these communications are now restricted to authorized personnel, making it difficult for the public to verify official reports or understand how local authorities are responding to emergencies. While encryption is often justified as a measure to protect sensitive information and officer safety, its widespread use has created a barrier between public agencies and the communities they serve, fostering perceptions of secrecy and reducing accountability.
Recommendation I would reccomend removing the encryption of the radios within our county so that our citizens can trust that our public servats are out the doing the due diligence of serving and protecting. This will allow the citizens of Brevard to fully trust out public servants.
Attachments No Documents were attached.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director
FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026005

CEER #2026005, titled Publis Service Radio Encryption, was received by the County from Daniel Ellery.

Citizen Statement:

Radio encryption has significantly reduced transparency within your county by limiting public access to information that was once readily available through open radio communications. In the past, citizens, journalists, and community watchdogs could monitor police and emergency channels to stay informed about ongoing incidents and local safety concerns. However, with encryption, these communications are now restricted to authorized personnel, making it difficult for the public to verify official reports or understand how local authorities are responding to emergencies. While encryption is often justified as a measure to protect sensitive information and officer safety, its widespread use has created a barrier between public agencies and the communities they serve, fostering perceptions of secrecy and reducing accountability.

Citizen Recommendation:

I would reccomend removing the encryption of the radios within our county so that our citizens can trust that our public servats are out the doing the due diligence of serving and protecting. This will allow the citizens of Brevard to fully trust out public servants.

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026005 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 2, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026006

Recommendation # 2026006

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026006 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Seth D McCollum
Address 412 Rome Ave NE, Palm Bay FL 32907
Phone (321) 795-9558
Email sethmccollum0789@gmail.com
Alternate Email seekndstroy7809@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026006
Recommendation Title Encryption of radio channels
Areas Affected County and local
Department Affected Community Services
Current problem An encryption of scanners and radio channels have provided some like myself out of a job and education opportunities by not being able to respond with emergency crews in a non disruptive manner to be able to document the work they do.
Recommendation Allow public use scanners or radio channels or adjust the censorship of private information so reporters can still respond to a scene.
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026006

CEER #2026006, titled Encryption of radio channels, was received by the County from Seth D McCollum.

Citizen Statement:

I argue that full encryption undermines public trust, hinders accountability, and reduces situational awareness for residents, while viable alternatives exist to address legitimate concerns without complete secrecy.

Being a single female I need to know WHY 10 police cars are running around my neighborhood! (Which has happened a few time.)

Also, a police chopper was looking for a person, he was 2 doors on a bike hiding under a tree! I called it in.

Police scanners have been accessible to the public for decades, fostering a sense of shared information in communities. Historically, open radio channels allowed citizens to hear firsthand about emergencies, enabling them to avoid dangerous areas, prepare for disruptions, or even assist in crises.

Open transmissions also promote accountability. Real-time public oversight discourages misconduct and ensures police actions align with community expectations.

For everyday citizens, the loss is VERY personal. Many use scanners to stay informed about neighborhood incidents—burglaries, fires, or accidents—affecting daily life. Encryption creates an information vacuum, eroding the sense of community connection to local law enforcement.

Citizen Recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION: Have a way for the officers to cut off damaging/super private transmissions that should not be known. A lot of groups do it.

BENEFITS: It would provide a way of keeping certain information off the air.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026006 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 3, 2026 2:15 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026007

Recommendation # 2026007

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026007 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Joanne Maksym
Address	1997 Auburn Lakes Drive, Rockledge FL 32955
Phone	(440) 429-6727
Email	maksym4@att.net
Alternate Email	maksym4@att.net

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026007
Recommendation Title	ADA -Accessible Golf Cart Overpass
Areas Affected	Viera East Residents
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	For many residents, golf carts are not recreational. They are a necessary mobility accommodation. Under current conditions, accessing the community requires navigating or crossing roadways that are unsafe for slow-moving carts and for individuals who cannot safely manage traffic, curbs, or uneven terrain.
Recommendation	I am here to propose the construction of an ADA-accessible golf cart overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Road to provide safe access for residents-especially individuals with disabilities, mobility impairments, and seniors-to reach our community amenities. Please see Attachment for my formal public input submission regarding the proposed ADA-accessible golf cart overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Rd. in Brevard County.
Attachments	GolfCartOverpass.docx NotRenderingCorrectlyInIE.docx Screenshot 2026-01-01 145059.png

Screenshot 2026-01-01 145313.png
TEST.txt

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

January 2, 2026

Joanne Maksym
1997 Auburn Lakes Dr.
Rockledge, FL 32955
(440) 429-6727
maksym4@att.net

RE: Formal Request for ADA & Florida Accessibility Compliance: Golf Cart Overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Rd, Brevard County

Dear Brevard County Commissioners, Planning Officials, Public Works Staff, and ADA Coordinator,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input regarding infrastructure, safety, and accessibility needs within Brevard County. I respectfully submit this formal request for the county's consideration of a **dedicated, ADA-accessible golf cart overpass** over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Road to provide safe, equitable, and meaningful access to community amenities for residents with disabilities, mobility impairments, and seniors.

For many residents, golf carts are not recreational vehicles but function as a **necessary mobility accommodation** due to disability or physical limitation. Under current conditions, residents who rely on golf carts or mobility devices must cross or travel alongside active roadways in order to access community facilities. These conditions present **foreseeable and significant safety risks**, particularly for individuals who cannot safely navigate vehicular traffic, curbs, uneven surfaces, slopes, or extended walking distances. As a result, existing access routes operate as a **barrier to equal participation** for residents with disabilities.

Federal ADA Requirements

Under **Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, public entities are required to ensure that services, programs, and activities are **readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities** (28 C.F.R. § 35.150). Public entities must also make **reasonable modifications** to policies, practices, or procedures to avoid discrimination unless doing so would fundamentally alter the nature of the service (28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7)). Additionally, newly constructed or altered facilities must be designed and constructed to be readily **accessible and usable** by individuals with disabilities (28 C.F.R. § 35.151).

When the only available route places individuals with disabilities in unsafe or hazardous conditions, access is not "meaningful" as required by the ADA.

Florida Accessibility & Transportation Standards

Florida law reinforces and incorporates federal accessibility requirements through the **Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction (FACBC)**, adopted pursuant to **Florida Statutes §§ 553.501–553.513**, which applies to public facilities and emphasizes accessible routes, slopes, safety, and usability for individuals with disabilities.

Additionally, the **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** requires accessibility to be integrated into transportation infrastructure through:

- **FDOT Complete Streets Policy**, which promotes safe and accessible travel for users of all ages and abilities, including individuals using mobility devices
- **FDOT Design Manual (FDM)**, which incorporates ADA and PROWAG-based accessibility principles for pedestrian and transportation-related facilities
- FDOT's obligation to ensure compliance with **ADA Title II** for facilities within or connected to public rights-of-way

A dedicated, ADA-compliant golf cart overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Road would align with these federal and state requirements by providing a **safe, continuous, and accessible route** that eliminates conflict with high-speed vehicle traffic and removes a critical accessibility barrier.

Safety, Risk Management, and Community Benefits

Construction of an ADA-accessible golf cart overpass over I-95 would:

- Remove an existing **accessibility barrier** affecting residents with disabilities
- Improve **public safety** by separating slow-moving carts and mobility devices from high-speed traffic
- Reduce traffic conflicts and **foreseeable injury risks**
- Promote independence, dignity, and full participation in community life
- Demonstrate proactive compliance with **ADA, Florida Statutes, and FDOT accessibility standards**
- Reduce potential liability associated with known accessibility and safety hazards

Personal Impact

For residents like my husband and son and others with disabilities, the lack of a safe and accessible route across I-95 is not a minor inconvenience—it is a daily and ongoing barrier. What may appear to be a short or manageable distance for some residents can be physically unsafe or impossible for individuals with mobility limitations. Without an accessible overpass, residents are forced to choose between risking serious injury, relying on others for transportation, or foregoing access to community amenities altogether. An ADA-accessible golf cart overpass would restore independence, improve safety, and ensure equal participation—outcomes that federal and Florida accessibility laws were enacted to protect.

Requested Action

I respectfully request that Brevard County:

1. Initiate an **ADA- and Florida Accessibility–focused feasibility and safety study** for a golf cart overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Road
2. Evaluate the project for compliance with **ADA Title II, FACBC, and FDOT accessibility standards**
3. Engage residents with disabilities and the county ADA Coordinator in the planning and evaluation process

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and accessible community for all residents. I appreciate Brevard County’s attention to this critical accessibility, safety, and compliance matter.

Sincerely,

Joanne Maksym



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager, Development and Environmental Services Group

FROM: Billy Prasad, Director, Planning and Development Department

SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026007

CEER #2026007, titled ADA -Accessible Golf Cart Overpass, was received by the County from Joanne Maksym.

Citizen Statement:

For many residents, golf carts are not recreational. They are a necessary mobility accommodation. Under current conditions, accessing the community requires navigating or crossing roadways that are unsafe for slow-moving carts and for individuals who cannot safely manage traffic, curbs, or uneven terrain.

Citizen Recommendation:

I am here to propose the construction of an ADA-accessible golf cart overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Road to provide safe access for residents-especially individuals with disabilities, mobility impairments, and seniors-to reach our community amenities.

Please see Attachment for my formal public input submission regarding the proposed ADA-accessible golf cart overpass over I-95 at Spyglass and Murrell Rd. in Brevard County.

Staff Analysis:

The extension of Spyglass Hill Rd. to Napolo Dr. (including an overpass over I-95) is a planned project for which Brevard County sought and obtained a developer commitment for construction during the approval process for the Viera DRI. As mitigation for transportation impacts of the Viera DRI, the developer, the Viera Company, agreed to a condition in the Viera DRI Development Order that it would construct a "4 lane bridge and roadway connecting Spyglass Hill Road to Napolo Drive from Lake Andrew Drive to Murrell Road." The Viera Company agreed that "the improvement shall be substantially complete and open for public use coincident with the completion (i.e. issuance of certificates of occupancy) of 50% of the development program identified as Phase 4 . . ." The



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

development program of Phase 4 is delineated in the following chart taken from the Development Order:

EXHIBIT 4

DRI Master Development Program

Land Use (See Notes)	Phase 1 Through October 23, 2032	Phase 2A Through October 23, 2032	Phase 3 Through October 23, 2032	Cumulative Through Phase 3	Phase 4 Through October 24, 2042	Totals
Residential (units)	6,126	3,550	4,674	14,350	17,269	31,619
Office Development (s.f.)	1,355,342	230,927	186,140	1,772,409	1,732,058	3,504,467
-General Office (s.f.)	1,355,342	230,927		1,586,269	1,732,058	3,318,327
-Government Office (s.f.)	*	*	186,140	186,140*	-----	186,140*
Hospital Health Clinic (beds and s.f.)						
-VA Clinics (s.f.)	107,500		30,000	137,500		137,500
-Hospital Beds		150	172	322		322
-ACLF Nursing Home (beds)	580	92	284	956	104	1,060
Industrial Plants or Parks Distribution, Warehousing or Wholesaling Facilities	85,518		109,500	195,018	327,482	522,500
-Office/Warehouse (s.f.)	22,500			22,500		22,500
-Light Industrial (s.f.)	63,018		109,500	172,518	327,482	500,000
Retail and Service Development (s/f/f)	1,641,168	355,000	259,862	2,256,030	1,182,097	3,438,127
Hotel or Motel Development		128		128	622	750



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

The 2024 Biennial Update to the DRI indicated that “Development is proceeding in accordance with this condition [to extend Spyglass Hill Dr.]. As to the above-referenced improvement for the “Spyglass Overpass,” the timing of the improvement has not yet been triggered because only 282,850 square feet of non-residential development (including office, retail, and light industrial) and 1,518 residential units have been built within Phase 4.”

Staff will continue to monitor the progress of development within the Viera DRI, and ensure all commitments, including the construction of the extension of Spyglass Hill Dr., are met. When the project is ripe, County staff will work with Viera Company to ensure that the project meets all ADA requirements and will consider at that time the cost-benefit analysis of making the extension golf cart accessible. If the Board were to direct the staff to move forward outside of the development order, the County would be responsible for funding the improvement.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER # 2026007 as Viera is required to build an overpass and there is no funding available for the County to build an ADA-accessible overpass.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2026 10:38 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026008

Recommendation # 2026008

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026008 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name John Myers John Myers
Address myersjohnc@hotmail.com, Melbourne FL 32940
Phone (321) 423-5101
Email myersjohnc@hotmail.com
Alternate Email myersjohnc@hotmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026008
Recommendation Title Change Policies from Complaint Based - Reactive to more Proactive
Areas Affected Public Works, Code Enforcement
Department Affected
Current problem Under current procedures at the County, residents must submit formal complaints before action is taken to fix problems. This is particularly true and somewhat annoying for Road Repairs, mostly potholes but includes damaged road signs. It also occurs in Code Enforcement for illegally placed "lawn sign" advertisements on County Right of Way roads. To get anyone to respond, residents must provide specific individual complaints per sign rather than a general location such as "along Wickham Rd in Suntree". Every instance must be noted or the staff will not address it. Further if Code Enforcement finds a problem or gets a complaint with illegally "parked" cars on the County Right of Way advertising For Sale, they should immediately refer it to the BCSO. Don't give residents the finger pointed answer... "you'll have to contact", DO IT YOURSELF!
Recommendation Change operations to a more proactive approach while still reacting to complains submitted. "See Something, Do Something". If Public Works staff sees a Pothole, FIX IT even if no one has filed a formal complaint. Same goes for Code Enforcement. When staff is out addressing formal complaints, pay attention to issues they see along

the way and address them as well. If a complaint is received in one department but another is responsible for resolving, FORWARD IT DIRECTLY, don't just point a finger to the resident who submitted it. The result should be a better environment for all residents, less hassle for staff and lower rate of complaints.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Public Works
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026008

CEER #2026008 was received by the County from John Myers.

Citizen Statement:

Under current procedures at the County, residents must submit formal complaints before action is taken to fix problems. This is particularly true and somewhat annoying for Road Repairs, mostly potholes but includes damaged road signs. It also occurs in Code Enforcement for illegally placed "lawn sign" advertisements on County Right of Way roads. To get anyone to respond, residents must provide specific individual complaints per sign rather than a general location such as "along Wickham Rd in Suntree". Every instance must be noted or the staff will not address it. Further if Code Enforcement finds a problem or gets a complaint with illegally "parked" cars on the County Right of Way advertising For Sale, they should immediately refer it to the BCSO. Don't give residents the finger pointed answer... "you'll have to contact", DO IT YOURSELF!.

Citizen Recommendation:

Change operations to a more proactive approach while still reacting to complains submitted. "See Something, Do Something". If Public Works staff sees a Pothole, FIX IT even if no one has filed a formal complaint. Same goes for Code Enforcement. When staff is out addressing formal complaints, pay attention to issues they see along the way and address them as well. If a complaint is received in one department but another is responsible for resolving, FORWARD IT DIRECTLY, don't just point a finger to the resident who submitted it. The result should be a better environment for all residents, less hassle for staff and lower rate of complaints.

Staff Analysis:

Public Works creates work orders as items are identified. Work orders are prioritized according to safety considerations and operational functionality. Repairs are then completed, based on resources and staffing availability. Residents are referred to the appropriate authorities having jurisdiction to ensure citizens' needs are met with minimal delay and proper care. Field staff promptly identify, report, and mitigate life and safety risks as they are observed. Additionally,



Public Works
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Public Works proactively manages routine maintenance for ditches, road resurfacing, right-of-way (ROW), mowing, and traffic signals. Public Works' responsiveness to public concerns is closely monitored and tracked. To do this, each Public Works shop receives issues/complaints, and the supervisor triages, prioritizes, plans, and assigns equipment, materials, and labor for a specified time and within a prescribed budget. The supervisor also oversees the work and signs off on work completion.

Florida Statute 162 does not permit anonymous code violation complaints unless the violation presents a threat to safety, health, or public welfare. The Board of County Commissioners previously implemented a reactive code enforcement model, with exceptions for cases involving safety or the destruction of sensitive resources. This model allows the County to focus its limited resources on those issues the community cares about the most. Additionally, Brevard County Code Enforcement regularly receives and investigates complaints from other public agencies, including but not limited to other Brevard County departments. This reactive model, where investigations are based upon complaints from both residents and other agencies, in addition to safety-related cases, allows for a more efficient code enforcement process.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026008 with revisions because when Public Works employees see something they react in systematic proactive approach to life safety matters.

Additionally, it is recommended the Board of County Commissioners reject proactive code enforcement because it is inconsistent with prior Board direction and is in opposition to Florida Statute 162.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 9:28 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026009

Recommendation # 2026009

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026009 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Caesar Velez
Address 3864 Reynolds Road, Malabar FL 32950
Phone (321) 557-5421
Email caesar.velez@gmail.com
Alternate Email caesar.velez@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026009
Recommendation Title Enforce Motor Vehicle Law
Areas Affected Brevard County and Palm Bay
Department Affected SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Current problem Motorists are displaying persistently dangerous driving behaviors throughout Brevard County and the City of Palm Bay. Most notably, excessive speeding, aggressive lane changes, tailgating, and reckless passing are visible each day along our major throughfares, including US-1, I-95, Malabar Road, Minton Road, and Palm Bay Road. The number of drivers manipulating mobile devices while driving has also gotten out of hand. Florida law requires motorists to use hands-free devices, but the law is clearly not enforced in Brevard County. By allowing motorists to operate their vehicles in this manner, the BCSO and PBPB are contributing to increased crashes and preventable injuries, and should take some level of responsibility. I refrain from calling vehicular incidents 'ACCIDENTS' because the term implies an unexpected event with no one at fault. More appropriately, I refer to them as 'CRASHES', suggesting a more serious, often preventable event that may involve negligence or error by the operators, BCSO, and PBPB.
Recommendation I ask that BCSO and PBPB consider (1) increasing patrol visibility during peak risk periods (commute hours, weekends, late-night), (2) conducting targeted enforcement

focused on high-speed and aggressive driving, (3) installing speed cameras throughout Brevard County, and (4) issuing citations consistently for the most hazardous violations (speeding, following too closely, improper lane changes, manipulating mobile devices, and impaired driving where applicable). In addition, periodic saturation details and/or coordinated operations with local agencies could help re-establish deterrence and reinforce safe driving expectations. With a focus on prevention, the seriousness of legal implications, and the privilege of driving on Florida roadways. I recognize that enforcement resources are finite and must be balanced statewide. However, even a modest increase in high-visibility patrols and focused enforcement on US-1, I-95, Malabar Road, Minton Road, and Palm Bay Road in Brevard County would likely have an immediate deterrent effect, improving public safety for commuters, families, and commercial drivers. Thank you for your time and for the work BCSO and PBPD do every day to keep Florida's roads safe. If there is an appropriate point of contact for follow-up or a forum where community members can provide input, I would appreciate being directed accordingly and participating as needed.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

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County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026009

CEER #2026009, titled Enforce Motor Vehicle Law, was received by the County from Caesar Velez.

Citizen Statement:

Motorists are displaying persistently dangerous driving behaviors throughout Brevard County and the City of Palm Bay. Most notably, excessive speeding, aggressive lane changes, tailgating, and reckless passing are visible each day along our major throughfares, including US-1, I-95, Malabar Road, Minton Road, and Palm Bay Road. The number of drivers manipulating mobile devices while driving has also gotten out of hand. Florida law requires motorists to use hands-free devices, but the law is clearly not enforced in Brevard County. By allowing motorists to operate their vehicles in this manner, the BCSO and PBPD are contributing to increased crashes and preventable injuries, and should take some level of responsibility. I refrain from calling vehicular incidents 'ACCIDENTS' because the term implies an unexpected event with no one at fault. More appropriately, I refer to them as 'CRASHES', suggesting a more serious, often preventable event that may involve negligence or error by the operators, BCSO, and PBPD.

Citizen Recommendation:

I ask that BCSO and PBPD consider (1) increasing patrol visibility during peak risk periods (commute hours, weekends, late-night), (2) conducting targeted enforcement 2 focused on high-speed and aggressive driving, (3) installing speed cameras throughout Brevard County, and (4) issuing citations consistently for the most hazardous violations (speeding, following too closely, improper lane changes, manipulating mobile devices, and impaired driving where applicable). In addition, periodic saturation details and/or coordinated operations with local agencies could help re-establish deterrence and reinforce safe driving expectations. With a focus on prevention, the seriousness of legal implications, and the privilege of driving on Florida roadways. I recognize that enforcement resources are finite and must be balanced



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

statewide. However, even a modest increase in high-visibility patrols and focused enforcement on US-1, I-95, Malabar Road, Minton Road, and Palm Bay Road in Brevard County would likely have an immediate deterrent effect, improving public safety for commuters, families, and commercial drivers. Thank you for your time and for the work BCSO and PBPD do every day to keep Florida's roads safe. If there is an appropriate point of contact for follow-up or a forum where community members can provide input, I would appreciate being directed accordingly and participating as needed.

Staff Analysis:

Traffic enforcement in Brevard County and municipalities is outside the jurisdiction of Brevard County Government. However, we forwarded Mr. Velez's concerns and CEER recommendations to those respective agencies for their consideration. The County shared the recommendation with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, City of Palm Bay Police Department and City of West Melbourne Police Department. Also, in January (2026), the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and Florida Highway Patrol announced a joint initiative to both elevate presence and enforcement of traffic laws on Interstate 95 in an effort to curtail accidents and excessive speeding. The effort also targeted seat belt violations, illegal lane changes, expired tags and other violations. To date there has been no announced conclusion to that initiative.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026009 because enforcement of traffic violations on area roadways is outside of the County's jurisdiction.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 12:50 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026010

Recommendation # 2026010

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026010 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Deborah A Sullivan
Address 5080 S Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach FL 32951
Phone (561) 716-1870
Email Kevroart@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026010
Recommendation Title Promote Beach Cleanups
Areas Affected Brevard Beaches
Department Affected Parks And Recreation Department
Current problem Litter on beaches.
Recommendation Many neighbors pick up litter on beaches. Suggestion: Further foster pride & more community-wide participation by *promoting picking up litter as a standard part of a beach day. A shared responsibility by all. Funding source recommendation: Brevard County Sells *good looking, *mostly clear, *reusable bags for personal use. The bag itself is mostly clear to show others your results. It's good looking (put out a call to local artists) so you can sell them & the reusable piece is evident. Bag straps to depict custom art (Turtles), & Keep Brevard Beautiful logo. Tap into existing networks to promote them. Cross promote with other stakeholders holders too i.e., Property Appraiser Tax Bill (everyone receives & reads that bill!) to promote them. Sell the bags on your Brevard County website. The community effort for environmental protection of our beaches & nature is proven. We love living in the South Beaches! Consider grants? Over the years, we've noticed after storms (not just hurricanes) the bin at our County beach acs point is often overflowing. We've also seen neighbor requests asking neighbors if they have extra bags to put in empty bin. -fyi-

Attachments

NotRenderingCorrectlyInIE.docx
Screenshot 2026-01-01 145059.png
Screenshot 2026-01-01 145313.png
TEST.txt

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County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026010

CEER #2026010, titled Brevard Beaches, was received by the County from Deborah Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

Litter on beaches

Citizen Recommendation:

Many neighbors pick up litter on beaches. Suggestion: Further foster pride & more community-wide participation by *promoting picking up litter as a standard part of a beach day. A shared responsibility by all. Funding source recommendation: Brevard County Sells *good looking, *mostly clear, *reusable bags for personal use. The bag itself is mostly clear to show others your results. It's good looking (put out a call to local artists) so you can sell them & the reusable piece is evident. Bag straps to depict custom art (Turtles), & Keep Brevard Beautiful logo. Tap into existing networks to promote them. Cross promote with other stakeholders holders too i.e., Property Appraiser Tax Bill (everyone receives & reads that bill!) to promote them. Sell the bags on your Brevard County website. The community effort for environmental protection of our beaches & nature is proven. We love living in the South Beaches! Consider grants? Over the years, we've noticed after storms (not just hurricanes) the bin at our County beach access point is often overflowing. We've also seen neighbor requests asking neighbors if they have extra bags to put in empty bin. -fyi

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County works with Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) to clean a portion of the county's beaches and causeways. The Space Coast Office of Tourism has an annual contract with KBB for this purpose.

In addition, Brevard County Mosquito Control has been actively coordinating with local environmental partners to host coastal and waste tire cleanup events annually since 2023. The International Coastal Cleanup and Earth Day Lagoon Cleanup events take place annually at



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

several beach, Indian River Lagoon, and the causeway bridge sites countywide. During these events, Mosquito Control typically coordinates directly with the Greenspace Water Alliance by managing stations where residents can sign in and pick up the event tracking forms, gloves, bags and other supplies. Then residents return to the stations by the end of the day where Mosquito Control staff weigh the trash and collect the data forms for statistical purposes. Additionally, Mosquito Control has been conducting waste tire amnesty and cleanup events in partnership with Brevard County Solid Waste Management, Communications, and Natural Resources Departments as well as the Florida Department of Health in Brevard and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In a recent Tire Island Cleanup project, Mosquito Control also assisted the Pineda Waterway Warriors in removing several tires from an island in Cocoa Beach. Last year, over 100 tons of tires were removed from the community through these events. Plans are currently underway to host the next Waste Tire Amnesty event in April 2026 and Coastal Cleanup event in September 2026.

Cleanup Events:

April 16 to 18, 2026 – Hosting Waste Tire Amnesty Days at Mosquito Control's North (Titusville) and South (Valkaria) offices

September 20, 2026 – Hosting International Coastal Cleanup at the Max Brewer Causeway Bridge, Titusville

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026010 with revisions because the County promotes beach clean up and has implemented practices to promote partnerships for picking up litter as described in staff analysis.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 2:56 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026011

Recommendation # 2026011

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026011 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Michael Durante
Address	1328 Tipperary Drive, Melbourne FL 32940
Phone	(321) 446-9426
Email	mrdfcpc@gmail.com
Alternate Email	mrdfcpc@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026011
Recommendation Title	Viera rotary - Wickham Rd & Lake Andrew Dr
Areas Affected	Pedestrian-activated blinking yellow crosswalks
Department Affected	

Current problem	Dear Sir or Madam, Thank you for your time and consideration in my request. As a pedestrian on a bike or walking, I frequently cross the rotary at various points. The number of times that I need to get the drivers' attention to stop in the crosswalk is approximately 80%. Often, many people ignore the pedestrian with certain drivers being very upset they need to stop their car and yield. This happens more frequently than it should but I know it is a busy area. In addition, there are many golf carts in Viera and I would guess that they have the same hesitation when driving the golf cart through the rotary.
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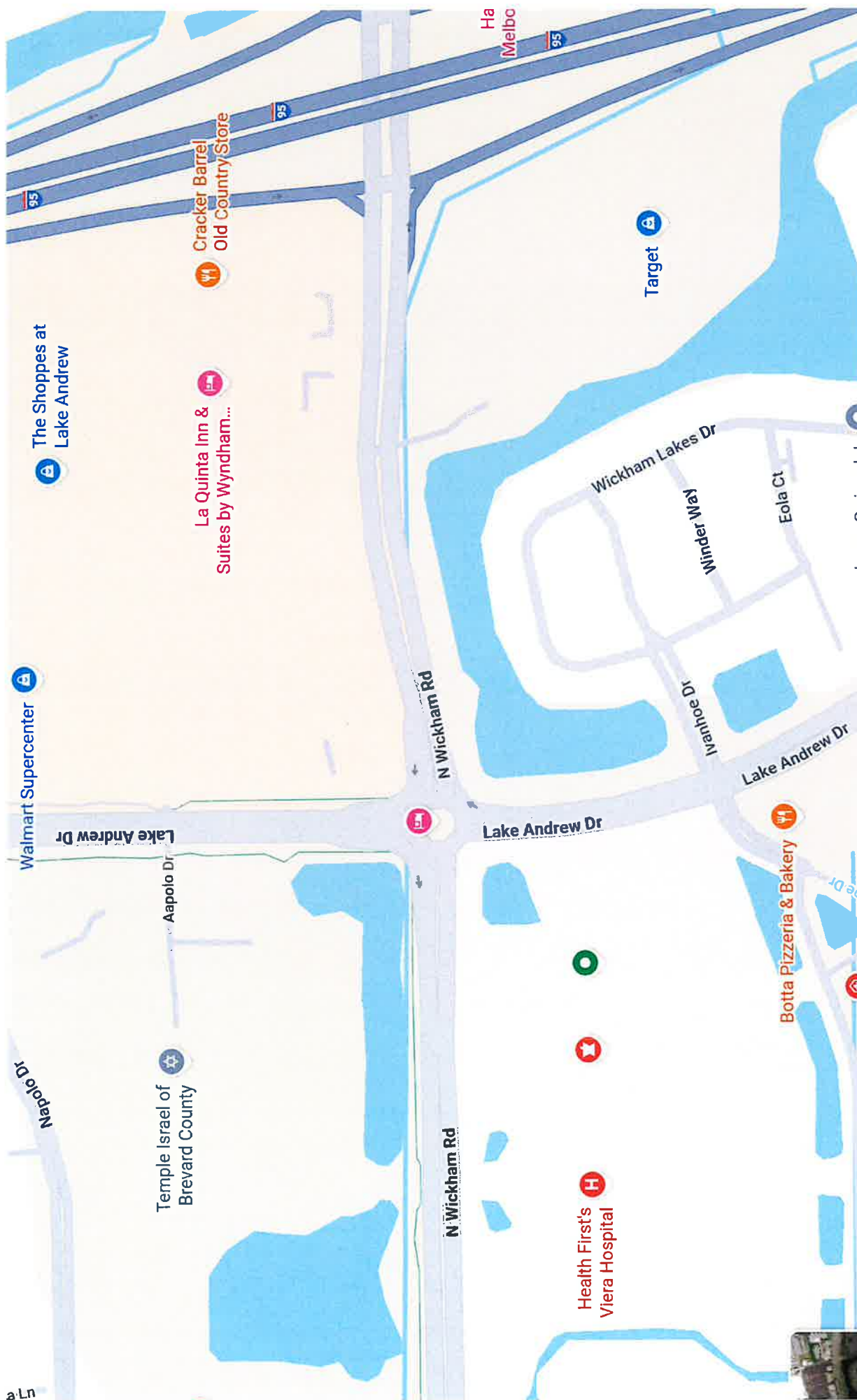
Recommendation	I am so happy that Viera has a very pedestrian friendly area since it is great to be outside in our wonderful community. I noticed in driving on A1A in Satellite Beach, they have blinking crosswalks (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs)) to alert drivers that a pedestrian is in the crosswalk and this seems to work very well since drivers should be aware to appropriately yield. I would request that RRFBs be considered for the rotary to allow for pedestrians to feel comfortable in having the right of way when crossing the road. I believe the cost vs. the safety considerations would
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be offset. Also, I think if police officers randomly spent an hour a day or if you had cameras in the area, it would be very apparent that it is dangerous for pedestrians. As the population of West Viera continues to grow, it would be wonderful to drive from Borrows West to Costco without having the worry of trying to cross the rotary. I have included a copy of Google Maps for the area I have discussed above. Thank you again for your time.

Attachments

Viera rotary - Google Maps.pdf

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Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026011

CEER #2026011 titled Viera rotary – Wickham Rd & Lake Andrew Dr, was received by the County from Michael Durante.

Citizen Statement:

Dear Sir or Madam, Thank you for your time and consideration in my request. As a pedestrian on a bike or walking, I frequently cross the rotary at various points. The number of times that I need to get the drivers' attention to stop in the crosswalk is approximately 80%. Often, many people ignore the pedestrian with certain drivers being very upset they need to stop their car and yield. This happens more frequently than it should but I know it is a busy area. In addition, there are many golf carts in Viera and I would guess that they have the same hesitation when driving the golf cart through the rotary.

Citizen Recommendation:

I am so happy that Viera has a very pedestrian friendly area since it is great to be outside in our wonderful community. I noticed in driving on A1A in Satellite Beach, they have blinking crosswalks (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) to alert drivers that a pedestrian is in the crosswalk and this seems to work very well since drivers should be aware to appropriately yield. I would request that RRFBs be considered for the rotary to allow for pedestrians to feel comfortable in having the right of way when crossing the road. I believe the cost vs. the safety considerations would be offset. Also, I think if police officers randomly spent an hour a day or if you had cameras in the area, it would be very apparent that it is dangerous for pedestrians. As the population of West Viera continues to grow, it would be wonderful to drive from Borrows West to Costco without having the worry of trying to cross the rotary. I have included a copy of Google Maps for the area I have discussed above. Thank you again for your time.



Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

Staff acknowledges that improvements for safety can always be made to this as well as many other intersections throughout the County. However, the rotary was designed and constructed to applicable FDOT standards at the time. At this juncture to retrofit the existing rotary with the installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), it would require geometric changes in addition to addressing other known operational improvements, which would constitute an approximately \$1.4 to \$3.5 million cost depending on the extent of necessary changes. This would require the Board to create a capital improvement project for engineering design, construction procurement, and dedicated funding.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026011 as it does not promote efficiency and effectiveness as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:22 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026012

Recommendation # 2026012

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026012 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Ingrid Mellone
Address	2225 Hwy A1A, APT 104, Indian Harbour Beach FL 32937
Phone	(407) 616-7662
Email	mellonei@hotmail.com
Alternate Email	mellonei@hotmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026012
Recommendation Title	Biking it
Areas Affected	the county
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	There is a huge opportunity in increasing bike lanes in the area. Brevard is sorely behind the times. See the example Titusville has set.
Recommendation	Increased bike lanes would increase recreational opportunities not only for local residents, but also improve safety, attract visitors, and encourage clean alternative modes of transit.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026012

CEER #2026012 titled Biking it, was received by the County from Ingrid Mellone.

Citizen Statement:

There is a huge opportunity in increasing bike lanes in the area. Brevard is sorely behind the times. See the example Titusville has set.

Citizen Recommendation:

Increased bike lanes would increase recreational opportunities not only for local residents, but also improve safety, attract visitors, and encourage clean alternative modes of transit.

Staff Analysis:

Staff acknowledges the citizen's interest in expanding bike lane infrastructure throughout Brevard County. The Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) has adopted a Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan that identifies priorities for expanded bicycle and pedestrian facilities countywide. However, the plan currently lacks dedicated funding for immediate implementation of the entire plan. The County takes the plan's recommended bicycle and pedestrian improvements into account when resurfacing or widening a roadway, where technically and financially feasible.

While the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has made notable investments in bike lanes on various state roads, including within Titusville, any expansion of bicycle facilities on county roads in unincorporated Brevard County would need to be evaluated for funding and prioritized within the framework of the adopted TPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

If the submitter will follow up directly at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/> with specific road/(s), staff will provide the TPO the information.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026012 with revisions because the County currently considers the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization's recommendations when resurfacing and widening roadways.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026013

Recommendation # 2026013

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026013 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Lynda Alexander
Address 943 WIMBLEDON DR, MELBOURNE FL 32940
Phone (321) 427-4014
Email ly6821@aol.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026013
Recommendation Title Median Endcaps
Areas Affected Brevard County
Department Affected
Current problem Every median end cap should have reflectors. The paint not only wears off but is not as effective. The lights are so dim that the roads are very dark at night. Everyone I know along with myself have driven over a median corner due to insufficient visibility. This would save man hours for the frequency of repainting the median endcaps but also the safety issue. Thank you for the " speak up Brevard". What a great idea!! My vision at night has been problematic since I was thirty years old. I hope you seriously take this suggestion into consideration.
Recommendation See above
Attachments No Documents were attached.

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Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026013

CEER #2026013 titled Median Endcaps, was received by the County from Lynda Alexander.

Citizen Statement:

Every median end cap should have reflectors. The paint not only wears off but is not as effective. The lights are so dim that the roads are very dark at night. Everyone I know along with myself have driven over a median corner due to insufficient visibility. This would save man hours for the frequency of repainting the median endcaps but also the safety issue. Thank you for the "speak up Brevard". What a great idea!! My vision at night has been problematic since I was thirty years old. I hope you seriously take this suggestion into consideration.

Citizen Recommendation:

See above

Staff Analysis:

Retroreflective median markers are already in use in some locations within Brevard County and have demonstrated effectiveness in improving nighttime visibility. The existing markers meet current FDOT standards and/or are replaced when deficiencies are noted.

A countywide installation of retroreflective markers on all median end caps would require a systematic inventory, procurement, and installation program representing a substantial capital investment (>\$500k) and would require the preparation of specifications and a contract due to current staffing shortfalls. With thousands of median end caps countywide, implementation would constitute a large-scale multi-year capital project that is outside the scope of the CEER process and would require dedicated funding and prioritization.

As pavement markings are replaced during routine maintenance projects, staff will evaluate whether additional reflective median end cap enhancements are warranted and implement improvements where appropriate. It should also be noted that the County's jurisdiction for



Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

median maintenance extends only to County-maintained roads; state and municipally maintained roads fall under the purview of FDOT and the respective municipalities.

If the citizen can identify specific locations on County-maintained roads where median end cap visibility is a concern, staff encourages submission of a service request through the website request feature for evaluation on a case-by-case basis.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026013 with revisions as staff currently evaluates median end cap enhancements when warranted and implements improvements where appropriate.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 2:03 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026014

Recommendation # 2026014

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026014 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Robert S Vail
Address 1956 SUN VALLEY ST, TITUSVILLE FL 32780
Phone (321) 212-9765
Email rvail1@cfl.rr.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026014
Recommendation Title Strengthen enforcement measures for privately owned retention ponds
Areas Affected
Department Affected STORMWATER UTILITY DEPARTMENT
Current problem Currently, Brevard county enforcement measures to bring privately owned storm water retention ponds into compliance are exceptionally weak. I have been dealing with a no-compliant dry retention pond since day one of my moving into my house n august, 1997. The county has tried liens and such to bring the pond into compliance with no result. The property owners have no incentive to bring the pond into compliance as they know the county will never enforce any lien placed against it. This particular pond has never been in compliance with the "72 hour" percolation rule. It is now even worse because of all of the muck that has gathered in it to the point the pond never fully drains and is overgrown with weeds and grasses.
Recommendation 1. Chapter 62, Article X, Division 6, section 7 maintenance entity is the standards and enforcement section for retention ponds. At the present time, this ordinance does not clearly lay out what enforcement options are available to residents or the county. This section should be updated to provide for this. Residents are the first line of defense in our storm water runoff issues, to include privately owned retention ponds that are not in compliance. 2. The County needs to strengthen it's enforcement options to include

criminal misdemeanor charges if remediation is not taken in a timely manner. 3. Other non criminal enforcement options should be added or strengthened so as to force owner behavior modification so that the offending retention pond is brought into compliance.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

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Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026014

CEER #2026014, titled Strengthen enforcement measures for privately owned retention ponds, was received by the County from Robert S. Vail.

Citizen Statement:

Currently, Brevard county enforcement measures to bring privately owned storm water retention ponds into compliance are exceptionally weak. I have been dealing with a non-compliant dry retention pond since day one of my moving into my house in August, 1997. The county has tried liens and such to bring the pond into compliance with no result. The property owners have no incentive to bring the pond into compliance as they know the county will never enforce any lien placed against it. This particular pond has never been in compliance with the "72 hour" percolation rule. It is now even worse because of all of the muck that has gathered in it to the point the pond never fully drains and is overgrown with weeds and grasses.

Citizen Recommendation:

1. Chapter 62, Article X, Division 6, section 7 maintenance entity is the standards and enforcement section for retention ponds. At the present time, this ordinance does not clearly lay out what enforcement options are available to residents or the county. This section should be updated to provide for this. Residents are the first line of defense in our storm water runoff issues, to include privately owned retention ponds that are not in compliance.
2. The County needs to strengthen its enforcement options to include criminal misdemeanor charges if remediation is not taken in a timely manner.
3. Other non criminal enforcement options should be added or strengthened so as to force owner behavior modification so that the offending retention pond is brought into compliance.

Staff Analysis:

Chapter 62, Article X, Division 6 of the County Code, Stormwater Management Criteria, established enforcement provisions more than 30 years ago under Sections 62-3754 and 62-3755.

Sec. 62-3754. - Penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation, association or other group or body who shall violate any provisions of this division, or the stormwater management criteria established hereunder, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$500.00 or imprisoned in a county jail for not more than 60 days, or both, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in such cases. Each day any such violation continues to exist shall be considered a separate offense.

Sec. 62-3755. - Alternate remedies.

In addition to any other remedies, whether civil or criminal, for any violation of this division, or the stormwater management criteria established hereunder, the county may institute in a court of competent jurisdiction any appropriate action or proceeding, including injunction, to prevent or remedy any such violation. Further, the county may take such other lawful action, including code enforcement proceedings under section 2-166 et seq., as may be necessary to prevent or remedy any such violation.

Mr. Vail's home was constructed in 1990, and the surrounding neighborhood does not appear to have a permitted stormwater management system. As is common in areas developed prior to modern stormwater permitting requirements, drainage in this area may flow toward adjacent vacant properties.

In 2016, Mr. Vail reported a code enforcement complaint regarding overgrowth and high weeds on the vacant lot north of his property (Case No. 16CE-01738, Tax Account 2215207). The complaint was investigated and closed as unfounded. The area in question does not appear to be a private retention pond but rather a vacant parcel that may contain wetlands.

Similarly, in 2018 a complaint was filed regarding overgrowth and drainage concerns on lots east of the Vail property (Case No. 18CE-00127, Tax Accounts 2215216 and 2218165). The complaint, reported by Sarah Reed, was also investigated and closed as unfounded. As with the northern parcel, these lots appear to be vacant properties with potential wetland characteristics rather than designated stormwater retention areas.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026014 with revisions because penalties and remedies are already established in the Stormwater Management Criteria.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:40 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026015

Recommendation # 2026015

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026015 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Tom Kennelly
Address 3711 Indian River Dr, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 228-5314
Email tekennellyp@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026015
Recommendation Title Fix Indian River Drive in conjunction with SOIRL Septic to Server - funded
Areas Affected SOIRL
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem Indian River Drive from City Point Road to Briarwood is a highly patched road. The road needs to have its base repaired in so many locations because the road has remained under lagoon water for long periods of time as evidenced by all of the patches and broken road edges. Since the SOIRL project is going to mill and repave all of that road let's get the base fixed as well.
Recommendation Work with the SOIRL project, who already has funding to mill and repave the road, and go the extra mile and fix the base by having Brevard County fund the part that SOIRL is not doing, the base and the edges. I would attach the SOIRL Cocoa Zone C plan, which is entirely in Brevard County, but the file is too large to be included. Once you obtain the SOIRL plan you can verify that part of the plan is to mill and repave this entire stretch. I obtained the SOIRL Cocoa Zone C plan from: Whitney Blucher Special Projects Coordinator II Brevard County Utility Services 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, A-213 Viera, FL 32940 Tel: 321.633.2091 Fax: 321.633.2095
Attachments No Documents were attached.



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THROUGH: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026015

CEER #2026015, titled Fix Indian River Drive in conjunction with SOIRL Septic to Sewer – funded, was received by the County from Tom Kennelly.

Citizen Statement:

Indian River Drive from City Point Road to Briarwood is a highly patched road. The road needs to have its base repaired in so many locations because the road has remained under lagoon water for long periods of time as evidenced by all of the patches and broken road edges. Since the SOIRL project is going to mill and repave all of that road let's get the base fixed as well."

Citizen Recommendation:

Work with the SOIRL project, who already has funding to mill and repave the road, and go the extra mile and fix the base by having Brevard County fund the part that SOIRL is not doing, the base and the edges.

I would attach the SOIRL Cocoa Zone C plan, which is entirely in Brevard County, but the file is too large to be included. Once you obtain the SOIRL plan you can verify that part of the plan is to mill and repave this entire stretch.

I obtained the SOIRL Cocoa Zone C plan from:

Whitney Blucher
Special Projects Coordinator II
Brevard County Utility Service
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, A-213
Viera, FL 32940 Tel: 321.633.2091 Fax: 321.633.2095

Staff Analysis:

The purpose of SOIRL is to cost-effectively reduce and remove pollution from the Indian River Lagoon. Septic to sewer conversion projects are funded to reduce the impacts of

septic pollution on the lagoon. One of the priority areas for septic to sewer conversion extends along the southern portion of Indian River Drive. Following its purpose for cost-effective pollution reduction, the SOIRL program only funds the repair or rebuilding of roadway areas specifically impacted by its projects.

The county evaluates roadway improvements for each specific project to determine whether full reconstruction, base repair, or milling and resurfacing are appropriate. These determinations are made by the Public Works staff based on the anticipated impacts of the septic to sewer project combined with field assessments, roadway condition, structural integrity of the base, drainage considerations, long-term performance needs, and available funding.

For projects occurring within the County right-of-way, all work must comply with the requirements outlined in the issued Right-of-Way Permit. The permit specifies the scope of restoration necessary to return the project area to acceptable standards. Roadway sections identified as requiring full reconstruction, including base repair, are rebuilt in accordance with those permit requirements. Sections that meet structural standards and only require surface restoration are milled and repaved, as specified.

While coordination between projects is considered whenever feasible, funding responsibilities and scopes of work are determined by staff evaluation and adopted guidelines. Any additional reconstruction beyond what is needed for the project would be assessed and budgeted based on available road program funding that fiscal year. This project is projected to be complete in fiscal year 2029.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026015 with revisions, specifically that Natural Resources, Utility Services, and Public Works Departments continue to evaluate and coordinate efforts to determine road reconstruction versus milling and repaving needs, as well as fair allocation of interdepartmental costs for each Septic to Sewer project or other capital improvement project impacting County road right of way.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:50 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026016

Recommendation # 2026016

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026016 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Tom Kennelly
Address 3711 Indian River Dr, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 228-5314
Email tekennellyp@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026016
Recommendation Title Upgrade the storm water drain at Brookhill Dr and Indian River Dr
Areas Affected
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem The storm water drain at Brookhill Dr and Indian River Dr back flows lagoon saltwater onto Indian River Dr. Many residents drive their cars through the salt water unaware of the damage they are doing to their cars. Likewise the water sitting on the road is damaging the road and its base.
Recommendation Nicholas Gagliardo, PE of Public Works already created a plan to address the problem but it was put on hold due to the SOIRL project coming through. Now is the time to dust off the plan and raise the area around that intersection. Nicholas mentioned that that are interfacing with SOIRL but I just reviewed the SOIRL plan for Cocoa Zone C and do not see any plans to raise the storm water drain and the area around it. Time to get Nicholas's fine work integrated into the SOIRL plan.
Attachments image001.jpg

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N LINE ORB
4431, PG 2361

RE-CONST. CURB
W/ POSITIVE FLOW

RE-CONST. CURB
W/ POSITIVE FLOW

S LINE ORB
2784, PG 0631

EX SD-1 2.5'X2.
(REPLACE WITH
TOP GRATE APPLI
N., E., & S. INV.

CONC
D/W

P-1
14"X2
ERCP

**PROJECT BM &
REF MON #1**

SET 5/8" IRON ROD
& CAP STAMPED
"BREVARD COUNTY
TRAVERSE POINT"
N = 1,483,896.45
E = 736,325.20
ELEV = 1.36" (NAVD88)

ICAL SWALE SOUTH

SD-3
RE-CONST. EX. FLUME
INTO EX. MES

SD-7
MES
INV. = (-) 0.70

M.E.G.

M.E.G.

SD-8 TYPE C
RIM = 0.50
N. INV. = MATCH
S. INV. = MATCH

SD-9
INV. = MATCH

CLEAN EXIST. SWALE



Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940
321-617-7202

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026016

CEER #2026016, titled Upgrade the storm water drain at Brookhill Dr and Indian River Dr, was received by the County from Tom Kennelly.

Citizen Statement:

The storm water drain at Brookhill Dr and Indian River Dr back flows lagoon saltwater onto Indian River Dr. Many residents drive their cars through the salt water unaware of the damage they are doing to their cars. Likewise the water sitting on the road is damaging the road and its base.

Citizen Recommendation:

Nicholas Gagliardo, PE of Public Works already created a plan to address the problem but it was put on hold due to the SOIRL project coming through. Now is the time to dust off the plan and raise the area around that intersection. Nicholas mentioned that that are interfacing with SOIRL but I just reviewed the SOIRL plan for Cocoa Zone C and do not see any plans to raise the storm water drain and the area around it. Time to get Nicholas's fine work integrated into the SOIRL plan.

Staff Analysis:

Public Works Engineering developed a maintenance-level stormwater plan in late 2021 for the referenced area. The purpose of the plan is to restore the roadway profile, which has been adversely affected by prolonged high-water levels and has experienced localized settlement, particularly along the road shoulders. The project does not propose raising the road intersection. Instead, it will restore the centerline elevations and reestablish the proper crown and cross slope, followed by placement of a new driving surface. Drainage inlets and pipes are also being installed to preserve the outfall connection to the river.



Public Works Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940
321-617-7202

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Due to inclusion of the area in the SOIRL Septic-to-Sewer project it was determined it to be in the best interest of taxpayers to coordinate both efforts. This coordination is to avoid duplicative impacts, construction conflicts, and overlapping expenditures within the same area.

Given the relatively minor scope of the stormwater maintenance compared to the larger Utilities project, it was decided in 2024 that the Utilities consultant would incorporate the stormwater maintenance plans into the overall Utilities construction documents for bidding and construction. That integration effort remains in progress and the stormwater maintenance plan will be included in the construction project. The construction project is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2029.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026016 as it does not enhance the efficiency or effectiveness of Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:57 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026017

Recommendation # 2026017

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026017 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Lynn Patow
Address 254 CANAVERAL BEACH BLVD, CAPE CANAVERAL FL 32920
Phone (321) 520-3144
Email coolguyzacinc@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026017
Recommendation Title water quality
Areas Affected BREVARD COUNTY
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS I HAVE WITNESSED THE QUALITY OF OUR WATERS DECLINE. OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON DOES NOT HAVE THE VARIETY OF LIFE WHICH WAS PLENTIFUL IN THE 1990'S. OUR OCEAN REEFS - I WISH I COULD SHOW YOU SIDE BY SIDE VIDEOS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY FIRST DIVES IN THE 1990'S AND MY LAST (2018) - DEVASTATING. I NO LONGER DIVE ON REEFS AS THEY DO BETTER WITHOUT HUMANS NOT TO MENTION THE WATER FROM OUR TAPS! THE WATER WE PAY TO CONSUME HERE IS OF THE POOREST QUALITY. OUR WATER IS LOADED WITH CHLORINE AND CONTAMINANTS.
Recommendation I PROPOSE THE COUNTY CHALLENGE OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS. WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE - LET'S SET HIGHER STANDARDS FOR IT'S QUALITY.
Attachments No Documents were attached.



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept. *AE*
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026017

CEER #2026017, titled Water Quality, was received by the County from Lynn Patow.

Citizen Statement:

OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS I HAVE WITNESSED THE QUALITY OF OUR WATERS DECLINE. OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON DOES NOT HAVE THE VARIETY OF LIFE WHICH WAS PLENTIFUL IN THE 1990'S. OUR OCEAN REEFS - I WISH I COULD SHOW YOU SIDE BY SIDE VIDEOS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY FIRST DIVES IN THE 1990'S AND MY LAST (2018) - DEVASTATING. I NO LONGER DIVE ON REEFS AS THEY DO BETTER WITHOUT HUMANS

NOT TO MENTION THE WATER FROM OUR TAPS! THE WATER WE PAY TO CONSUME HERE IS OF THE POOREST QUALITY. OUR WATER IS LOADED WITH CHLORINE AND CONTAMINANTS.

Citizen Recommendation:

I PROPOSE THE COUNTY CHALLENGE OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS.

WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE - LET'S SET HIGHER STANDARDS FOR IT'S QUALITY.

Staff Analysis:

Although the County does not have jurisdiction over school curriculum, the Natural Resources Management Department (NRM) has been actively engaged in water quality and pollution prevention outreach and education for decades. The Lagoon Loyal program (formerly Blue Life), www.lagoonloyal.com, was developed to address the thousands of pounds of excess algae-feeding nutrients that enter the Indian River Lagoon through groundwater and stormwater. This program serves as the cornerstone of the County's public education and outreach efforts required under Brevard's NPDES permit. To satisfy permit requirements, NRM staff conduct stormwater pollution prevention presentations for children in schools and at appropriate community events, such as the annual Indian River Lagoon Day. These presentations help students

understand the sources of pollution and the simple actions they and their families can take to reduce pollution and help protect the lagoon.

In addition to NPDES permit-required outreach, NRM staff routinely participate in student-focused environmental programs. These include Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition; ORCA's annual "Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon," where dozens of student groups across the estuary collect samples and conduct field analysis; and mostly recently, a water quality focused presentation to the Sea Turtle Conservancy Action Ambassadors. Lastly, NRM staff hosts BRAVE volunteers interested in hands-on environmental experience, participates in career days when requested, and serve as judges for local science fairs.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026017 with revisions because as stated in staff analysis, Natural Resources Management staff routinely participate in student-focused environmental programs, host BRAVE volunteers interested in hands-on environmental experience, participate in career days when requested, and serve as judges for local science fairs.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 8, 2026 12:13 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026018

Recommendation # 2026018

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026018 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	424-68-6476
Name	Terri Fulon
Address	heritagesigns@earthlink.net, Melbourne FL 32935
Phone	(321) 253-0424
Email	heritagesigns@earthlink.net
Alternate Email	heritagesigns@earthlink.net

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026018
Recommendation Title	encrypted transmission of county & city of Melbourne
Areas Affected	Citizens
Department Affected	
Current problem	I argue that full encryption undermines public trust, hinders accountability, and reduces situational awareness for residents, while viable alternatives exist to address legitimate concerns without complete secrecy. Being a single female I need to know WHY 10 police cars are running around my neighborhood! (Which has happened a few time.) Also, a police chopper was looking for a person, he was 2 doors on a bike hiding under a tree! I called it in. Police scanners have been accessible to the public for decades, fostering a sense of shared information in communities. Historically, open radio channels allowed citizens to hear firsthand about emergencies, enabling them to avoid dangerous areas, prepare for disruptions, or even assist in crises. Open transmissions also promote accountability. Real-time public oversight discourages misconduct and ensures police actions align with community expectations. For everyday citizens, the loss is VERY personal. Many use scanners to stay informed about neighborhood incidents—burglaries, fires, or accidents—affecting daily life. Encryption creates an information vacuum, eroding the sense of community connection to local law enforcement.

Recommendation

RECOMMENDATION: Have a way for the officers to cut off damaging/super private transmissions that should not be known. A lot of groups do it. BENEFITS: It would provide a way of keeping certain information off the air.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026018

CEER #2026018, titled encrypted transmission of county & city of Melbourne, was received by the County from Terri Fulon.

Citizen Statement:

I argue that full encryption undermines public trust, hinders accountability, and reduces situational awareness for residents, while viable alternatives exist to address legitimate concerns without complete secrecy.

Being a single female I need to know WHY 10 police cars are running around my neighborhood! (Which has happened a few time.)

Also, a police chopper was looking for a person, he was 2 doors on a bike hiding under a tree! I called it in.

Police scanners have been accessible to the public for decades, fostering a sense of shared information in communities. Historically, open radio channels allowed citizens to hear firsthand about emergencies, enabling them to avoid dangerous areas, prepare for disruptions, or even assist in crises.

Open transmissions also promote accountability. Real-time public oversight discourages misconduct and ensures police actions align with community expectations.

For everyday citizens, the loss is VERY personal. Many use scanners to stay informed about neighborhood incidents—burglaries, fires, or accidents—affecting daily life. Encryption creates an information vacuum, eroding the sense of community connection to local law enforcement.

Citizen Recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION: Have a way for the officers to cut off damaging/super private transmissions that should not be known. A lot of groups do it.

BENEFITS: It would provide a way of keeping certain information off the air.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026018 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 3:18 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026019

Recommendation # 2026019

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026019 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Traci Robinson
Address	3542 Angelica St, Cocoa FL 32926 3660
Phone	(321) 431-4890
Email	therightperspective417@gmail.com
Alternate Email	therightperspective417@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026019
Recommendation Title	Improved Notification and Transparency
Areas Affected	All
Department Affected	
Current problem	Current Florida Statutes require government agencies and offices to provide public notifications of government plans, operations and meetings impacting the public. These notifications normally take the form of a notice in the local newspaper and on a county or municipality website and/or Facebook page. Using these sources usually results in the public missing the important information trying to be shared because readership of newspapers is down and most people do not regularly peruse government websites and/or social media pages. So, while meeting the letter of the law, these notices do not actually serve the needs of the government nor the people.
Recommendation	I respectfully suggest that in addition to these current efforts, public notification also take the form of direct notice to those residents directly impacted or potentially impacted by government business through notices mailed to residents' home via US Postal Service, signage in neighborhoods with listed URL or QR links, and/or reverse-911 type phone calls. The area of distribution should include more than just those who are within 200 or 500 feet of a proposal (as in zoning changes notifications) but instead include a more realistic radius of a mile or more. This would help ensure that

the important information the government is trying to distribute and share is actually received by the public, thus strengthening the partnership between government and the people it serves. We live in the information era, and this would help us all to share in the vital local information that impacts us. It would also allow the public to help government in serving the needs of the community.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026019

CEER #202619, titled Improved Notification and Transparency, was received by the County from Traci Robinson.

Citizen Statement:

Current Florida Statutes require government agencies and offices to provide public notifications of government plans, operations and meetings impacting the public. These notifications normally take the form of a notice in the local newspaper and on a county or municipality website and/or Facebook page. Using these sources usually results in the public missing the important information trying to be shared because readership of newspapers is down and most people do not regularly peruse government websites and/or social media pages. So, while meeting the letter of the law, these notices do not actually serve the needs of the government nor the people.

Citizen Recommendation:

I respectfully suggest that in addition to these current efforts, public notification also take the form of direct notice to those residents directly impacted or potentially impacted by government business through notices mailed to residents' home via US Postal Service, signage in neighborhoods with listed URL or QR links, and/or reverse-911 type phone calls. The area of distribution should include more than just those who are within 200 or 500 feet of a proposal (as in zoning changes notifications) but instead include a more realistic radius of a mile or more. This would help ensure that the important information the government is trying to distribute and share is actually received by the public, thus strengthening the partnership between government and the people it serves. We live in the information era, and this would help us all to share in the vital local information that impacts us. It would also allow the public to help government in serving the needs of the community.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County adheres to all applicable Florida statutory and County code requirements for public meeting notices.

The reverse 911 notification system used by Brevard County, Everbridge, is a public safety mechanism may only be used for immediate emergency notifications.

At the Board's request, staff can adjust signage in neighborhoods to include a QR code with a link to relevant information regarding a proposed zoning change.

The current variance and zoning notice has been in place for decades and includes courtesy mailers to property owners within 200 ft of a variance change and within 500 ft of a zoning change. When a zoning change is considered, the applicant pays for the public notification cost. In addition, in 2023 the County started posting public notices to the County website rather than just the local newspaper to increase awareness for the community. Based on the high number of postings, variety of notifications, and no central database for notifications, including a QR code to postings would be more burdensome for County staff and would likely result in more confusion, not less, for the public.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026019 as it does not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 10, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026020

Recommendation # 2026020

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026020 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Scott Moore
Address 2800 Winstead Dr., Titusville FL 32796
Phone (386) 882-4252
Email emailscottmoore@gmail.com
Alternate Email emailscottmoore@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026020
Recommendation Title Provide a delayed unencrypted stream of the BCSO radio comms
Areas Affected COUNTY WIDE
Department Affected SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Current problem In order to know what the heros in uniform working for the BCSO are doing we must have delayed access to their communications. Recently they have encrypted them for safety as criminals use police scanners to locate pur sheriffs/ I suggest a 1 hour delay where we Citizens can monitor the criminal activity in our county and the criminals are prevented from having real time data comms on the location of our officers. Wayne Ivey has many times claimed there is a partnership between LOE's and Citizens that is vital to his success this is true and as we know Wayne Ivey is hugely supported
Recommendation If longer than one hour is required that is fine. The benefits are an informed populous that supports our fine law enforcement because we know what they do and how they do it.
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026020

CEER #2026020, titled Provide a delayed unencrypted stream of the BCSO radio comms, was received by the County from Scott Moore.

Citizen Statement:

In order to know what the heros in uniform working for the BCSO are doing we must have delayed access to their communications.

Recently they have encrypted them for safety as criminals use police scanners to locate pur sheriffs/

I suggest a 1 hour delay where we Citizens can monitor the criminal activity in our county and the criminals are prevented from having real time data comms on the location of our officers.

Wayne Ivey has many times claimed there is a partnership between LOE's and Citizens that is vital to his success this is true and as we know Wayne Ivey is hugely supported

Citizen Recommendation:

If longer than one hour is required that is fine.

The benefits are an informed populous that supports our fine law enforcement because we know what they do and how they do it.

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026020 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026021

Recommendation # 2026021

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026021 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Margaret R
Address 7827 HIGHWAY A1A, MELBOURNE BEACH FL 32951
Phone (773) 457-7817
Email margaretryb@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026021
Recommendation Title Public Water Access
Areas Affected
Department Affected

Current problem Unincorporated Brevard County Residence demand public water access to all residences. The privet well drillers aren't available and are taking advantage of new residence who are not familiar with the subject matter. I myself was injured by three different well drillers and currently reside in Brevard County without access to water. Licensing process for this driller is also very unclear, I hire a drilling company but different name is licensed as a driller with no accountability. That process needs to change. All drillers needs to be insured and their insurance needs to be available if there is injury. Hefty 10K impact fee is ridicules as well. If the new homeowner is moving to the area and investing in the area they need to rewarded not punished for moving in and trying to survive in these harsh conditions that Florida has to offer.

Recommendation Do to my injuries and residing here in Brevard County without water I demand that my \$10,000.00 dollars I was forced to pay to Brevard County needs to be immediately return to me. I'm prepared ti fight this issue with Brevard County. My entire Holliday Season was irreparably damaged and still don't have water in my residence. It is

unthinkable that in 21 Century in US people have to suffer like that. You know where to find me

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026021

CEER #2026021, titled Public Water Access, was received by the County from Margaret R.

Citizen Statement:

Unincorporated Brevard County Residence demand public water access to all residences. The privet well drillers aren't available and are taking advantage of new residence who are not familiar with the subject matter. I myself was injured by three different well drillers and currently reside in Brevard County without access to water. Licensing process for this driller is also very unclear, I hire a drilling company but different name is licensed as a driller with no accountability. That process needs to change. All drillers needs to be insured and their insurance needs to be available if there is injury. Hefty 10K impact fee is ridicules as well. If the new homeowner is moving to the area and investing in the area they need to rewarded not punished for moving in and trying to survive in these harsh conditions that Florida has to offer.

Citizen Recommendation:

Do to my injuries and residing here in Brevard County without water I demand that my \$10,000.00 dollars I was forced to pay to Brevard County needs to be immediately return to me. I'm prepared ti fight this issue with Brevard County. My entire Holliday Season was irreparably damaged and still don't have water in my residence. It is 2 unthincable that in 21 Century in US people have to suffer like that. You know where to find me

Staff Analysis:

There is a long string of emails to the County in which Ms. Rybska has threatened legal action based over a private well that failed at her residence in Melbourne beach. The County does not register licensing or insurance credentials for this service, yet Ms. Rybska demands monetary reimbursement from the County.

The licensing portion on this private well is outside of Brevard County's jurisdiction.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Water well contractor licensing and permitting is within the jurisdiction of Florida Department of Environmental Protection. On Jan. 23, the County Manager sent the following information by email (attached) to Ms. Rybska regarding this issue and her demands: "The fees you paid were under a permit for a new single-family residence permit (22BC14371) (see attached receipt indicating \$5,096.50 in educational impact fees, \$4,353 in transportation impact fees, other impact fees, as well as reinspection fees that were outstanding at the time of payment. In addition to the \$9,838.06 in impact fees paid, the County also collected permitting-related fees. A certificate of occupancy was issued in September 2025. The County is not involved in the well issue and the impact and permitting fees were not connected to it." That correspondence is attached.

We have received additional correspondence in which the Brevard County Health Department is working to address some of Ms. Rybska's issues and is making recommendations on alternatives she can pursue to remedy her situation. That correspondence is attached.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026021 because the licensing portion of this private well is outside Brevard County Government's jurisdiction.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026022

Recommendation # 2026022

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026022 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Lesa Hersorn
Address 3365 tarragon st, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 684-1969
Email Ramonerubin1@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026022
Recommendation Title Enforcement residential being used commercial
Areas Affected Canaveral groves
Department Affected
Current problem residents in Canaveral groves running multiple commercial businesses in residential areas , multiple families doing together, very inconsiderate of neighbors quiet enjoyment , creating noise, more street traffic , transient activity ,extra trash disposal, dangerous hazardous environmental pollution and waste that can cause health issues quite frankly ,burning of non lawn waste , lack of permits, seems to b issue not addressed, it's understood apparently that it is allowed, so it continues and seems out of control in my opinion.
Recommendation Recommendation would b informing residents perhaps newsletter to all residents in Canaveral groves that running businesses in residential areas is unlawful, inconsiderate , hazardous and people pay alot of taxes to not live in commercial areas, explain the reasons to residents , explain what it causes , explain which areas are commercial etc ,,another way would b to have county patrol for period of time to deter behavior , Another suggestion would b hotline for residents to b able to inform county anonymously which is safer in this day and age , unfortunately with lawfare ,tensions that can arise when suggesting residents follow laws.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Billy Prasad, Planning and Development Director
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026022

CEER #2026022, titled Enforcement residential being used commercial, was received by the County from Lesa Hersom.

Citizen Statement:

"residents in Canaveral groves running multiple commercial businesses in residential areas , multiple families doing together, very inconsiderate of neighbors quiet enjoyment , creating noise, more street traffic , transient activity ,extra trash disposal, dangerous hazardous environmental pollution and waste that can cause health issues quite frankly ,burning of non lawn waste , lack of permits, seems to b issue not addressed, it's understood apparently that it is allowed, so it continues and seems out of control in my opinion."

Citizen Recommendation:

"Recommendation would b informing residents perhaps newsletter to all residents in Canaveral groves that running businesses in residential areas is unlawful, inconsiderate , hazardous and people pay alot of taxes to not live in commercial areas, explain the reasons to residents , explain what it causes , explain which areas are commercial etc ,,another way would b to have county patrol for period of time to deter behavior ,"

"Another suggestion would b hotline for residents to b able to inform county anonymously which is safer in this day and age , unfortunately with lawfare ,tensions that can arise when suggesting residents follow laws."

Staff Analysis:

Florida Statute Section 559.955 (enacted via HB 403 in 2021) protects the right to operate a home-based business in residential areas. It prohibits local governments from enacting discriminatory regulations, restricting businesses based on zoning, or requiring special permits,



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

provided the business remains secondary to the home's residential use, generates minimal noise/traffic, and complies with applicable local business taxes.

Key Aspects of the Florida Statute Section 559.955, entitled "Home based businesses; local government restrictions":

- **Zoning Protections:** Local governments cannot prohibit a home-based business from operating in a residential zone.
- **Operational Limits:** Activities must be secondary to the home's primary residential use.
- **Noise/Traffic/Odors:** The business cannot create, for example, excessive noise, fumes, vibrations, or traffic/parking that violates local residential standards.
- **Employees:** The business may have employees, though some local jurisdictions may limit this to roughly two, depending on specific ordinances.
- **Restrictions on Local Government:** Local governments are prohibited from treating home-based businesses differently than other commercial businesses in terms of licensing or regulation.
- **Visibility:** The business must not have visible evidence of operation (such as storage or large signs) from the street.
- **Applicable Taxes:** Businesses are still subject to applicable local business taxes.

As of July 1, 2021, due to a change in the law, Brevard County, FL, does not accept or investigate anonymous code enforcement complaints, requiring complainants to provide their name and address.

Pursuant to Florida Statute Section 162.21 (b):

"A code enforcement officer may not initiate an investigation of a potential violation of a duly enacted code or ordinance by way of an anonymous complaint. A person who reports a potential violation of a code or an ordinance must provide his or her name and address to the respective local government before an investigation may occur. This paragraph does not apply if the code enforcement officer has reason to believe that the violation presents an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare or imminent destruction of habitat or sensitive resources."



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Key Details on Brevard County Code Complaints:

- **Legal Basis:** Florida Statute 162.21 (and 125.69) prohibits code inspectors from initiating investigations based on anonymous complaints.
- **Exception:** If a complaint alleges an immediate threat to safety or the environment, it may be investigated without complainant identification.
- **How to Report:** Complaints can be filed via the [Brevard County Government website](#), which requires contact information for the reporter.
- **Unlicensed Contracting:** An exception exists for reporting unlicensed contracting/work, where anonymous complaints may be accepted.
- **Records:** Complaints are considered public records.

Upon reviewing the CEER and the applicable Florida State Statutes, there are monuments in place prohibiting the actions requested, such as allowing anonymous complaints. Florida Statute Section 162.21 prevents anonymous complaints being made for code violations unless the violations create a well-founded health/safety concern.

In addition, while the suggestion of a newsletter is appreciated, it would only add an additional step that would likely lead to allowing more time before traditional investigation and enforcement of those cases where a formal complaint has been received, and taking no action for those of which we do not have a named complaint. Brevard County Code and Contractor Compliance do send out courtesy notices in neighborhoods in certain circumstances as an educational measure (for example, addressing business signage in the rights-of-way) where there has been a demonstrated pattern of non-compliance, but in this case it may not have the intended effect. As part of a newsletter regarding home-based business, staff would include information on what *is* permitted in addition to what is not permitted; as such, it may have the effect of causing a proliferation of home-based businesses in the area.

As detailed above, Florida Statute Section 559.955 allows for home-based business under specific criteria, most important to that criterion is no visible evidence of its operation as well as the restriction of no additional noise and traffic.

Fortunately, there is a remedy available for citizens to have their concerns for valid violations investigated, and it is to make a formal complaint. The formal complaint does allow Brevard County Contractor and Code Compliance to pursue the violations described, such as noise and



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

pollutants caused by businesses in violation of zoning as well as unpermitted structures, which result in impact on the quality of life for the affected residents.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026022 because it is inconsistent with State law as outlined in the staff analysis.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 12:36 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026023

Recommendation # 2026023

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026023 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Irene Soler
Address 4045 GREEN OAK DR, MELBOURNE FL 32901
Phone (704) 685-4678
Email inominion@protonmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026023
Recommendation Title Strengthen Zoning and Curtail Growth
Areas Affected
Department Affected

Current problem Brevard County is growing too rapidly and with rapid growth comes a number of issues. First of all, subdivisions and apartment buildings are going up in every available patch of land mostly off two lane roads that quickly become congested. Brevard does not have enough wide avenues going from North to South, hence more congestion and accidents! Trees are mowed down and this along with all the paving of once green fields creates the urban heat island. I see a mismatch of buildings going up with no rhyme or reason. Once everything is paved over, a hurricane like Harvey will flood this area since it is low lying, requires many drainage ditches and ponds and water that once filtered into the open fields will have nowhere to go!

Recommendation I suggest a fee for all the developers (mostly from up North) to help with new road construction be charged. The long time resident, who is not profiting from new subdivisions, should not be on the hook because Northern developers that are restricted in Northern States like New York are coming here!! All the additional traffic reduces the quality of life of those who have been here for years, plus many did not retire with the big fat pensions or 401ks the Northerners are bringing with them! If a

developer clears out a field, require that they plant some trees back (a friend of mine told me Atlanta, GA requires this of every new subdivision) after they build the homes and add a turn lane into their apartment complex or subdivision. Don't allow a hotel to be built in another hotel's parking lot (i.e. Crown Plaza on A1A and the Element hotel) now the Crown Plaza patrons have to drive in front of the fire station to get to the available parking lot across the street! I've never seen anything like this - driving in front of fire station garage!!! Don't place a townhome unit, storage facility in front of a Post Office!!! This reminds me of third world countries where a mansion is standing next to a shanty! Consider the mess this is going to create in that parking lot, plus I am not sure why anyone would want to look out their window and stare at the post office in their back yard (visit the South Patrick Post Office!) Do require that new subdivisions be modeled after small self contained towns, i.e. Charlotte, North Carolina and Fort Mill, South Carolina has small communities like this. Residential communities are built with a small park, business district (usually no longer than a block) that contain a dry cleaner, small grocery store, hardware/garden store where residents can walk to and this reduces some traffic from the main roads.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026023

CEER #2026023, titled Strengthen Zoning and Curtail Growth, was received by the County from Irene Soler.

Citizen Statement:

Brevard County is growing too rapidly and with rapid growth comes a number of issues. First of all, subdivisions and apartment buildings are going up in every available patch of land mostly off two lane roads that quickly become congested. Brevard does not have enough wide avenues going from North to South, hence more congestion and accidents! Trees are mowed down and this along with all the paving of once green fields creates the urban heat island. I see a mismatch of buildings going up with no rhyme or reason. Once everything is paved over, a hurricane like Harvey will flood this area since it is low lying, requires many drainage ditches and ponds and water that once filtered into the open fields will have nowhere to go!

Citizen Recommendation:

I suggest a fee for all the developers (mostly from up North) to help with new road construction be charged. The long time resident, who is not profiting from new subdivisions, should not be on the hook because Northern developers that are restricted in Northern States like New York are coming here!! All the additional traffic reduces the quality of life of those who have been here for years, plus many did not retire with the big fat pensions or 401ks the Northerners are bringing with them!

If a developer clears out a field, require that they plant some trees back (a friend of mine told me Atlanta, GA requires this of every new subdivision) after they build the homes and add a turn lane into their apartment complex or subdivision.

Don't allow a hotel to be built in another hotel's parking lot (i.e. Crown Plaza on A1A and the Element hotel) now the Crown Plaza patrons have to drive in front of the fire station to get to the available parking lot across the street! I've never seen anything like this - driving in front of fire station garage!!!

Don't place a townhome unit, storage facility in front of a Post Office!!! This reminds me of third world countries where a mansion is standing next to a shanty! Consider the mess this is



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

going to create in that parking lot, plus I am not sure why anyone would want to look out their window and stare at the post office in their back yard (visit the South Patrick Post Office!)

Do require that new subdivisions be modeled after small self contained towns, i.e. Charlotte, North Carolina and Fort Mill, South Carolina has small communities like this. Residential communities are built with a small park, business district (usually no longer than a block) that contain a dry cleaner, small grocery store, hardware/garden store where residents can walk to and this reduces some traffic from the main roads.

Staff Analysis:

The post office referenced in the recommendation is within the City of Satellite Beach and the hotels are within the City of Melbourne's incorporated limits. These cities, along with Brevard County, are prohibited to amend current land development codes by the legislation of Senate Bill 180:

"Each county listed in the Federal Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Debby (DR-4806), Hurricane Helene (DR-1322 4828), or Hurricane Milton (DR-4834), and each municipality within one of those counties, may not propose or adopt any moratorium on construction, reconstruction, or redevelopment of any property damaged by such hurricanes; propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome amendments to its comprehensive plan or land development regulations; or propose or adopt more restrictive or burdensome procedures concerning review, approval, or issuance of a site plan, development permit, or development order, to the extent that those terms are defined by s. 163.3164, Florida Statutes, before October 1, 2027, and any such moratorium or restrictive or burdensome comprehensive plan amendment, land development regulation, or procedure shall be null and void ab initio."

As to the suggestion that the County charge a "fee for all the developers . . . to help with new road construction," the County does exactly that as part of its impact fee program. Among other impact fees, Brevard County collects transportation impact fees under Chapter 62, Article V, Division 4 of Brevard County Code of Ordinances. The purpose of this fee is to "regulate the use and development of land so as to ensure that new development bears a proportionate share of the cost of the capital expenditures necessary to accommodate impacts of developments on roadways, and to assist in limiting further degradation of roadways as contemplated by the county comprehensive plan."

Additionally, the County collects impact fees for education, libraries, corrections, fire, emergency medical, & solid waste.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

It should be noted that the Board, on May 5, 2025, chose to commence an impact fee study to determine whether the impact fee program (including, but not limited to, the transportation fee schedule) should be updated. Initial results from this study are expected on April 30, with the potential for Board action in the months following.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026023 as it does not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 9:44 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026024

Recommendation # 2026024

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026024 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Robert S Vail

Address 1956 SUN VALLEY ST, TITUSVILLE FL 32780

Phone (321) 212-9765

Email rvail1@cfl.rr.com

Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026024

Recommendation Title Inventory of Private Retention ponds

Areas Affected

Department Affected

Current problem Private retention ponds withing Brevard County contribute to our water recapture when working as designed. They also contribute to flooding and storm water runoff when they aren't.

Recommendation As such, it should be the business of the County to know where all private retention ponds are located, their current owners and whether or not they are functioning as designed. It should also be noted whether or not they are built as a "dry" or "wet" retention pond and whether or not it conforms to this design. Those ponds determined to not be in compliance and not functioning properly should be identified, owners notified and given a reasonable amount of time to bring the pond into compliance. Any ponds not brought into compliance within that timeframe should then be reviewed for either civil or criminal charges, depending on the severity of the non-compliance.

Attachments No Documents were attached.



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026024

CEER #2026024, titled Inventory of Private Retention ponds, was received by the County from Robert S. Vail.

Citizen Statement:

The Problem: Private retention ponds within Brevard County contribute to our water recapture when working as designed. They also contribute to flooding and storm water runoff when they aren't.

Citizen Recommendation:

As such, it should be the business of the County to know where all private retention ponds are located, their current owners and whether or not they are functioning as designed. It should also be noted whether or not they are built as a "dry" or "wet" retention pond and whether or not it conforms to this design.

Those ponds determined to not be in compliance and not functioning properly should be identified, owners notified and given a reasonable amount of time to bring the pond into compliance. Any ponds not brought into compliance within that timeframe should then be reviewed for either civil or criminal charges, depending on the severity of the non-compliance.

Staff Analysis:

The Brevard County Stormwater Program currently inspects approximately 1,300 stormwater treatment systems to determine credit eligibility toward the annual Stormwater Assessment Fee, which appears as a non-ad valorem assessment on the Property Appraiser's annual tax bill.

Inspections evaluate 18 criteria related to system functionality as designed. These include items such as trash and debris accumulation, vegetative obstructions in control structures or inlets, unauthorized modifications, and destabilized side slopes. To receive

Main Line: (321) 633-2016

Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

the stormwater fee reduction, property owners must correct any deficiencies identified during inspections by the specified deadlines.

Inspections occur every 1-2 years and are limited to permitted systems located in unincorporated Brevard County, or in areas covered by interlocal agreements with West Melbourne and Malabar. Participation is voluntary and limited to sites enrolled in the stormwater fee reduction program. Inspections are conducted by three full-time employees, with findings reviewed by a County stormwater engineer. Notices are then prepared by staff and sent to property owners by certified mail.

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulate the construction and post-construction operation of stormwater treatment systems under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit issued to Brevard County. Expanding the County's current voluntary program to a mandatory inspection program for all privately owned, permitted systems would first require coordination and agreements with SJRWMD and FDEP.

A key step in developing such a program would be determining the total number of systems subject to inspection. A comprehensive inventory does not currently exist. However, staff believes that there are more than 4,000 wet ponds in Brevard County subdivisions. While not all permitted systems are wet ponds, this provides a reasonable minimum estimate. Inspecting all systems would likely require at least six additional inspectors, along with associated resources such as office space, vehicles, and equipment.

Participation in a mandatory program would necessitate a code change as it would differ from the current voluntary program, and could involve enforcement actions rather than fee reductions. Therefore, inspectors would need to serve in an enforcement role, requiring additional training. Implementation would also require Board of County Commissioners authorization for proactive inspections and consideration of potential legal processes to address property owner resistance or noncompliance.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026024, as this CEER does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Section 2.9.10 of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026025

Recommendation # 2026025

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026025 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	We The People Brevard
Name	Judy L Trandel
Address	wethepeople.brevard@gmail.com, Palm Bay FL 32905
Phone	(321) 795-2214
Email	wethepeople.brevard@gmail.com
Alternate Email	jtrandel@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026025
Recommendation Title	Fix the Problem First with SOIRL
Areas Affected	Entire Brevard County and the IRL
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	The SOIRL discretionary 1/2 cent sales tax is expiring December 2026. Discussion on extending the tax but with stricter and more efficient use of the funds.
Recommendation	Implement a 1 cent sales tax to go directly and strictly to updating and repairing Infrastructure. This would fix the problem so that the IRL can heal.
Attachments	Fix_the_Problem_First_Protect_the_Lagoon (1).pdf

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Fix the Problem First—Protect the Lagoon for the Long Term

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

The Indian River Lagoon is one of our community's greatest natural assets. It supports our economy, our quality of life, our fisheries, and our property values. The question before us today is not whether the lagoon is worth protecting—it absolutely is. The question is how we protect it in a way that actually works.

County Commissioners are asking voters to extend the half-cent discretionary sales tax for another ten years under the "Save Our Indian River Lagoon" program. This request deserves support—but only if we focus squarely on fixing the pollution at its source.

The lagoon isn't dying because we lack studies, oyster mats, or short-term restoration projects. It's dying because for decades, pollution has been flowing into it every single day from three primary sources:

First, aging stormwater systems that were never designed for today's development or rainfall patterns. These systems funnel fertilizer, oil, heavy metals, and bacteria straight into the lagoon.

Second, outdated sewage infrastructure, including leaking pipes, lift stations, and treatment facilities that release nutrients and pathogens during failures and overflows.

Third, thousands of septic systems—many decades old—that leach nitrogen into groundwater, which ultimately ends up in the lagoon.

Common sense tells us this: you don't keep mopping the floor while the pipe is still leaking.

Extending this sales tax makes sense if—and only if—it is used to fix these core problems first. Updating stormwater systems. Replacing failing sewer infrastructure. Converting septic systems to central sewer where it makes the biggest impact. These are not glamorous projects, but they are the ones that permanently reduce pollution.

When we stop the damage at its source, restoration efforts actually work. Water quality improves. Seagrass returns. Fish and wildlife recover. And taxpayers see real, measurable results from their investment.

The half-cent sales tax spreads the cost fairly—across residents, visitors, and seasonal users—while keeping property taxes lower. But with that investment comes responsibility. Voters deserve transparency, accountability, and a clear commitment that infrastructure fixes come first.

Saving the Indian River Lagoon doesn't start in the water. It starts underground, in pipes, pumps, and storm drains.

If we fix the problem first, the lagoon can heal—and this tax extension can be a true solution, not just another temporary patch.

Please consider the options below:

1. Since we do not have ½ cent currency in the U.S., The taxpayers are automatically charged a full 1 cent tax on the dollar. Option 1 would be to share that ½ cent to SOIRL and the other ½ cent must be dedicated strictly to Infrastructure divided among Brevard County communities.
2. The 2nd option would be to charge a 1 cent tax that goes directly to Infrastructure throughout the Brevard communities. This will fix the problem faster which in turn will heal the Lagoon faster.
3. The 3rd option would be to ask for a 1 ½ cent tax with it split as stated above. That would leave the additional hidden ½ cent tax realized to go undesignated.

Thank you.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
FROM: Heather A. Balser, Assistant County Attorney
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026025

CEER #2026025, titled *Fix the Problem First with SOIRL*, was received by the County from Ms. Judy L. Trandel.

Citizen Statement:

The SOIRL discretionary 1/2 cent sales tax is expiring December 2026. Discussion on extending the tax but with stricter and more efficient use of the funds.

Citizen Recommendation:

Implement a 1 cent sales tax to go directly and strictly to updating and repairing Infrastructure. This would fix the problem so that the IRL can heal.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends enacting a new one-cent local government infrastructure surtax to replace the existing Save Our Indian River Lagoon half-cent surtax. The Board considered this very issue at its meeting on February 24, 2026, and approved legislative intent for the renewal of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon half-cent surtax, subject to approval by the voters at a referendum election in November 2026. If the Board reverses its prior direction and accepts this CEER recommendation, it will dramatically change the process and timeline for placing the surtax on the ballot, likely rendering it impossible.

Recent Board Direction to Renew SOIRL Half-Cent Surtax

On February 24, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners considered Item I.1., which requested that the Board of County Commissioners discuss infrastructure funding options and provide staff direction. The Clerk to the Board's memorandum on Item I.1. describes the Board's action as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 24, 2026, discussed legislative intent for infrastructure funding options and approved preserving the existing legislative intent approved by the Board on November 18, 2025, for renewal of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) 0.5 percent infrastructure sales surtax, subject to voter approval, as currently structured, which allows the surtax to be considered as a renewal and would not require Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) review.

The Board specifically considered and rejected increasing the surtax to one cent, and altering the authorized uses of the surtax, at its February 24, 2026 meeting.

Statutory Authority and Timeline to Enact a New Surtax

Section 212.055(2), Florida Statutes, entitled the “Local Government Infrastructure Surtax”, authorizes a county to levy a discretionary sales surtax of 0.5 or 1 percent, pursuant to an ordinance enacted by a majority of the county governing body, and approved by a majority of county electors voting in a referendum. A statement including a “brief general description of projects to be funded” by the tax shall be placed on the ballot when the referendum takes place.

Section 212.055(2)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the Board of County Commissioners must enact an ordinance calling for a referendum on the levy of the surtax. Section 212.055(2)(c), Florida Statutes, states that the proceeds of the surtax shall be distributed according to an interlocal agreement or by state Department of Revenue formula.

Pursuant to section 212.055(11)(a), Florida Statutes, in order to adopt a new surtax, a certified public accountant must conduct a performance audit of the program associated with the proposed surtax. Section 212.055(11)(b), Florida Statutes, provides a strict timeline for this performance audit process that must be completed before placing the referendum on the ballot.

First, at least 180 days before the referendum is held (i.e., no later than May 7, 2026), the county must provide a copy of the final surtax ordinance to the state Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). This means that the proposed surtax ordinance must have been drafted, advertised, heard, and enacted by a

majority of the Board of County Commissioners on or before May 7, 2026. If the Board does not act on this CEER until May 5, 2026, it will be literally impossible to meet this requirement for the 2026 general election year, as ordinances must be advertised at least ten days before the meeting at which they are enacted.

Second, assuming that the deadline to submit the final surtax ordinance to OPPAGA is satisfied, OPPAGA shall procure the certified public accountant services within 60 days of receiving the ordinance. Third, at least 60 days before the referendum is held (i.e., by September 4, 2026), the performance audit must be completed and the report, findings and recommendations be made available on the county's official website.

History of the SOIRL Surtax and Process for Renewal

On August 23, 2016, pursuant to Section 212.055(2)(b), Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance calling for a referendum to be placed on the November 2016 ballot for the voters to decide whether to approve a Save Our Indian River Lagoon local infrastructure half-cent surtax. Also on August 23, 2016, pursuant to Section 212.055(2)(c), Florida Statutes, the Board approved an interlocal agreement, to be signed by the governing bodies of municipalities representing a majority of the county's municipal population, which provided for the use and distribution of the proceeds from the half-cent surtax.

On November 8, 2016, a majority of Brevard County qualified electors voted in favor of a half-cent tax being expended on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan, aiming to restore the Indian River Lagoon through financing, planning, constructing, maintaining, and operating capital improvements and capital maintenance projects and programs designed to improve water quality, fish, wildlife, and marine habitat, remove muck and reduce pollution. This tax was approved for a period of ten years exclusively to fund these lagoon related projects.

Section 212.055(11)(a)-(c), Florida Statutes, describes the performance audit requirements and procedure required for a new local government infrastructure surtax. However, pursuant to Section 212.055(11)(d), Florida Statutes, this procedure "does not apply to a referendum held to adopt the same discretionary surtax that was in place during

the month of December immediately before the date of the referendum.” Thus, the existing SOIRL half-cent surtax may be renewed by majority vote of the electors at referendum, without resort to the lengthy OPPAGA audit process.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026025 as it is inconsistent with prior Board direction, and it is impossible to enact a new local government infrastructure surtax within the statutory timeline for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026026

Recommendation # 2026026

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026026 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Denise Anderson
Address 1664 BAKER ST NE, PALM BAY FL 32907 3290
Phone (321) 361-2334
Email denise.orlando@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026026
Recommendation Title Bee Hive Control
Areas Affected
Department Affected PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES OFFICE
Current problem Our neighbor has several bee hives in their back yard. There appears to be aggressive African bees mutated or in their hive. I am chased near weekly in my yard, and have been stung 3x in this last year, Sunday 1/18/26 being the third time. I would like to see a forum to report bee hives with aggressive bees. My reference is we do not allow for aggressive dogs off a leash or to bite people. Hive owners need to show the same responsibility with their bee hives. We have reporting the bee chasing and bee stings to the neighbor, however the aggressive bees remain, chase me in my year, and sting me. I am an adult and very annoyed at the lack of public safety reporting - -What about the children near the school ? What if they have severe allergic reactions? I would like to promote a mean to report bee stings when know hives exists, so to provide a mean of tracking aggressive bee hives.
Recommendation I would like a means of reporting bee stings and aggressive bee chasing when known bee hives are in the area. there is currently no available forum to report they number of bee chasing and bee stings to help bee hive owners take responsibility of known aggressive bees. I think a means of tracking bee stings, especially when known hives

exist in the neighbor or school or day care area is important for public safety. It would assist enforcement of bee hive owners to remove aggressive bees and/or their strains from the bee hives and colonies.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension

3695 Lake Drive
Cocoa, FL, 32926

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Jill Hayes, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Elizabeth Shephard, Brevard County UF/IFAS Extension Services Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026026

CEER #2026026, titled Bee Hive Control, was received by the County from Denise Anderson.

Citizen Statement:

Our neighbor has several bee hives in their back yard. There appears to be aggressive African bees mutated or in their hive. I am chased near weekly in my yard, and have been stung 3x in this last year, Sunday 1/18/26 being the third time. I would like to see a forum to report bee hives with aggressive bees. My reference is we do not allow for aggressive dogs off a leash or to bite people. Hive owners need to show the same responsibility with their bee hives. We have reporting the bee chasing and bee stings to the neighbor, however the aggressive bees remain, chase me in my year, and sting me. I am an adult and very annoyed at the lack of public safety reporting - -What about the children near the school ? What if they have severe allergic reactions? I would like to promote a mean to report bee stings when know hives exists, so to provide a mean of tracking aggressive bee hives.

Citizen Recommendation:

I would like a means of reporting bee stings and aggressive bee chasing when known bee hives are in the area. there is currently no available forum to report they number of bee chasing and bee stings to help bee hive owners take responsibility of known aggressive bees. I think a means of tracking bee stings, especially when known hives exist in the neighbor or school or day care area is important for public safety. It would assist enforcement of bee hive owners to remove aggressive bees and/or their strains from the bee hives and colonies.

Staff Analysis:

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) considers bees livestock and all beekeepers with honey bees are required by law to be registered through the local apiary inspector. The local apiary inspector was notified and provided the FDACS File A Complaint website. The submitter was provided this link on March 16. Additionally, the City of Palm Bay was notified of the concern as a courtesy, but it is recommended the resident also



UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension

3695 Lake Drive
Cocoa, FL, 32926

submit a concern through the appropriate means with the City of Palm Bay since the submitters address and neighborhood are within the City's jurisdiction.

Staff Recommended Action:

Pursuant to BCC-95, Section III.C.2, the County Manager summarily recommends that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026026 as the location and nature of the concern are not under the Board's jurisdiction.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 2:03 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026027

Recommendation # 2026027

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026027 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Amy Ketchum
Address 637 Di Lido St. NE, Palm Bay FL 32907
Phone (321) 848-8807
Email aimzback@aol.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026027
Recommendation Title	Removal of first responder radio traffic encryption
Areas Affected	Countywide
Department Affected	SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Current problem	I, as well as a large number of Brevard County residents, have utilized a police scanner for many years to stay informed in real time about situations that could affect the safety of my loved ones and myself. It's been the most accurate source of information available, and is most certainly more helpful than anything on social media sites. The recent encryption of first responder radio communication has removed access to valuable information that could be used to prepare and protect ourselves. Considering the steady increase in violent crimes, along with traffic accidents, hazards such as flooding and fires, and any other matters that would require the presence of law enforcement and/or fire/medic personnel, communication transparency is key. Whether it's used to avoid a specific area of travel or warn a family member to take precautions because of potential threat in their vicinity, the information provided via first responder radio is crucial in helping our community stay safe.
Recommendation	Removing encryption from first responder radio would enable people to better prepare for, and quite possibly avoid, potentially dangerous situations. Relying on information

found on the internet is not a viable alternative. The residents of Brevard County should be able to hear it from the source.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026027

CEER #2026027, titled Removal of first responder radio traffic encryption, was received by the County from Amy Ketchum.

Citizen Statement:

I, as well as a large number of Brevard County residents, have utilized a police scanner for many years to stay informed in real time about situations that could affect the safety of my loved ones and myself. It's been the most accurate source of information available, and is most certainly more helpful than anything on social media sites.

The recent encryption of first responder radio communication has removed access to valuable information that could be used to prepare and protect ourselves. Considering the steady increase in violent crimes, along with traffic accidents, hazards such as flooding and fires, and any other matters that would require the presence of law enforcement and/or fire/medic personnel, communication transparency is key. Whether it's used to avoid a specific area of travel or warn a family member to take precautions because of potential threat in their vicinity, the information provided via first responder radio is crucial in helping our community stay safe.

Citizen Recommendation:

Removing encryption from first responder radio would enable people to better prepare for, and quite possibly avoid, potentially dangerous situations. Relying on information found on the internet is not a viable alternative. The residents of Brevard County should be able to hear it from the source. - Protects responders' sensitive data (e.g., officer safety, personal info) while allowing monitoring of non-sensitive routine calls—preventing unnecessary secrecy that benefits criminals more than citizens.

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026027 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026028

Recommendation # 2026028

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026028 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Susan Douglas
Address 5625 JUDSON RD, MERRITT ISLAND FL 32953
Phone (571) 338-9253
Email sdd_va@yahoo.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026028
Recommendation Title Temporary housing for homeless and more affordable homes for lower income reside
Areas Affected Housing
Department Affected Housing And Human Services Department
Current problem Homelessness and lack of affordable housing Has Brevard County explored options to implement a program like Palm Beach SMART program to incentivize landlords to offer temporary rental housing? There are numerous short term vacation rentals and homes that are vacant in Brevard County, particularly during the summer months May-September. Why not offer property tax reductions and other substantial incentives to home owners to temporarily house people in need. Why not offer incentives to RV vendors to offer temporary use of vacant RVs. Locations like the Moose Lodge on Merritt Island have RV hookups already available for RVs. Does the county offer developers incentives to build affordable housing? All new homes are half a million dollars with luxury upgrades because it's the only way to make a profit. Have you seen this Texas neighborhood of 3D homes fire and hurricane resistant ? See this news segment on 3D homes... <https://youtu.be/WOR612WviMs?si=LeGY6ry7tAih1Ff> Is Brevard County reassessing its permitting and building regulations for home building to assess where savings can be assessed and implemented? How can homes be built safely, quickly and more economically?

Recommendation

Reduce or eliminate homelessness by utilizing vacant homes and rental units. Build basic modest affordable homes so young and low income residents can have access to affordable homes.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Housing and Human Services

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building B, Suite 103
Viera, Florida, 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Jill, Hayes, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Juanita D. Jackson, Director Housing and Human Services Department

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026028

CEER #2026028, titled Temporary housing for homeless and more affordable home for lower income reside, was received by the County from Susan Douglas.

Citizen Statement:

Homelessness and lack of affordable housing Has Brevard County explored options to implement a program like Palm Beach SMART program to incentivize landlords to offer temporary rental housing? There are numerous short term vacation rentals and homes that are vacant in Brevard County, particularly during the summer months May-September. Why not offer property tax reductions and other substantial incentives to home owners to temporarily house people in need. Why not offer incentives to RV vendors to offer temporary use of vacant RVs. Locations like the Moose Lodge on Merritt Island have RV hookups already available for RVs. Does the county offer developers incentives to build affordable housing? All new homes are half a million dollars with luxury upgrades because it's the only way to make a profit. Have you seen this Texas neighborhood of 3D homes fire and hurricane resistant ? See this news segment on 3D homes... <https://youtu.be/WOR612WviMs?si=LeGY6ry7tAihS1Ff> Is Brevard County reassessing its permitting and building regulations for home building to assess where savings can be assessed and implemented? How can homes be built safely, quickly and more economically? Is Brevard County reassessing its permitting and building regulations for home building to assess where savings can be assessed and implemented? How can homes be built safely, quickly and more economically?

Citizen Recommendation:

Reduce or eliminate homelessness by utilizing vacant homes and rental units. Build basic modest affordable homes so young and low income residents can have access to affordable homes.



Housing and Human Services

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building B, Suite 103
Viera, Florida, 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

The State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) program was established under the William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act of 1992. The Florida Housing Finance Corporation administers the SHIP program, which provides funding to local governments to incentivize partnerships that produce and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing. The program serves very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

SHIP funds are distributed to all 67 counties and 55 municipalities throughout Florida. For Fiscal Year 2025–2026, Brevard County Housing and Human Services was awarded approximately \$2.4 million in SHIP funding.

These funds support a range of housing strategies, including:

- **Homeownership Assistance:** Down payment and closing cost assistance for the purchase of existing or newly constructed homes, along with required homebuyer education.
- **Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation:** Repairs and improvements for eligible homeowners to address health, safety, and code compliance issues.
- **Demolition/Reconstruction:** Replacement of owner-occupied homes when rehabilitation is not feasible due to structural or safety concerns.
- **Rental Development:** Financial assistance to nonprofit developers for the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental housing to increase or preserve the supply of affordable units.

In addition, the Florida Housing Finance Corporation administers both federal (9% and 4%) and state (Live Local) housing tax credit programs. These programs provide incentives for developers to build or rehabilitate affordable rental housing by offering tax credits to investors over a 10-year period. Participation in these programs typically requires a financial contribution or support from local governments. Brevard County Housing and Human Services, along with other SHIP-funded municipalities, actively supports these initiatives.

Furthermore, Brevard County Planning and Development facilitates affordable housing development through expedited permitting processes for qualifying projects. The County also offers the option to defer Transportation Impact Fees for developers constructing affordable housing.



Housing and Human Services

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Viera, Florida, 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Brevard County has a program in place that provides access to tax-exempt private activity bonds, related low-income housing tax credits, and other affordable housing incentives. Brevard County's dependent special district, the Brevard County Housing Finance Authority, administers this program. Since the Authority's creation, it has issued over \$543,510,000 in new single family bonds and \$321,131,000 in new multi-family bonds. These bond issues have assisted approximately 7,209 persons and families in the purchase of their homes and have made 5,865 rental units available to families of lower and moderate income.

The Authority's bonds are payable solely from the revenues generated by the repayment of the mortgages or from a guarantee through credit enhancement, such as letters of credit or bond insurance. There is no pledge of the general revenues of the County or the Authority. The Authority totally supports its own operation through income generated from its programs. The Authority is non-budgeted and does not receive any tax revenues for its expenses. The Authority has been able to structure its programs so that funds are produced sufficient to support future bond programs, pay audit fees and operating expenses.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #20206028 with revisions as the County currently works with community partners, has multiple established programs and incentives in place and will continue to support and encourage the development of affordable housing.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2026 11:27 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026029

Recommendation # 2026029

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026029 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Sean Gildea
Address 738 Sea Palm Ln, Satellite Beach FL 32937
Phone (774) 210-2947
Email seangildea@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026029
Recommendation Title Stop Full Encryption of Public Safety Radios – Restore Transparency Without Risk
Areas Affected
Department Affected SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Current problem Brevard County's full encryption of all police and fire/EMS radio channels on the new P25 system unnecessarily restricts public access to real-time emergency communications. FBI CJIS policy requires encryption only for Criminal Justice Information (CJI) like warrants or criminal histories—not routine dispatch or operations. Fire/EMS channels transmit no CJI and have no encryption requirement, yet they are fully encrypted as well. This overreach blocks residents from monitoring storms, traffic, neighborhood incidents, fires, and other events—reducing situational awareness, community trust, accountability for taxpayer-funded services, and informal public oversight. Criminals benefit from the secrecy, while law-abiding citizens lose a longstanding safety tool used safely for decades.
Recommendation Adopt a proven partial encryption approach compliant with FBI CJIS and used successfully by agencies nationwide and in Florida: keep main police dispatch and fire/EMS channels unencrypted for routine operations, while encrypting only dedicated talkgroups for Criminal Justice Information (CJI) like warrants or sensitive queries which can also be handled via mobile data terminals. Benefits: - Fully satisfies FBI

CJIS requirements without risking access to critical databases. - Restores real-time public awareness of routine police dispatch, fires, storms, traffic, and incidents—enhancing community safety and situational awareness for residents. - Boosts trust, accountability, and engagement, aligning with Brevard's Home Rule Charter focus on open government and citizen input. - Protects responders' sensitive data (e.g., officer safety, personal info) while allowing monitoring of non-sensitive routine calls—preventing unnecessary secrecy that benefits criminals more than citizens. This common-sense balance prioritizes both security and transparency—it's the right choice to better serve Brevard residents.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026029

CEER #2026029, titled Stop Full Encryption of Public Safety Radios – Restore Transparency Without Risk, was received by the County from Sean Gildea.

Citizen Statement:

Brevard County's full encryption of all police and fire/EMS radio channels on the new P25 system unnecessarily restricts public access to real-time emergency communications. FBI CJIS policy requires encryption only for Criminal Justice Information (CJI) like warrants or criminal histories—not routine dispatch or operations. Fire/EMS channels transmit no CJI and have no encryption requirement, yet they are fully encrypted as well.

This overreach blocks residents from monitoring storms, traffic, neighborhood incidents, fires, and other events—reducing situational awareness, community trust, accountability for taxpayer-funded services, and informal public oversight. Criminals benefit from the secrecy, while law-abiding citizens lose a longstanding safety tool used safely for decades.

Citizen Recommendation:

Adopt a proven partial encryption approach compliant with FBI CJIS and used successfully by agencies nationwide and in Florida: keep main police dispatch and fire/EMS channels unencrypted for routine operations, while encrypting only dedicated talkgroups for Criminal Justice Information (CJI) like warrants or sensitive queries which can also be handled via mobile data terminals.

Benefits:

- Fully satisfies FBI CJIS requirements without risking access to critical databases.
- Restores real-time public awareness of routine police dispatch, fires, storms, traffic, and incidents—enhancing community safety and situational awareness for residents.
- Boosts trust, accountability, and engagement, aligning with Brevard's Home Rule Charter focus on open government and citizen input.
- Protects responders' sensitive data (e.g., officer safety, personal info) while allowing monitoring of non-sensitive routine calls—preventing unnecessary secrecy that benefits criminals more than citizens.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

This common-sense balance prioritizes both security and transparency—it's the right choice to better serve Brevard residents.

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
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Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
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- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026029 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:40 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026030

Recommendation # 2026030

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026030 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Resident IRL Water Safety Testing Committee
Name	William R Klein
Address	3 INDIAN RIVER AVE APT 906 TITUSVILLE FL 32796-5821 US, Titusville FL 32796
Phone	(321) 607-6517
Email	klein_william_r@hotmail.com
Alternate Email	

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026030
Recommendation Title	Monitor recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health
Areas Affected	Indian River Lagoon
Department Affected	
Current problem	Every year thousands of people swim and recreate in the IRL in Parrish Park on Max Brewer Causeway. No one monitors and tests the water for recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health There is a 60-mile distance between free beaches and free parking except for Parrish Park. It is well known that there has been contamination with unsafe levels of Fecal Coliform and E. coli in this area. It is not monitored for Public Safety. The city has measured water near Space View Park several times in September and October 2023 that were 24,196 cfu/100ml of both Fecal Coliform and E. coli. There were no warnings posted. This greatly exceeded EPA 2012 recreational water quality criteria recommendations for protecting human health in all coastal and non-coastal waters designated for primary contact recreation use. The Federal EPA Recommended limit for Enterococci is 35 cfu (colony forming units)/100 ml. This is the US EPA website: "2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria".
Recommendation	We request the County begin routine testing of Indian River Lagoon recreation areas for fecal contamination. When contamination exceeds EPS safe-use standards, we believe the County should: Post temporary advisory signs at the affected location

Issue a public notice so residents know to avoid the water until levels return to safe limits. Many other Florida counties already do this as a standard public health practice. The testing itself is not cost-prohibitive; I've been told it can be done for approximately \$50 per sample. Considering how many families, anglers, paddlers, and visitors use these waters, the health and safety benefits far outweigh the expense. Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and Broward Counties, and Indian River County measure water safety and post warnings when the water contamination in areas where people recreate in the water exceeds safe Federal EPA measurements. Also, other communities like Key Biscayne Beach and Virginia Beach measure water safety, post warnings, and may place barriers when swimming is not safe. The past results have shown that all beaches have days of results that exceed safe conditions. That is why Counties and Cities monitor and post warnings when it is not safe for people to swim because of water pollution. The St. Lucie County Health Department collects biweekly samples from locations on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River – these include River Park Marina & Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie. Similar to the Healthy Beaches Program, water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria. Advisory signs will be posted if higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria are present. They list their measurements in 3 categories. Good: 0 to 35 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water. Moderate: 36 to 70 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water. Poor: 71 or more cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water. I have attached a file about the Key Biscayne Beach Water Quality Program.

Attachments

Beach Water Quality.docx

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Here are some details about what other Cities and Counties do.

https://keybiscayne.fl.gov/services/public_works/resiliency_sustainability/beach/beach_water_quality/index.php

Beach Water Quality

[Home](#)

[Services](#)

[Public Works](#)

[Resiliency & Sustainability](#)

[Beach](#)

[Beach Water Quality](#)

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) currently conducts weekly beach water sampling at the following four (4) locations:

- Crandon Park North
- Crandon Park South
- Key Biscayne Beach Club
- Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park

[**Click here for the FDOH site: Florida's Healthy Beaches \(DADE\)**](#)

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Miami Waterkeeper Bacteria Monitoring Program

The Village is collaborating with Miami Waterkeeper (MWK) to conduct weekly water sample collection and analysis on bacteria related water quality. This monitoring is complementary to

the bacteria monitoring undertaken by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) at other locations in Crandon Park (north and south), Cape Florida Park and one location at the Key Biscayne Beach Club.

- Key Biscayne Yacht Club
- Mariner Drive
- Key Biscayne Beach Club
- Public Beach Access near Silver Sands Beach Resort

Click here for Miami Waterkeepers site: [Swim Guide](#)

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Sampling occurs every Monday and results are posted on Tuesdays via the Swim Guide application: <https://www.theswimguide.org/affiliates-confirmation/miami-waterkeeper/>.

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Miami Waterkeeper resamples and reanalyzes the water at any site that exceeds the bacteria threshold of 70 MPN per 100mL until the bacteria (enterococci) level at that site is no longer in exceedance.

Miami Waterkeeper reports the results of all the samples on the Swim Guide application, social media (Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MiamiWaterkeeper>

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, Instagram @miamiwaterkeeper, Twitter @MiamiWaterkpr) and the MWK website (https://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/water_monitoring?utm_campaign=water-quality&utm_medium=link&utm_source=kb-newsletter

[Opens in new window](#)

).

Sampling locations where bacteria analysis reveals poor water quality, even after one sample, are indicated by a red site marker on Swim Guide.

Facebook page [\(9\) miami waterkeeper - Search Results | Facebook](#)

Miami Waterkeeper · [Follow](#)

6h ·

 **WATER QUALITY UPDATE**  Results are in for our Miami sites, sampled on 2026-01-21. See the image for full results!

Read more about our [#WaterQuality](#) monitoring work here:

https://www.miamiwaterkeeper.org/water_quality_monitoring



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THROUGH: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.

SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026030

CEER #2026030, titled Monitor recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health, was received by the County from William R Klein.

Citizen Statement:

Every year thousands of people swim and recreate in the IRL in Parrish Park on Max Brewer Causeway. No one monitors and tests the water for recreational water quality criteria for protecting human health. There is a 60-mile distance between free beaches and free parking except for Parrish Park. It is well known that there has been contamination with unsafe levels of Fecal Coliform and E. coli in this area. It is not monitored for Public Safety. The city has measured water near Space View Park several times in September and October 2023 that were 24,196 cfu/100ml of both Fecal Coliform and E. coli. There were no warnings posted. This greatly exceeded EPA 2012 recreational water quality criteria recommendations for protecting human health in all coastal and non-coastal waters designated for primary contact recreation use. The Federal EPA Recommended limit for Enterococci is 35 cfu (colony forming units)/100 ml. This is the US EPA website: "2012 Recreational Water Quality Criteria".

Citizen Recommendation:

We request the County begin routine testing of Indian River Lagoon recreation areas for fecal contamination. When contamination exceeds EPS safe-use standards, we believe the County should:

Post temporary advisory signs at the affected location

Issue a public notice so residents know to avoid the water until levels return to safe limits

Many other Florida counties already do this as a standard public health practice. The testing itself is not cost-prohibitive; I've been told it can be done for approximately \$50

Main Line: (321) 633-2016

Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

per sample. Considering how many families, anglers, paddlers, and visitors use these water, the health and safety benefits far outweigh the expense.

Miami-Dade, Palm Beach, and County, and Indian River Counties measure water safety and post warnings when the water contamination in areas where people recreate in the water exceed safe Federal EPA measurements. Also, other communities like Key Biscayne Beach and Virginia Beach measure water safety, post warnings, and may place barriers when swimming is not safe. The past results have shown that all beaches have days of results that exceed safe conditions. That is why Counties and Cities monitor and post warnings when it is not safe for people to swim because of water pollution.

The St. Lucie County Health Department collects biweekly samples from locations on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River – these include River Park Marina & Veterans Memorial Park in Port St. Lucie. Similar to the Healthy Beaches Program, water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria. Advisory signs will be posted if higher than normal levels of enteric bacteria are present. They list their measurements in 3 categories.

Good: 0 to 35 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water.

Moderate: 36 to 70 cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water.

Poor: 71 or more cfu Enterococcus /100 ml of river water.

Staff Analysis:

The Florida Department of Health conducts seasonal, bi-weekly water quality sampling at designated Brevard County ocean beaches under the Healthy Beaches Program. This monitoring focuses on enterococci bacteria to assess potential public health risks associated with recreational water use. However, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) does not routinely sample recreational beach areas within the Indian River Lagoon. Expansion to include routine testing in the lagoon is not funded.

This recommendation was also brought up during the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Workshop held on January 5, 2026, in Titusville. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon ordinance (Ordinance 2016-15), authorizes funding “To restore the Indian River Lagoon through financing, planning, construction, maintaining, and operating capital improvements and capital maintenance projects and programs designed to improve water quality, fish, wildlife and marine habitat, remove muck and reduce pollution.” Monitoring fecal coliform bacteria or operating a public health advisory program would represent an operational public health monitoring program rather than a capital infrastructure restoration project and thus is not an eligible use of SOIRL funds.

Within the lagoon itself, the Space Coast chapter of the Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force currently conducts volunteer-based monitoring at 14 locations from Cocoa Beach to Grant. Their sampling focuses on fecal indicator bacteria to evaluate recreational health risks, and results are publicly available on their website. While this provides useful supplemental data, it is not a county or state-operated public health program. Currently, Brevard County does not have a funding source to establish such a program.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026030 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 9:21 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026031

Recommendation # 2026031

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026031 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Jennifer Dustin
Address 2315 Saint Andrews Cir, Melbourne FL 32901
Phone (321) 210-3527
Email jennidustin1222@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026031
Recommendation Title Improve Traffic Flow and Reduce Waste and Pollution with Roundabouts
Areas Affected multiple
Department Affected
Current problem High-severity crashes Signalized intersections produce the most dangerous collision types—especially T-bone and head-on crashes—because vehicles cross paths at higher speeds. Stop-and-go congestion Traffic lights force full stops, even when traffic is light. This creates backups, inconsistent travel times, and unnecessary delays during peak commuting hours. Driver behavior and red-light risk Signals encourage risky behavior such as speeding to “beat the yellow,” distracted driving at long red lights, and occasional red-light running—especially on wide county corridors. Operational and maintenance burden Traffic lights require power, equipment upkeep, repairs after storms or vehicle impacts, and ongoing monitoring—creating a long-term cost commitment for the county. Poor performance in power outages and emergencies When signals fail, intersections become confusing and hazardous. This is a major concern for county roads during hurricanes, severe weather, and emergency response situations. Bottom line: On county roads, signalized intersections often create a combination of safety risk + congestion + cost, especially where speeds are higher and traffic patterns vary throughout the day.

Recommendation

Roundabouts solve the issues by: Reducing serious crashes Roundabouts force lower speeds and eliminate direct crossing conflicts, which significantly reduces the likelihood of severe injury collisions. Improving traffic flow without "wasted red time" Instead of stopping everyone in timed cycles, roundabouts keep vehicles moving with yield-based entry—reducing delays and smoothing congestion. Increasing reliability and lowering long-term costs Roundabouts require no signal equipment, no electrical systems, and less ongoing maintenance—making them a more sustainable county investment over time. Performing better during outages and storms Because roundabouts don't depend on power, they remain functional and predictable even during emergencies, improving safety and continuity. Creating safer, calmer corridors Roundabouts naturally slow traffic at key conflict points, improving safety for all road users while keeping overall movement efficient. The county should prioritize traffic studies to determine where they will perform best and deliver the strongest return on investment. A traffic study helps identify: current and projected traffic volumes peak hour congestion patterns crash history and severity vehicle mix (cars vs. heavy trucks) speed data and approach geometry right-of-way availability school zones, pedestrian activity, and nearby driveways whether a single-lane or multi-lane roundabout is needed The goal is simple: choose intersections where a roundabout will reduce crashes and delays, not just change the layout.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026031

CEER #2026031 titled Improve Traffic Flow and Reduce Waste and Pollution with Roundabouts, was received by the County from Jennifer Dustin.

Citizen Statement:

High-severity crashes Signalized intersections produce the most dangerous collision types—especially T-bone and head-on crashes—because vehicles cross paths at higher speeds. Stop-and-go congestion Traffic lights force full stops, even when traffic is light. This creates backups, inconsistent travel times, and unnecessary delays during peak commuting hours. Driver behavior and red-light risk Signals encourage risky behavior such as speeding to “beat the yellow,” distracted driving at long red lights, and occasional red-light running—especially on wide county corridors. Operational and maintenance burden Traffic lights require power, equipment upkeep, repairs after storms or vehicle impacts, and ongoing monitoring—creating a long-term cost commitment for the county. Poor performance in power outages and emergencies When signals fail, intersections become confusing and hazardous. This is a major concern for county roads during hurricanes, severe weather, and emergency response situations. Bottom line: On county roads, signalized intersections often create a combination of safety risk + congestion + cost, especially where speeds are higher and traffic patterns vary throughout the day.

Citizen Recommendation:

Roundabouts solve the issues by: Reducing serious crashes Roundabouts force lower speeds and eliminate direct crossing conflicts, which significantly reduces the likelihood of severe injury collisions. Improving traffic flow without “wasted red time” Instead of stopping everyone in timed cycles, roundabouts keep vehicles moving with yield-based entry—reducing delays and smoothing congestion. Increasing reliability and lowering long-term costs Roundabouts require no signal equipment, no electrical systems, and less ongoing maintenance—making them a more sustainable county investment over time. Performing better during outages and storms



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Because roundabouts don't depend on power, they remain functional and predictable even during emergencies, improving safety and continuity. Creating safer, calmer corridors Roundabouts naturally slow traffic at key conflict points, improving safety for all road users while keeping overall movement efficient. The county should prioritize traffic studies to determine where they will perform best and deliver the strongest return on investment. A traffic study helps identify: current and projected traffic volumes peak hour congestion patterns crash history and severity vehicle mix (cars vs. heavy trucks) speed data and approach geometry right-of-way availability school zones, pedestrian activity, and nearby driveways whether a single-lane or multi-lane roundabout is needed The goal is simple: choose intersections where a roundabout will reduce crashes and delays, not just change the layout.

Staff Analysis:

Staff acknowledges the citizen's valid points regarding intersection safety, traffic flow, and the operational and maintenance burdens associated with signalized intersections. The benefits of roundabouts cited by the citizen are well-documented in transportation engineering literature and are recognized by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). However, it should also be noted that public perception and acceptance of roundabouts in the County are low as indicated by frequent requests to remove existing locations.

That said, Brevard County conducts traffic studies as part of its standard intersection improvement process. Roundabouts are among the design alternatives evaluated during these studies, with consideration given to factors such as traffic volumes, crash history, right-of-way availability, and approach geometry. The selection of intersection control type is ultimately determined on a case-by-case basis and is subject to public input.

While roundabouts offer long-term operational savings, the initial construction cost of a roundabout is typically significantly higher than that of a signalized intersection due to the larger footprint required and the constraints of available public road right-of-way, requiring the need to typically acquire additional private property through purchase or eminent domain. These factors can limit the feasibility of roundabout installation at existing intersections.

The citizen's recommendation to prioritize traffic studies at intersections where roundabouts may deliver the strongest safety and operational return is consistent with the County's existing evaluation process. However, a countywide program specifically prioritizing roundabout conversion would represent a significant policy shift and would be cost prohibitive given the aforementioned reasons. Accordingly, staff will continue to evaluate intersection design alternatives, including roundabouts, as part of routine traffic studies.



Public Works Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026031 with revisions because the County's standard traffic study process already considers roundabouts as a design alternative where appropriate.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2026 4:48 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026032

Recommendation # 2026032

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026032 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Angela Grubius
Address 3824 Pinewood Dr Ne, Palm Bay FL 32905
Phone (321) 408-2805
Email Star101014@hotmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026032
Recommendation Title How to get help with my energy bill
Areas Affected
Department Affected
Current problem I need help with my electricity bill
Recommendation Na
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Housing and Human Services

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building B, Suite 103
Viera, Florida, 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Jill, Hayes, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Juanita D. Jackson, Director Housing and Human Services Department

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026032

CEER #2026032, titled How to get help with my energy bill, was received by the County from Angela Grubius.

Citizen Statement:

I need help with my electricity bill.

Citizen Recommendation:

N/A

Staff Analysis:

This is not a citizen recommendation for efficiency and effectiveness. This is a request for services. Brevard County Housing and Human Services administers Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), a federally funded program designed to assist eligible low-income households with their home energy costs.

Housing and Human Services has contacted the citizen via telephone to assess her situation and subsequently provided follow-up via email, including a link to the Florida Commerce PROMISE system to apply for LIHEAP assistance.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026032 as it is a service request rather than a recommendation.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026033

Recommendation # 2026033

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026033 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Robert D Sullivan
Address 3530 Canaveral Groves Blvd, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (321) 507-3352
Email 66.1050.C7@gmail.com
Alternate Email 66.1050.C7@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026033
Recommendation Title Un-encryption of BCSO and BCFR radio channels
Areas Affected Public Safety
Department Affected FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Current problem A recent upgrade to the law enforcement and fire radio systems included 24/7 encryption of the transmissions. As ex-leo myself, I understand there is absolutely a need to prevent non-law enforcement ears to intercept radio traffic under certain circumstances (surveillance, warrant executions, etc). However, the ability for the general public to listen in to "normal" activities around them in real-time should still be allowed as it has been in the past.
Recommendation Return to the previous standard operating procedures of the main channels being unencrypted with a "Tac" channel for secure communications that is encrypted. I was an avid scanner listener prior to the new system coming on line. My current job has me driving all over the county and I listen in as I do so. Numerous times this assisted me on avoiding areas of police activity, traffic accidents, etc. Over the years it led to 2 instances that because I was aware of active searches I was able to report the location of a 7 year old autistic child that had wandered off from home that I saw walking around a neighborhood pond and the location of a dementia patient that also had wandered and happened to walk into the same convenience store I was in. No

telling if there would have been a negative outcome in either case had i not been casually listening in. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express this concern!

Attachments

SpeakUpBrevardSubmission2026.pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Emergency Management Department
1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director
FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026033

CEER #2026033, titled Un-encryption of BCSO and BCFR radio channels, was received by the County from Robert D Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

A recent upgrade to the law enforcement and fire radio systems included 24/7 encryption of the transmissions. As ex-leo myself, I understand there is absolutely a need to prevent non-law enforcement ears to intercept radio traffic under certain circumstances (surveillance, warrant executions, etc). However, the ability for the general public to listen in to "normal" activities around them in real-time should still be allowed as it has been in the past.

Citizen Recommendation:

Return to the previous standard operating procedures of the main channels being unencrypted with a "Tac" channel for secure communications that is encrypted. I was an avid scanner listener prior to the new system coming on line. My current job has me driving all over the county and I listen in as I do so. Numerous times this assisted me on avoiding areas of police activity, traffic accidents, etc. Over the years it led to 2 instances that because I was aware of active searches I was able to report the location of a 7 year old autistic child that had wandered off from home that I saw walking around a neighborhood pond and the location of a dementia patient that also had wandered and happened to walk into the same convenience store I was in. No telling if there would have been a negative outcome in either case had i not been casually listening in.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express this concern!

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026033 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2026 1:55 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026034

Recommendation # 2026034

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026034 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Robert D Sullivan
Address	3530 Canaveral Groves Blvd, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone	(321) 507-3352
Email	66.1050.C7@gmail.com
Alternate Email	66.1050.C7@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026034
Recommendation Title	Un-encryption of BCSO and BCFR radio channels
Areas Affected	Public Safety
Department Affected	FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Current problem	A recent upgrade to the law enforcement and fire radio systems included 24/7 encryption of the transmissions. As ex-leo myself, I understand there is absolutely a need to prevent non-law enforcement ears to intercept radio traffic under certain circumstances (surveillance, warrant executions, etc). However, the ability for the general public to listen in to "normal" activities around them in real-time should still be allowed as it has been in the past.
Recommendation	Return to the previous standard operating procedures of the main channels being unencrypted with a "Tac" channel for secure communications that is encrypted. I was an avid scanner listener prior to the new system coming on line. My current job has me driving all over the county and I listen in as I do so. Numerous times this assisted me on avoiding areas of police activity, traffic accidents, etc. Over the years it led to 2 instances that because I was aware of active searches I was able to report the location of a 7 year old autistic child that had wandered off from home that I saw walking around a neighborhood pond and the location of a dementia patient that also had wandered and happened to walk into the same convenience store I was in. No

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Attachments

No Documents were attached.

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Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026034

CEER #2026034, titled Un-encryption of BCSO and BCFR radio channels, was received by the County from Robert D Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

A recent upgrade to the law enforcement and fire radio systems included 24/7 encryption of the transmissions. As ex-leo myself, I understand there is absolutely a need to prevent non-law enforcement ears to intercept radio traffic under certain circumstances (surveillance, warrant executions, etc). However, the ability for the general public to listen in to "normal" activities around them in real-time should still be allowed as it has been in the past.

Citizen Recommendation:

Return to the previous standard operating procedures of the main channels being unencrypted with a "Tac" channel for secure communications that is encrypted. I was an avid scanner listener prior to the new system coming on line. My current job has me driving all over the county and I listen in as I do so. Numerous times this assisted me on avoiding areas of police activity, traffic accidents, etc. Over the years it led to 2 instances that because I was aware of active searches I was able to report the location of a 7 year old autistic child that had wandered off from home that I saw walking around a neighborhood pond and the location of a dementia patient that also had wandered and happened to walk into the same convenience store I was in. No telling if there would have been a negative outcome in either case had i not been casually listening in.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express this concern!



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

While Emergency Management's 800MHz Division provides and manages the backbone equipment for the Brevard Public Safety Radio system, it is each Law Enforcement and Fire Agency that makes the decision to encrypt or not.

What is encryption:

The conversion of radio transmissions into secure signals using digital keys to ensure only authorized radios can receive protected information.

Why implement encryption:

Advances in technology have made it easier for criminals and potential terrorist to gain immediate access to sensitive public safety communications, putting the first responder community at greater risk

Examples of sensitive/protected information include:

- Tactical information that could jeopardize law enforcement operations
- Details of ongoing investigations and surveillance
- Protected health information and Personally Identifiable Information (PII); crucial for reducing response times when transporting patients to medical centers
- Disaster incident response information

Federal requirement for encryption:

The FBI CJIS (Criminal Justice Information Services) Security Policy mandates strict encryption standards for Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems that transmit Criminal Justice Information (CJI)

- **Risk of non-compliance:** Agencies can lose access to CJIS systems if standards are not met
- **Mandatory Encryption:** Dissemination of CJI over LMR systems must be encrypted to protect sensitive data from interception. This requirement is outlined in Section 5.10.1.2.1 - Encryption for CJI in Transit, and Section 5.13.1 - Wireless Communications Technologies of the CJIS Security Policy
- **Advanced Encryption Standards (AES):** Required for public safety agencies using CJIS data for activities such as conducting records checks, verifying criminal histories, and tracking criminal activity

Which channels are encrypted:

- Only law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels
- Non-sensitive channels such as Public Works and Space Coast Area Transit remain unencrypted

What about partial encryption?



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Emergency response is simply too dynamic of an environment for certain law enforcement, fire, or EMS channels to be encrypted, while others are not

- **Fast-moving operations:** Law enforcement, fire, and EMS often need to share information instantly, making it hard to predict which calls will require protection
- **Time-critical switching:** Expecting first responders to toggle between encrypted and unencrypted channels is neither effective nor efficient
- **Interoperability limits:** When an unencrypted channel patches with an encrypted one, the secure data becomes exposed, defeating the value of encryption

Regional Perspective:

- Encryption of law enforcement, fire, and EMS channels enables secure, seamless interoperability across agencies, improving emergency response
- Majority of Brevard's neighboring counties have already implemented encryption for their Public Safety Radio systems

Alternative methods for residents to stay informed:

- **PulsePoint** – Free public safety app providing real-time visibility into active incidents (fires, medical calls, traffic crashes), residents can download and follow local agencies
- **AlertBrevard** – Location-based notifications for severe weather, missing persons, boil water notices, etc., residents can sign up at <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>
- **Brevard EOC Texts** – Text service for countywide notifications on evacuations, sheltering, prescribed burns, launches, etc., residents can sign up by texting "BrevardEOC" to 888777
- **Social media** (Facebook, X, Nextdoor) – Agencies share real-time updates, preparedness information, community notices, residents can join the platform and follow official accounts

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026034 because Brevard County has limited authority and the recommendation does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 9:57 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026035

Recommendation # 2026035

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026035 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Elaine Trotter
Address 2410 SEA AV, MELBOURNE FL 32903
Phone (321) 634-4061
Email ehtrotter5@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026035
Recommendation Title City of Melbourne vs. Unincorporated Brevard County
Areas Affected Police, Streets, Sidewalks, Code Enforcement. Fire
Department Affected
Current problem I live in the city of Melbourne on the barrier island. The street I live on (Sea Av) is split between the city of Melbourne and unincorporated Brevard County. It is almost impossible to get any services from the city (i.e., road repair, drainage repair, sidewalk repair) because the city of Melbourne claims Sea Ave is maintained by the county, but the county does not seem do any work maintaining the streets, drainage, sidewalks for the residents that live in the city of Melbourne on Sea Ave. It seems very silly that two houses over from me are unincorporated Brevard. Why not have the city annex the areas on beachside that are unincorporated so that we can get decent services there? There are homes that have been condemned but people still live in them because they know that Brevard county cannot keep up with the unincorporated areas. Homes are being built solely for rental purposes and it is really destroying the beauty of living beachside.
Recommendation Expand Melbourne city limits to include the unincorporated portions between Paradise Blvd and Gross Pointe

Attachments

SpeakUpBrevard2026.pdf

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County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
FROM: Alexander Esseesse, Deputy County Attorney
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026035

CEER #2026035, titled *City of Melbourne v. Unincorporated Brevard County*, was received by the County from Ms. Elaine Trotter.

Citizen Statement:

I live in the city of Melbourne on the barrier island. The street I live on (Sea Av) is split between the city of Melbourne and unincorporated Brevard County. It is almost impossible to get any services from the city (i.e., road repair, drainage repair, sidewalk repair) because the city of Melbourne claims Sea Ave is maintained by the county, but the county does not seem to do any work maintaining the streets, drainage, sidewalks for the residents that live in the city of Melbourne on Sea Ave. It seems very silly that two houses over from me are unincorporated Brevard. Why not have the city annex the areas on beachside that are unincorporated so that we can get decent services there? There are homes that have been condemned but people still live in them because they know that Brevard county cannot keep up with the unincorporated areas. Homes are being built solely for rental purposes and it is really destroying the beauty of living beachside.

Citizen Recommendation:

Expand Melbourne city limits to include the unincorporated portions between Paradise Blvd and Gross Pointe.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that the City of Melbourne annex the area along and including Sea Avenue, a County-maintained right-of-way, so that the City will be responsible for the maintenance of Sea Avenue and associated drainage and sidewalks. Sea Avenue was last resurfaced in 2018, is considered by the Brevard County Public Works Department to be in "good" condition, and is served by an underground stormwater pipe system.

The proponent of this CEER owns property at 2410 Sea Avenue, which is located on the barrier island within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City of Melbourne. The property is located less than 100 feet from the boundary line between unincorporated Brevard County and the City of Melbourne.

Florida law establishes a process for expanding or contracting a municipality's jurisdictional boundaries under Chapter 171, Florida Statutes, the "Municipal Annexation or Contraction Act." The annexation process can be either voluntary or involuntary, depending upon whether the property owner wants their property to be annexed into the municipality. Under either scenario, it is the municipality that is responsible for annexing the property.

The County does not have any authority to cause property to be annexed into a municipality. This CEER recommendation thus falls outside of the County's jurisdiction and should instead be directed to the City of Melbourne. Alternatively, if the citizen wants Sea Avenue to become a City right-of-way without altering the City's boundaries, then that may be accomplished with a deed, resolution, and interlocal agreement between the County and City. See Section 335.0415, Florida Statutes. Such a transfer would require the mutual agreement of the County and the City.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026035 as the County is without jurisdiction or authority to cause the area that is the subject of the request to be annexed into the City of Melbourne.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 7:22 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026036

Recommendation # 2026036

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026036 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Brielle Robinson
Address 5021 Banana Ave, Cocoa FL 32926
Phone (954) 860-1500
Email brierobins@hotmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026036
Recommendation Title DEADLY STREET CORNER
Areas Affected Pine St and Coconut Ave
Department Affected
Current problem On Pine Street and Coconut Avenue in Canaveral Groves where there is a deadly turn there should be a guard rail there, many people have died there and its a very dangerous turn, specifically where there is a large white cross there where people have died. Please consider putting a guard railing down coconut ave to help to stop all these cars from falling into the canal and lives being lost.
Recommendation my recommendation would be to add a guard railing down coconut ave to help save lives.
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Public Works Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940
321-617-7202

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Marc Bernath, Director of Public Works

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026036

CEER #2026036, Deadly Street Corner from Pine St and Coconut Ave from Brielle Robinson

Citizen Statement:

On Pine Street and Coconut Avenue in Canaveral Groves where there is a deadly turn there should be a guard rail there, many people have died there and its a very dangerous turn, specifically where there is a large white cross there where people have died. Please consider putting a guard railing down coconut ave to help to stop all these cars from falling into the canal and lives being lost.

Citizen Recommendation:

My recomendation would be to add a guard railing down coconut ave to help save lives.

Staff Analysis:

Adamson Road/Coconut Avenue/Pine Street is a corridor connecting a network of single-family residential housing on the north side to Florida 524 (SR 524) on the south side in Cocoa, Florida. Traveling northbound from SR 524, Adamson Road runs north/south and approaches the curve with Coconut Avenue, which runs east-west. Coconut Avenue then connects to Pine Street, which runs north-south. The speed limit on these segments is 35 MPH.

In response to a fatality at this site in 2019, Brevard County Public Works implemented traffic control improvements including Chevron Alignment signs, Turn warning signs, and flashing beacon assemblies in March 2020 to provide increased driver awareness when navigating the curves.

Subsequent crash data, including a fatality in 2023, had revealed a negligible change since the 2020 implementation triggering a Curve Study to be performed, dated January 11th, 2024. As a result of that study, curve warning pavement messages, optical speed bar pavement markings, and additional curve warning signage were added.



Public Works Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 201
Viera, Florida 32940
321-617-7202

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Based on the direction of the roadway departures at that curve and the impact angle, a guardrail in that location was not recommended as it did not provide a safety benefit and could potentially introduce additional hazards.

There have been no additional reported crashes southbound on Pine St at this location as a result of the curve since the additional measures were put in place in 2024.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026036.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 4:31 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026037

Recommendation # 2026037

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026037 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Citizen
Name	Melissa h Brandt
Address	2517 Palm Ave, Mims FL 32754
Phone	(407) 515-0517
Email	missybrandt1970@gmail.com
Alternate Email	missybrandt1970@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026037
Recommendation Title	Project Warm Harbor
Areas Affected	Pilot Program Request for Cold Night Sheltering
Department Affected	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE
Current problem	COLD NIGHT SAFE STAY – BREVARD COUNTY Emergency Freeze Response Motel Partnership Pilot Prepared by: Melissa H. Brandt ===== EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ===== Cold Night Safe Stay is a Brevard County–specific, weather-activated emergency housing response designed to protect unhoused individuals during National Weather Service–issued freeze warnings. Brevard County currently lacks scalable emergency shelter capacity during cold-weather events. As a result, individuals experiencing homelessness face life-threatening exposure risks, while Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hospital emergency departments, and law enforcement experience increased strain. This pilot program activates short-term motel partnerships only during declared freeze warnings, providing 1–3 nights of safe lodging with no creation of tenancy. The program is cost-effective, immediately deployable, and aligned with Brevard County Emergency Management and Public Safety objectives. Funding Request: \$25,000 winter pilot allocation ===== PROBLEM

STATEMENT – BREVARD COUNTY CONTEXT

===== • No centralized cold-weather shelter capacity countywide • Increased hypothermia risk during multi-night freeze events • Elevated EMS calls, ER visits, and jail diversion • Limited short-notice shelter scalability

===== PROGRAM

OVERVIEW ===== Cold

Night Safe Stay partners with 2–3 motels in each major Brevard city: • Titusville • Cocoa • Melbourne • Palm Bay Activation occurs only during: • National Weather Service Freeze Warnings • Declared cold-weather emergencies by Brevard County Emergency Management Participants receive: • One-night stays (renewed nightly, max 3 nights) • Light-touch eligibility screening • Next-day case management referral

===== PARTNER ROLES

===== Lead Administrator: • Recovery Connections or Brevard Homeless Coalition (fiscal agent) Public Partners: • Brevard County Emergency Management • Brevard County Public Safety • Local Municipal Governments • Brevard Sheriff's Office (support role) Community Partners: • Community of Hope • Hospitals and EMS providers • Faith-based emergency response partners =====

MOTEL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

===== Motel partners receive: • Guaranteed payment via nonprofit/county funds • Limited activation (freeze-only) • No tenancy risk • Behavioral expectations for guests • Community recognition and documentation for tax purposes Target rate: • \$45–\$65 per room/night

===== PILOT BUDGET –

7 NIGHT FREEZE EVENT

===== Rooms: 10 rooms x 4 cities x \$60 x 7 nights = \$16,800 Support Costs: • Transportation assistance: \$2,000 • Case management staffing: \$3,000 • Administrative & insurance: \$1,200 Total Pilot Cost: \$23,000 (rounded to \$25,000 for contingency)

===== COST

AVOIDANCE JUSTIFICATION

===== Average ER visit: \$2,500 Average jail night: \$150 Average motel room: \$60 Preventing: • 10 ER visits offsets full pilot cost • 50 jail nights saves \$7,500

===== PUBLIC SAFETY &

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT

===== • Life-safety intervention • Reduces strain on EMS, hospitals, and jail systems • Rapid deployment using existing infrastructure • No zoning, licensing, or shelter compliance barriers

=====

Recommendation

Everything is in documentation provided above

Attachments

Cold_Night_Safe_Stay_Brevard_Complete_Packet-mhb (1).pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Project Warm Harbor- BREVARD COUNTY FLORIDA

Emergency Freeze Response Motel Partnership Pilot

Prepared by: Melissa H. Brandt

=====

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

=====

Project Warm Harbor is a Brevard County–specific, weather-activated emergency housing response designed to protect unhoused individuals during National Weather Service–issued freeze warnings.

Brevard County currently lacks scalable emergency shelter capacity during cold-weather events. As a result, individuals experiencing homelessness face life-threatening exposure risks, while Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hospital emergency departments, and law enforcement experience increased strain.

This pilot program activates short-term motel partnerships only during declared freeze warnings, providing 1–3 nights of safe lodging with no creation of tenancy. The program is cost-effective, immediately deployable, and aligned with Brevard County Emergency Management and Public Safety objectives.

Funding Request: \$25,000 winter pilot allocation

=====

PROBLEM STATEMENT – BREVARD COUNTY CONTEXT

=====

- No centralized cold-weather shelter capacity countywide

- Increased hypothermia risk during multi-night freeze events
- Elevated EMS calls, ER visits, and jail diversion
- Limited short-notice shelter scalability

=====

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

=====

Cold Night Safe Stay partners with 2–3 motels in each major Brevard city:

- Titusville
- Cocoa
- Melbourne
- Palm Bay

Activation occurs only during:

- National Weather Service Freeze Warnings
- Declared cold-weather emergencies by Brevard County Emergency Management

Participants receive:

- One-night stays (renewed nightly, max 3 nights)
- Light-touch eligibility screening
- Next-day case management referral

=====

PARTNER ROLES

=====

Lead Administrator:

- Recovery Connections or Brevard Homeless Coalition (fiscal agent)

Public Partners:

- Brevard County Emergency Management
- Brevard County Public Safety
- Local Municipal Governments
- Brevard Sheriff's Office (support role)

Community Partners:

- Community of Hope
- Hospitals and EMS providers
- Faith-based emergency response partners

=====

MOTEL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

=====

Motel partners receive:

- Guaranteed payment via nonprofit/county funds
- Limited activation (freeze-only)
- No tenancy risk
- Behavioral expectations for guests
- Community recognition and documentation for tax purposes

Target rate:

- \$45–\$65 per room/night

=====

PILOT BUDGET – 7 NIGHT FREEZE EVENT

=====

Rooms:

10 rooms x 4 cities x \$60 x 7 nights = \$16,800

Support Costs:

- Transportation assistance: \$2,000
- Case management staffing: \$3,000
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Total Pilot Cost:

\$23,000 (rounded to \$25,000 for contingency)

=====

COST AVOIDANCE JUSTIFICATION

=====

Average ER visit: \$2,500

Average jail night: \$150

Average motel room: \$60

Preventing:

- 10 ER visits offsets full pilot cost
- 50 jail nights saves \$7,500

=====

PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT

=====

- Life-safety intervention
- Reduces strain on EMS, hospitals, and jail systems
- Rapid deployment using existing infrastructure
- No zoning, licensing, or shelter compliance barriers

=====

PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT & VISIBILITY

=====

Cold Night Safe Stay will be publicly acknowledged as a Brevard County Emergency Management–supported initiative, with recognition of county leadership, municipal partners, and participating motels.

=====

NEXT STEPS

=====

- County Manager and Public Safety briefing
- Emergency Management funding approval
- Motel MOUs executed
- Activation during next freeze warning



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Matt Wallace, Public Safety Director

FROM: John Scott, Emergency Management Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026037

CEER #2026037, titled Project Warm Harbor, was received by the County from Melissa H. Brandt.

Citizen Statement:

COLD NIGHT SAFE STAY – BREVARD COUNTY

Emergency Freeze Response Motel Partnership Pilot

Prepared by: Melissa H. Brandt

=====

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

=====

Cold Night Safe Stay is a Brevard County–specific, weather-activated emergency housing response designed to protect unhoused individuals during National Weather Service–issued freeze warnings.

Brevard County currently lacks scalable emergency shelter capacity during cold-weather events. As a result, individuals experiencing homelessness face life-threatening exposure risks, while Emergency Medical Services (EMS), hospital emergency departments, and law enforcement experience increased strain.

This pilot program activates short-term motel partnerships only during declared freeze warnings, providing 1–3 nights of safe lodging with no creation of tenancy. The program is cost-effective, immediately deployable, and aligned with Brevard County Emergency Management and Public Safety objectives.

Funding Request: \$25,000 winter pilot allocation

=====

PROBLEM STATEMENT – BREVARD COUNTY CONTEXT

=====

- No centralized cold-weather shelter capacity countywide
- Increased hypothermia risk during multi-night freeze events
- Elevated EMS calls, ER visits, and jail diversion
- Limited short-notice shelter scalability



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

=====

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

=====

Cold Night Safe Stay partners with 2–3 motels in each major Brevard city:

- Titusville
- Cocoa
- Melbourne
- Palm Bay

Activation occurs only during:

- National Weather Service Freeze Warnings
- Declared cold-weather emergencies by Brevard County Emergency Management

Participants receive:

- One-night stays (renewed nightly, max 3 nights)
 - Light-touch eligibility screening
 - Next-day case management referral
- =====

PARTNER ROLES

=====

Lead Administrator:

- Recovery Connections or Brevard Homeless Coalition (fiscal agent)

Public Partners:

- Brevard County Emergency Management
- Brevard County Public Safety
- Local Municipal Governments
- Brevard Sheriff's Office (support role)

Community Partners:

- Community of Hope
 - Hospitals and EMS providers
 - Faith-based emergency response partners
- =====

MOTEL PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

=====

Motel partners receive:

- Guaranteed payment via nonprofit/county funds
- Limited activation (freeze-only)
- No tenancy risk
- Behavioral expectations for guests
- Community recognition and documentation for tax purposes



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Target rate:

- \$45–\$65 per room/night

PILOT BUDGET – 7 NIGHT FREEZE EVENT

Rooms:

10 rooms x 4 cities x \$60 x 7 nights = \$16,800

Support Costs:

- Transportation assistance: \$2,000
- Case management staffing: \$3,000
- Administrative & insurance: \$1,200

Total Pilot Cost:

\$23,000 (rounded to \$25,000 for contingency)

COST AVOIDANCE JUSTIFICATION

Average ER visit: \$2,500

Average jail night: \$150

Average motel room: \$60

Preventing:

- 10 ER visits offsets full pilot cost
- 50 jail nights saves \$7,500

PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALIGNMENT

- Life-safety intervention
- Reduces strain on EMS, hospitals, and jail systems
- Rapid deployment using existing infrastructure
- No zoning, licensing, or shelter compliance barriers

Citizen Recommendation:

Everything is in documentation provided above



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County does not operate cold weather shelters. The current approach is community partner-led, with Emergency Management focused on coordination and communication. Expanding into direct sheltering or motel-based programs would require a significant policy and resource shift.

Background

- Cold weather sheltering in Brevard started with the identification of a communications gap during very cold nights and the need for a more coordinated approach
 - First responders lacked visibility on available shelter options for unhoused individuals
 - Community providers offering safe shelter struggled to get their messages to the right audiences
- Emergency Management assumed a coordination role to facilitate communication

Weather Conditions

- Standard community partner threshold for potential cold weather shelter activities is near or below 45°F
 - Recent Cold Weather Shelter activities (days with at least one shelter open):
 - Fiscal Year 2024: 22 days
 - Fiscal Year 2025: 34 days
 - Fiscal Year 2026: 36 days
- National Weather Service Issues Freeze Warnings when temperatures are forecasted to go below 32°F for a long period of time
 - Note: Emergency Management does not declare “cold weather emergencies”

Current Approach

- **Community Partners:**
 - Operate as self-supporting
 - Independently decide if/when to open shelters
 - Determine capacity, duration, and services
- **Emergency Management:**
 - Serves strictly as an information-sharing hub
 - Does not fund, staff, or resource shelter operations
- **Coordination Process:**
 - EM confirms opening status with partners when days are forecast to be near or below temperature thresholds
 - Information is consolidated and shared with:
 - 9-1-1 dispatch centers
 - Public safety partners
 - Human service agencies serving the unhoused community
 - General public via social media and EOC text alerts

Motel-Based Sheltering – City of Palm Bay Example



Emergency Management Department

1751 Huntington Lane
Rockledge, FL 32955

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- In 2022, the City of Palm Bay partnered with the HELPs Community Initiative to provide hotel vouchers on cold nights for individuals experiencing homelessness
- Program funding via the Palm Bay Municipal Foundation at \$8,900
- Program challenges:
 - Limited motel participation (rate and willingness)
 - Client-related property damage to motel
 - Funding was quickly exhausted
- Outcome: Program was not sustained

Staff Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER # 2026037 as detailed in the staff analysis and because it does not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026038

Recommendation # 2026038

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026038 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Saint Johns Rivekeeper
Name	WILLIAM A ZOBY
Address	3623 SANDY CRANE CT, MELBOURNE FL FL 32934
Phone	(321) 794-3566
Email	wzoby@cfl.rr.com
Alternate Email	wzoby18@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026038
Recommendation Title	Storm Drain Steciling near St Johns River Watershed areas
Areas Affected	Lands weast of I-95
Department Affected	Parks And Recreation Department
Current problem	As the landscape is becoming increasingly hardened by development, rainwater is carrying pollution to the St Johns River and the surrounding remaining wetlands. As a source for many residents of drinking water, it is important that residents and businesses are aware of what should not be poured down storm drains.
Recommendation	Help maintain clean, healthy water and avoid costly solutions that can be avoided.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.
SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026038

CEER #2026038, titled Storm Drain Steciling near St Johns River Watershed areas, was received by the County from William A. Zoby.

Citizen Statement:

As the landscape is becoming increasingly hardened by development, rainwater is carrying pollution to the St Johns River and the surrounding remaining wetlands. As a source for many residents of drinking water, it is important that residents and businesses are aware of what should not be poured down storm drains.

Citizen Recommendation:

Help maintain clean, healthy water and avoid costly solutions that can be avoided.

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County's Stormwater Program initiated its storm drain marking program more than two decades ago to promote public awareness of stormwater pollution. The program's early phase utilized markers produced by the St. Johns River Water Management District. For example, in Fiscal Year 2004, the County purchased 200 "Let Only Rain Down the Drain" markers. These markers were designed for durability and high visibility, featuring blue text and a fish graphic on a bright yellow background. Many of these original markers remain in place on storm drains and other hardened structures throughout unincorporated Brevard County.

From its inception, the program has relied heavily on citizen volunteers to install the markers. Hundreds have been placed within both the Indian River Lagoon watershed (draining east) and the St. Johns River watershed (draining west). Installation efforts are primarily focused within unincorporated Brevard County. However, the County partners with several municipalities to support public outreach initiatives in compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, which

include storm drain marking activities. The current, second-generation marker design is shown below, with the marker for drains flowing to the St Johns River on the left.



Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026038 with revisions because storm drain markers are already implemented.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026039

Recommendation # 2026039

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026039 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Saint Johns Rivekeeper
Name	WILLIAM A ZOBY
Address	3623 SANDY CRANE CT, MELBOURNE FL FL 32934
Phone	(321) 794-3566
Email	wzoby@cfl.rr.com
Alternate Email	wzoby18@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026039
Recommendation Title	Fishing Line Recycling Tubes
Areas Affected	Popular Fishing and Recreational locations
Department Affected	Parks And Recreation Department
Current problem	Currently fishing lines (monofilament) are often disposed of onto the ground or water. These lines contain pollutants (forever chemicals) and cause harm to wildlife and marine equipment and water intake units.
Recommendation	Install standard monofilament line collection tubes. Collection tubes have been used successfully for many years, and recreational fishermen have used them extensively. It is a low-cost solution that yields positive long-term results.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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Parks and Recreation Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
B-203
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Ian Golden, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026039

CEER #2026039, titled Fishing Line Recycling Tubes, was received by the County from William A. Zoby.

Citizen Statement:

“Currently fishing lines (monofilament) are often disposed of onto the ground or water. These lines contain pollutants (forever chemicals) and cause harm to wildlife and marine equipment and water intake units.”

Citizen Recommendation:

“Install standard monofilament line collection tubes. Collection tubes have been used successfully for many years, and recreational fishermen have used them extensively. It is a low-cost solution that yields positive long-term results.”

Staff Analysis:

Fishing line recycling tubes are excellent for reducing environmental pollution and are installed at numerous Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) locations on the rivers and at beach crossovers. However, their effectiveness is limited by:

- Improper Disposal of Trash: Users often dump broken fishing equipment (hooks, lures, or lead weights) and garbage into the tubes, which can harm people or animals.
- Overflow: Tubes can become overfilled, which creates a hazard when fishing line falls or sticks out of the tube, creating the same pollution they are meant to prevent.
- Maintenance: Every additional tube has a negative impact on already overextended maintenance workers who are responsible for emptying, repairing, and replacing them.

It is for these reasons; P&R is exploring a partnership with the Waterway Warriors. This partnership would seek to add additional locations for collection tubes, which would be obtained, installed, emptied, and maintained by their volunteers.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026039 with revisions because the County already utilizes collection tubes and is exploring ways to expand the program.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:23 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026040

Recommendation # 2026040

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026040 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Saint Johns Rivekeeper
Name	WILLIAM A ZOBY
Address	3623 SANDY CRANE CT, MELBOURNE FL FL 32934
Phone	(321) 794-3566
Email	wzoby@cfl.rr.com
Alternate Email	wzoby18@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026040
Recommendation Title	Signage Campaign at key recreational locations on the Saint Johns River
Areas Affected	Parks, river access points and fish camps
Department Affected	Parks And Recreation Department
Current problem	Advisory information regarding algae blooms, potential high flood water or other dangers related to the St Johns River and its watershed is not available at the point of river use (docks/marinas/recreational areas).
Recommendation	Using the St Johns River provided app: SJRK WATCH toll, people will get up to date advisories thus providing important safety information.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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Parks and Recreation Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way

B-203

Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Ian Golden, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026040

CEER #2026040, titled Signage Campaign at key recreational locations on the Saint Johns River, was received by the County from William A. Zoby.

Citizen Statement:

"Advisory information regarding algae blooms, potential high flood water or other dangers related to the St Johns River and its watershed is not available at the point of river use (docks/marinas/recreational areas)."

Citizen Recommendation:

"Using the St Johns River provided app: SJRK WATCH toll, people will get up to date advisories thus providing important safety information."

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County Ordinance Section 78-108 -- Posting Signs, forbids the posting of any sign, poster or other printed or written matter in any park, recreational facility, or department managed lands except during elections as required under Florida Statutes, Chapter 102.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026040 because it is a service request and it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026041

Recommendation # 2026041

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026041 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Titusville Garden Club Tree Farm
Name	Thomas H Perez
Address	3025 S Washington Ave, Titusville FL 32780 3278
Phone	(240) 285-6189
Email	tntsservice@gmail.com
Alternate Email	tntsservice@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026041
Recommendation Title	Resumption of making "the fines" from yard waste
Areas Affected	Brevard County
Department Affected	Solid Waste Department
Current problem	Over the years, Brevard county has dispatched our yard waste into huge piles of chipped up logs, limbs and branches. A byproduct called "the fines" was previously produced by the County, but was stopped in the fall of 2022. Currently, the County website claims that residents can get "free mulch" at the following locations: Central Disposal Facility, Cocoa 633-1888 Mockingbird Mulching Facility, Titusville 264-5009 Sarno Landfill, Melbourne 255-4365 However, the claim on the website is not true. The yard waste that is chipped up and called mulch, simply isn't. The stuff that comes out of the grinder is very course and unsuitable for gardening. The product contains small logs and limbs that make it through the single-pass process rendering the resultant material too rough for most circumstances. To produce a usable product, "the fines", the course material needs to be run through the process a second time using a finer screen to further reduce the course materials and timbers. This second grind creates "the fines" which are infinitely more useable. Put another way, the course material produced from the first grind will take years to break down and become useful to the soil as an amenity, whereas the fines can be put to service directly.

Recommendation

We propose that the County resume the production of the fines and make it available in all three county facilities. Gardeners can use the fines to create compost, "gardeners black gold". The fines are a very usable and sustainable byproduct from our county's yard waste clean up operations, and residents want it. For the gardener the process of composting the fines takes a few months. It requires a small amount of land to rest the pile, and some maintenance (e.g., turning the pile over weekly, and occasional watering). In 6 months, this mulch product is turned into compost which is a gardener's best friend.

Attachments

Brevard Compost Final.pdf
NotRenderingCorrectlyInIE.docx
TEST.txt

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Request for the County to resume making the “fines” from yard waste.

Many government composting programs focus on reducing organic waste in landfills and promoting sustainable practices. These programs often include community composting initiatives, curbside organic waste collection, and educational resources to help residents compost effectively.

That’s a big step from where we are today in Brevard County. However, sustainable practices like composting, low impact development and low impact living help reduce the sources of muck heading into the Indian River Lagoon. Who knew leaf litter equates to muck?

Over the years, Brevard county has dispatched our yard waste into huge piles of chipped up logs, limbs and branches. A byproduct called “the fines” was previously produced by the County, but was stopped in the fall of 2022. Currently, the County website claims that residents can get “free mulch” at the following locations:

- Central Disposal Facility, Cocoa 633-1888
- Mockingbird Mulching Facility, Titusville 264-5009
- Sarno Landfill, Melbourne 255-4365

However, the claim on the website is not true. The yard waste that is chipped up and called mulch, simply isn’t. The stuff that comes out of the grinder is very course and unsuitable for gardening. The product contains small logs and limbs that make it through the single-pass process rendering the resultant material too rough for most circumstances.

To produce a usable product, “the fines”, the course material needs to be run through the process a second time using a finer screen to further reduce the course materials and timbers. This second grind creates “the fines” which are infinitely more useable. Put another way, the course material produced from the first grind will take years to break down and become useful to the soil as an amenity, whereas the fines can be put to service directly.

We propose that the County resume the production of the fines and make it available in all three county facilities. Gardeners can use the fines to create compost, “gardeners black gold”. The fines are a very usable and sustainable byproduct from our county’s yard waste clean up operations, and residents want it.

For the gardener the process of composting the fines takes a few months. It requires a small amount of land to rest the pile, and some maintenance (e.g., turning the pile over weekly, and occasional watering). In 6 months, this mulch product is turned into compost which is a gardener’s best friend.



Solid Waste Management Department
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
A118
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Thomas Mulligan, Solid Waste Management Department Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026041

CEER #2026041, titled *Resumption of Making "The Fines" from Yard Waste*, was received by the County from Thomas H. Perez.

Citizen Statement:

Over the years, Brevard County has dispatched our yard waste into huge piles of chipped up logs, limbs and branches. A byproduct called "the fines" was previously produced by the County, but was stopped in the fall of 2022. Currently, the County website claims that residents can get "free mulch" at the following locations: Central Disposal Facility, Cocoa (321-633-1888) Mockingbird Mulching Facility, Titusville (321-264-5009), and Sarno Landfill, Melbourne (321-255-4365). However, the claim on the website is not true. The yard waste that is chipped up and called mulch, simply isn't. The stuff that comes out of the grinder is very course and unsuitable for gardening. The product contains small logs and limbs that make it through the single-pass process rendering the resultant material too rough for most circumstances. To produce a usable product, "the fines", the course material needs to be run through the process a second time using a finer screen to further reduce the course materials and timbers. This second grind creates "the fines" which are infinitely more useable. Put another way, the course material produced from the first grind will take years to break down and become useful to the soil as an amenity, whereas the fines can be put to service directly.

Citizen Recommendation:

We propose that the County resume the production of the fines and make it available in all three county facilities. Gardeners can use the fines to create compost, "gardeners black gold". The fines are a very usable and sustainable byproduct from our county's yard waste clean up operations, and residents want it. For the gardener the process of composting the fines takes a few months. It requires a small amount of land to rest the pile, and some maintenance (e.g., turning the pile over weekly, and occasional watering). In 6 months, this mulch product is turned into compost which is a gardener's best friend.



Solid Waste Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way

A118

Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

In past years, the Brevard County Solid Waste Management Department held a contract with WIN Waste Innovations, commonly known as Wheelabrator, to purchase processed vegetative material to be used as fuel at their Wheelabrator Ridge waste-to-energy facility located in Auburndale, Florida. The vegetative material, primarily the material disposed of at the Mockingbird Way Mulching Facility in Titusville, was double processed to create a fine mulch suitable for use as fuel in the power plant (first processed to a four-inch mulch, then processed a second time to produce a fine mulch). The Wheelabrator contract offset the additional costs incurred by the second processing of the vegetative material to create suitable fuel, that was only processed specifically for Wheelabrator. Only the residual material that was left was made available to the public.

Once Wheelabrator shut down operations at the facility on December 31, 2018, the cost for double processing vegetative waste became an unnecessary expense and was discontinued. Vegetative material disposed at our Titusville, Cocoa, and Melbourne facilities is currently processed to a four-inch mulch and used in a 50/50 mix with dirt as daily cover at the Central Disposal Facility Class I landfill in Cocoa. The mulch is also available to the public from all three facilities at no cost.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026041 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 12:06 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026042

Recommendation # 2026042

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026042 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Elaine Trotter
Address 2410 SEA AV, MELBOURNE FL 32903
Phone (321) 634-4061
Email ehtrotter5@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026042
Recommendation Title Sidewalks on A1A PLEASE
Areas Affected East side of A1A between Eau Gallie Blvd and 192
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem There are very few sidewalks on A1A between Eau Gallie Blvd. and State road 192. It is very dangerous to walk on the east side when crossing the road (even at crosswalks). It makes it impossible to enjoy beachside.
Recommendation Add sidewalks to make the area more friendly to pedestrians!
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communication

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026042

CEER #2026042, titled Sidewalks on A1A PLEASE, was received by the County from Elaine Trotter.

Citizen Statement:

There are very few sidewalks on A1A between Eau Gallie Blvd. and State road 192. It is very dangerous to walk on the east side when crossing the road (even at crosswalks). It makes it impossible to enjoy beachside.

Citizen Recommendation:

Add sidewalks to make the area more friendly to pedestrians!

Staff Analysis:

This recommendation has been forwarded to the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization and the Florida Department of Transportation District 5 Office on 2/20/26.

Staff Recommended Action:

Pursuant to BCC-95, Section III.C.2, the County Manager summarily recommends that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2025042 as State Road A1A is not under the Board's jurisdiction.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 4:13 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026043

Recommendation # 2026043

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026043 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Marine Resources Council of East Florida, Inc.
Name	Laura E Wilson
Address	3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay FL 32905
Phone	(321) 725-7775
Email	laura@mrcirl.org
Alternate Email	lew999@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026043
Recommendation Title	Incentive Program for Low Impact Development
Areas Affected	Code of Ordinances
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	Stormwater runoff is the single largest source of nutrient pollution to the Indian River Lagoon in Brevard County. While the County (SOIRL program) lists muck flux as the top nutrient source, muck is the result of stormwater runoff and dredged muck deposits are being filled in with new muck deposits because we're not adequately addressing the water running off our land. As land is developed or redeveloped, natural landscapes that once absorbed rainfall are replaced with rooftops, roads, parking lots, and compacted lawns. Rainfall that would have soaked into the ground and replenished our aquifers now runs off hard surfaces picking up pollutants before flowing into the Indian River Lagoon or St. Johns River. In residential areas, stormwater can carry fertilizer, pet waste, grass clippings, pesticides, sediments, and bacteria. In commercial and industrial areas, runoff adds oils, heavy metals, trash, and other contaminants from parking lots and roadways. Together, these pollutants fuel harmful algal blooms, reduce water clarity, and stress seagrass, oysters, and other wildlife. In addition to nutrients and contaminants, stormwater delivers large pulses of freshwater to the Lagoon. Freshwater itself is a pollutant in an estuarine system like

the Indian River Lagoon, where rapid changes in salinity harm oysters, clams, seagrass and other estuary-dependent species.

Recommendation

Low Impact Development (LID) and green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) are proven solutions that address these problems at their source. LID practices, like rain gardens, bioswales, native plant buffer zones, permeable pavement, preserved and engineered wetlands, and on-site infiltration, slow stormwater, filter pollutants, and allow for aquifer recharge. Benefits for municipalities include: mitigating local flooding, reduced nutrient discharges, increased tax revenue, and surficial aquifer recharge. Benefits for developers include: tools to meet new stormwater regulations and BMAP requirements, access to more buildable land, and social benefits. Brevard County already has several LID/GSI policies in the Comprehensive Plan (e.g. surface water protection buffers with limited impervious surfaces) and Land Development Regulations (e.g. tree canopy preservation, planted littoral zones, landscaping performance standards). There is even an incentive program for preserving trees. However, these policies can go further, be expanded to homeowners and businesses, and consolidated as a model for municipalities across the county. As Commissioner Delany mentioned at the second SOIRL workshop in January 2026, Volusia County recently released a Low Impact Development incentive program (<https://www.volusia.org/core/fileparse.php/6149/urlt/Request-3-LID-Guidebook-attachment.pdf>); this guidebook drew heavily from Titusville's LID incentive program (<https://titusville.com/DocumentCenter/View/3248/Exhibit-A-LID-Tech-Manual-clean-ADOPTED?bidId=>). Brevard could follow suit to incentivizing developers to go above and beyond what is already on record for land development practices. This could include incentives for installing impervious surfaces, below-ground rainwater storage that promotes aquifer recharge, planting mangroves along the Lagoon, reducing compact turf-grass areas, and increasing the percentage of land cover with native plants. These should be applied to both residential and industrial developments and redevelopments. Ultimately, it needs to be easier to do the right/more environmentally sustainable thing than to continue more destructive practices. Assuring that LID practices are synonymous with Best Management Practices, fee discounts, permit fast-tracking, rebates, grants, and other incentives can help with this. The element missing from other incentive programs is incentives (and assistance) for individual homeowners and businesses. There is considerable expense to replace traditional driveways with pervious pavers or pavement, install underground water storage, or install a living shoreline. The same way there is a rebate program for installing a rain barrel in some places, there could be rebates for "rainscapes" that incorporate bioretention, pervious pavers, and more. See Montgomery County, Maryland (in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed) for a program model: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/rainscapes/index.html>). Alternatively (or additionally) there could be a grant program similar to septic upgrade grants offered by the County and State. Lastly, many municipal leaders across the county are not aware that there are already LID policies in the county ordinances. With increased awareness and ease of discovery, the county's regulations (and any subsequently developed incentive program) could become a model for Brevard cities and towns updating their own land development codes.

Attachments

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept (NRM)

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026043

CEER #2026043, titled Incentive Program for Low Impact Development, was received by the County from Ms. Laura E. Wilson.

Citizen Statement:

Stormwater runoff is the single largest source of nutrient pollution to the Indian River Lagoon in Brevard County. While the County (SOIRL program) lists muck flux as the top nutrient source, muck is the result of stormwater runoff and dredged muck deposits are being filled in with new muck deposits because we're not adequately addressing the water running off our land. As land is developed or redeveloped, natural landscapes that once absorbed rainfall are replaced with rooftops, roads, parking lots, and compacted lawns. Rainfall that would have soaked into the ground and replenished our aquifers now runs off hard surfaces picking up pollutants before flowing into the Indian River Lagoon or St. Johns River. In residential areas, stormwater can carry fertilizer, pet waste, grass clippings, pesticides, sediments, and bacteria. In commercial and industrial areas, runoff adds oils, heavy metals, trash, and other contaminants from parking lots and roadways. Together, these pollutants fuel harmful algal blooms, reduce water clarity, and stress seagrass, oysters, and other wildlife. In addition to nutrients and contaminants, stormwater delivers large pulses of freshwater to the Lagoon. Freshwater itself is a pollutant in an estuarine system like the Indian River Lagoon, where rapid changes in salinity harm oysters, clams, seagrass and other estuary-dependent species.

Citizen Recommendation:

Low Impact Development (LID) and green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) are proven solutions that address these problems at their source. LID practices, like rain gardens, bioswales, native plant buffer zones, permeable pavement, preserved and engineered wetlands, and on-site infiltration, slow stormwater, filter pollutants, and allow for aquifer recharge. Benefits for municipalities include: mitigating local flooding, reduced nutrient

discharges, increased tax revenue, and surficial aquifer recharge. Benefits for developers include: tools to meet new stormwater regulations and BMAP requirements, access to more buildable land, and social benefits.

Brevard County already has several LID/GSI policies in the Comprehensive Plan (e.g. surface water protection buffers with limited impervious surfaces) and Land Development Regulations (e.g. tree canopy preservation, planted littoral zones, landscaping performance standards). There is even an incentive program for preserving trees. However, these policies can go further, be expanded to homeowners and businesses, and consolidated as a model for municipalities across the county.

As Commissioner Delany mentioned at the second SOIRL workshop in January 2026, Volusia County recently released a Low Impact Development incentive program (<https://www.volusia.org/core/fileparse.php/6149/urlt/Request-3-LID-Guidebook-attachment.pdf>); this guidebook drew heavily from Titusville's LID incentive program (<https://titusville.com/DocumentCenter/View/3248/Exhibit-A-LID-Tech-Manual-clean-ADOPTED?bidId=>). Brevard could follow suit to incentivizing developers to go above and beyond what is already on record for land development practices. This could include incentives for installing impervious surfaces, below-ground rainwater storage that promotes aquifer recharge, planting mangroves along the Lagoon, reducing compact turf-grass areas, and increasing the percentage of land cover with native plants. These should be applied to both residential and industrial developments and redevelopments. Ultimately, it needs to be easier to do the right/more environmentally sustainable thing than to continue more destructive practices. Assuring that LID practices are synonymous with Best Management Practices, fee discounts, permit fast-tracking, rebates, grants, and other incentives can help with this.

The element missing from other incentive programs is incentives (and assistance) for individual homeowners and businesses. There is considerable expense to replace traditional driveways with pervious pavers or pavement, install underground water storage, or install a living shoreline. The same way there is a rebate program for installing a rain barrel in some places, there could be rebates for "rainscapes" that incorporate bioretention, pervious pavers, and more. See Montgomery County, Maryland (in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed) for a program model: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/rainscapes/index.html>). Alternatively (or additionally) there could be a grant program similar to septic upgrade grants offered by the County and State.

Lastly, many municipal leaders across the county are not aware that there are already LID policies in the county ordinances. With increased awareness and ease of discovery, the county's regulations (and any subsequently developed incentive program) could

become a model for Brevard cities and towns updating their own land development codes.

Staff Analysis:

Existing LID+GSI-Related County Requirements & Continuing Efforts

As stated above, NRM continues to implement policies and Land Development Regulations (LDRs) that align with LID/GSI principles and ensure avoidance and minimization of impacts to natural coastal ecosystems, including native vegetation, wetlands, floodplains, aquifer recharge areas, and dunes. These include:

- Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 2 - Landscaping, Land Clearing & Tree Protection, Section 62-4341 requires at least 50% native preserved or planted trees for new development. Additionally, at least 50% native or water-wise shrubs are required. Trees and shrubs must be maintained on-site in perpetuity. Meeting all principles of Xeriscaping or water-wise landscaping is incentivized through a 50% reduction in the required shrub quantity for new developments.
- Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 2 - Landscaping, Land Clearing & Tree Protection, Section 62-4344 provides incentives for increased canopy preservation and landscaping above the required thresholds. For example, one preserved specimen tree can offset the requirement for planting up to 16 smaller trees, thereby retaining the environmental benefits of the established preserved tree and offsetting the risk of establishing new, smaller planted trees. Landscaping credit may also be accumulated for the preservation of healthy vegetation of special concern, such as rare, endangered or threatened plant species or hardwood hammock, barrier island scrub, or sand pine scrub.
- Chapter 62, Article XIII, Division 2 - Landscaping, Land Clearing & Tree Protection, Section 62-4346, provides for an administrative waiver of up to 30% of nonresidential parking standards for the preservation or additional planting of native or Florida-Friendly Landscaping. This waiver reduces impervious surfaces while requiring additional planted green space.
- Chapter 62, Article XII - Coastal Setback and Control Lines establishes the Brevard County Coastal Setback Line (CSL), located an additional 25 feet west (landward) of the FDEP Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL). No development impacts are permitted east of the CSL, with the exception of a minimized elevated dune crossover and maximum of 100 square feet of elevated minor structure. The removal of native vegetation is prohibited east of the CSL.
- Chapter 62, Article X, Division 4 - Wetland Protection establishes specific allowable land uses in wetlands, including residential density of one unit per five

acres and the direction of commercial development into established areas of commercial use and prioritizes the protection of higher functioning wetlands. Additionally, there shall be no net loss of wetland function in the County.

- Chapter 62, Article X, Division 5 - Floodplain Protection establishes criteria that exceed state stormwater standards by requiring “no adverse impact” to off-site properties, resources, and infrastructure through compensatory storage of stormwater volume. Brevard County continually advances area-specific flood studies to further refine current modelling and engineering practices. Development is limited or prohibited in the most vulnerable floodplains such as the mean and 10-year riverine floodplains. Riverine floodplains are those areas that have a surface water connection to major freshwater bodies during the 100-year flood.
- Chapter 62, Article X, Division 3 - Surface Water Protection establishes buffers 25 to 200 feet in width, depending on water body classification, between development and the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and St. Johns River. Native vegetation is required in these buffers as well as stormwater management for all impacts to the buffers. This includes GSI practices such as dense native vegetation, rain gardens, and exfiltration.
- Chapter 62, Article X, Division 5 - Aquifer Protection establishes impervious area restrictions in recharge soils and/or demonstration of preservation of recharge volume to protect water infiltration into the surficial aquifer.
- Chapter 46, Article II, Division 4, Section 46-87, Nitrogen Reduction Overlay, requires enhanced nutrient-reducing on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) within the Indian River Lagoon septic overlay area.

Note that the above referenced Volusia County LID Implementation Guidebook concluded that successful implementation of an LID program is most likely when the program is required through regulation rather than being voluntary.

In February 2022, Brevard County adopted 13 new “Peril of Flood” Policies as Comprehensive Plan, Coastal Element, Objective 14, entitled Coastal Development and Redevelopment. The primary objective is to create procedures to allow consideration of the changing dynamics of flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge in growth management decisions within Brevard County. The Policies also direct the County to:

- Develop mechanisms to evaluate and recommend new design and development standards for public and private infrastructure projects that consider future climate conditions and amend LDRs to reduce obstacles that hinder nature-based design standards and/or LID.

- Continually identify strategies and engineering solutions that minimize the loss of flood storage capacity in all floodplains and areas vulnerable to natural hazards such as flooding, storm surge, and sea level rise, and incorporate them into the LDRs.
- Encourage nature-based adaptation strategies design standards and/or LID design for development and redevelopment within areas vulnerable to current and future flooding impacts.

Importantly, in July 2025, after more than a year of research and development, and multiple public workshops and hearings, the Board of County Commissioners submitted to the Florida Commerce for adoption the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) and a new Brevard Barrier Island Area (BBIA) Element required by F.S. 380.0553, entitled Brevard Barrier Island Area; protection and designation as area of critical state concern. The EAR submittal further modified Policies in the Conservation and Coastal Management Elements to better facilitate the implementation of LID/GSI practices. The BBIA created new policies for the area that provide additional protection of the natural environment, promote orderly and balanced growth, and protect and improve the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem, including improving water quality.

In June 2025, the FL Legislature passed Chapter 2025-190, Laws of Florida, which is commonly known by its originating bill number, SB 180 which prohibits local governments from adopting more restrictive or burdensome amendments to its comprehensive plan or LDRs. Although SB 180 had not even been introduced at the time the County transmitted the policy amendments, because of its retroactive application, the transmittal was subject to this prohibition, and the entire process was deemed void *ab initio* ("from the beginning"). Legally, it is as if the County never transmitted the Amendments. Thus, in October 2025 Florida Commerce declared the EAR and BBIA amendments as "null and void."

The 2026 State Legislative Session acknowledged the unintended consequences of SB 180, with proposed language intended to scale back certain provisions of the bill. However, the session concluded before this language advanced, leaving those impacts unaddressed. In future, should new laws allow Brevard County to adopt modified EAR and new BBIA policies, staff could then propose LID/GSI LDR amendments to align with the Comprehensive Plan, the 2018 East Central Florida Regional Resilience Action Plan, and the 2023 University of Florida LID/GSI Code Audit.

The referenced Volusia County LID Implementation Guidebook also concluded that if regulatory standards requiring LID/GSI development principles are not feasible, a well-designed incentive program can also be effective in encouraging LID behavior and

projects. NRM staff would need Board direction to investigate the possibility of an incentive program for single family homeowners to implement LID/GSI strategies such as rain gardens and bioswales. While there are existing programs in the region to draw from, a funding source for such projects has not been Board-approved.

Likewise, there are multiple well-known incentives for subdivisions and commercial site plans. Some, including technical assistance and expedited permitting, are impractical due to current staffing levels and volume of work. Brevard county already provided comparatively expedited reviewed. Reduced or waived plan review fees would require revenue subsidy as NRM's development review program is funded through user fees that have not been adjusted since January 2017. Regulatory incentives such as increased density, height, and lot coverage or reduced setbacks and parking requirements would require cross-departmental LDR modifications. Brevard County currently provides stormwater fee credits for entities that properly operate and maintain their stormwater management systems. Other monetary incentives such as rebates and loans would require budget to be approved by the Board.

Revised State Stormwater Rule

On June 28, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 7040 into law, which updates Florida's stormwater rules and design criteria to protect the state's waterways. Under the new rule, developers and builders have flexibility to choose from a range of LID design options, and other best management practices, when designing systems to meet the performance-based design criteria. The revised Stormwater Quality Nutrient Permitting Requirements, administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), apply to individual and general permits, issued after December 28, 2025. To meet the new performance standard nutrient reduction levels, all new development will likely need to incorporate LID tools appropriate for the site. Brevard County already incorporates, requires, and encourages aspects of LID in many of the existing local environmental regulations.

Low Impact Development (LID) + Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) Education & Outreach

In October 2020, the Natural Resources Management Department (NRM) produced the grant-funded LID Guide for Commercial and Light Industrial Facilities for Brevard County. The Brevard guide preceded the Volusia effort and is referenced in the Volusia County LID Implementation Guidebook. This and other educational materials are available as part of the Lagoon Loyal stormwater outreach program, www.lagoonloyal.com. A link to the guide, which defines LID and identifies principles and practices that can be applied to virtually all development, is also available on the

NRM Stormwater Program webpage at
www.brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources/StormwaterProgram.

The EAR and BBIA process discussed above provided multiple education and outreach opportunities. There was a public outreach meeting regarding the BBIA attended by over 200 area residents with an additional 42 people attending virtually via a Zoom link. There were an additional six public hearings during the transmittal and adoption process where LID/GSI was heavily represented.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026043 with revisions, as LID/GSI practices are already being implemented as detailed in the staff analysis. Any legislative changes related to LID/GIS must be enacted through the policy and ordinance adoption process that are currently beholden to the State Legislature. Staff will continue to present LID/GSI strategies to applicants where appropriate and seek funding incentives.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026044

Recommendation # 2026044

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026044 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	The Indian River Lagoon Roundtable
Name	Michael D Myjak
Address	4420 Alpine Ln, Titusville FL 32780 3278
Phone	(321) 264-0440
Email	mmyjak@yahoo.com
Alternate Email	mmyjak@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026044
Recommendation Title	Commercial Spaceport Authority – a Spaceport Task Force
Areas Affected	The East Central Florida Region
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	Balancing Brevard's Unique Space Future with Our Quality of Life Brevard is blessed with a celebrated environment of beaches, our Lagoon and wetlands; a thriving business community; strong educational institutions; nationally recognized tourism resources; and more-the world's leading SpacePort. With much accomplishment comes much responsibility. Achieving balance between Space Commercialization, our quality of life, and recovering Indian River Lagoon is the synergy we seek. While our state boasts a "quad-modal" transportation infrastructure system, (roads, aviation, rail, and sea) to support and drive their growth, Brevard may be the first "penta-modal" community to evolve by adding a yet to be regulated Commercial Space Industry as the fifth economic modal driver. The accelerating growth of commercial Space is driving rapid change in our community: o Thousands of acres of new manufacturing and support facilities both within the Spaceport and beyond. o The addition of tens of thousands of workers to support private Space activities also come with the accompanying need for housing, facilities and an increased demand on all concurrency moderated services. o New wastewater facilities will be required to support this growth all the while we struggle with and meeting new septic conversion

requirements. o No Spaceport Safety Plan, which similarly is found at modern airports today. o Raw water resources are limited and on the verge of depletion. Such is the case in east Orange County, where the Space Center draws its water, too. o Need for provisions to manage anticipated sea-level rise. o Adaptation of Port Canaveral to accommodate Space industry needs in addition to tourism and commercial activities. o Replacement and expansion of our roads and bridges to support Space and other growth while also removing the causeways that block wind-driven flow in the Indian River Lagoon o Develop a means of engineering with nature so that mitigation impacts can be recovered through restoration projects, such as removing the mosquito impoundments and opening these “lungs” of the lagoon. o Expansion of our local airports and improved rail access. o Additions to our educational and tourism resources. o And more. The question that we face is this: Can we join forces as a community, with one voice, as we build synergy around work, play and our quality of life? We have a space coast blessed with a highly educated technical workforce and a plethora of businesses and sustaining companies working in aerospace and related disciplines. Surely we can develop the wherewithal to integrate these changing demands on our infrastructure with our way of living. Because, if we cannot, we have seen the type of community disruption that can take place, for example in Boca Chica, Texas. The issue posed then is this: What leadership role should the Brevard County Commission play in understanding and planning this development over the next 20-30 years and beyond? Failure to do this will likely lead to substantial deterioration in our environment across the East Central Florida region, including inefficient development, inadequate raw, sanitary and storm water resources and citizens’ dissatisfaction with their quality of life.

Recommendation

We urge the County Commission to recognize the dramatic changes that are taking place here today and accelerating into the future, and to work with Space Florida to characterize, quantify, and plan for this development. We recommend that the Commission use its unique Brevard leadership role to engage key organizations, beginning with Space Florida, to form a task force made of the entities involved in the planning, permitting, and implementation of future projects in order to characterize and quantify the coming growth. This “inventory” should lead to a planning process that moves our community forward, while balancing growth and quality of life synergistically, and avoiding conflicting demands and unplanned problems. This effort should be transparent to and involve the public. Utilizing these agencies and organizations to create and implement a unified plan now, rather than reacting to growth in a piecemeal manner as it occurs, will save the County considerable time and money in the future. The following is a draft list of organizations and Key Participants for County-Related “Penta-Modal” Commercial Spaceport Task Force: o Brevard County Commission o NASA/KSC o DOD/Space Force/CCSFS o Space Florida o Space Coast Economic Development Council o Canaveral Port Authority o US Army Corps of Engineers o Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office o Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority o Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program o IRL National Estuary Program/ Indian River Lagoon Council o Titusville/Cocoa Municipal Representatives o USFWS/Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge o National Park Service/Canaveral National Seashore o FAA/COMSTAC o US Coast Guard – Canaveral MSD o US Department of Commerce o NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service o Brevard County Tourist Development Council o Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection o Florida Dept. of Transportation o St. Johns River Water Management District o Indian River Lagoon Roundtable o Marine Resources Council of East Florida o Space Coast Audubon Society o Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026044

CEER #2026044, titled Commercial Spaceport Authority – a Spaceport Taskforce, was received by the County from Michael D Myjak.

Citizen Statement:

Balancing Brevard's Unique Space Future with Our Quality of Life

Brevard is blessed with a celebrated environment of beaches, our Lagoon and wetlands; a thriving business community; strong educational institutions; nationally recognized tourism resources; and more-the world's leading SpacePort.

With much accomplishment comes much responsibility. Achieving balance between Space Commercialization, our quality of life, and recovering Indian River Lagoon is the synergy we seek.

While our state boasts a "quad-modal" transportation infrastructure system, (roads, aviation, rail, and sea) to support and drive their growth, Brevard may be the first "penta-modal" community to evolve by adding a yet to be regulated Commercial Space Industry as the fifth economic modal driver.

The accelerating growth of commercial Space is driving rapid change in our community:

- o Thousands of acres of new manufacturing and support facilities both within the Spaceport and beyond.
- o The addition of tens of thousands of workers to support private Space activities also come with the accompanying need for housing, facilities and an increased demand on all concurrency moderated services.
- o New wastewater facilities will be required to support this growth all the while we struggle with and meeting new septic conversion requirements.
- o No Spaceport Safety Plan, which similarly is found at modern airports today.
- o Raw water resources are limited and on the verge of depletion. Such is the case in east Orange County, where the Space Center draws its water, too.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- o Need for provisions to manage anticipated sea-level rise.
- o Adaptation of Port Canaveral to accommodate Space industry needs in addition to tourism and commercial activities.
- o Replacement and expansion of our roads and bridges to support Space and other growth while also removing the causeways that block wind-driven flow in the Indian River Lagoon
- o Develop a means of engineering with nature so that mitigation impacts can be recovered through restoration projects, such as removing the mosquito impoundments and opening these "lungs" of the lagoon.
- o Expansion of our local airports and improved rail access.
- o Additions to our educational and tourism resources.
- o And more.

The question that we face is this:

Can we join forces as a community, with one voice, as we build synergy around work, play and our quality of life?

We have a space coast blessed with a highly educated technical workforce and a plethora of businesses and sustaining companies working in aerospace and related disciplines. Surely we can develop the wherewithal to integrate these changing demands on our infrastructure with our way of living. Because, if we cannot, we have seen the type of community disruption that can take place, for example in Boca Chica, Texas.

The issue posed then is this: What leadership role should the Brevard County Commission play in understanding and planning this development over the next 20-30 years and beyond?

Failure to do this will likely lead to substantial deterioration in our environment across the East Central Florida region, including inefficient development, inadequate raw, sanitary and storm water resources and citizens' dissatisfaction with their quality of life.

Citizen Recommendation:

We urge the County Commission to recognize the dramatic changes that are taking place here today and accelerating into the future, and to work with Space Florida to characterize, quantify, and plan for this development.

We recommend that the Commission use its unique Brevard leadership role to engage key organizations, beginning with Space Florida, to form a task force made of the entities involved in the planning, permitting, and implementation of future projects in order to characterize and quantify the coming growth.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

This “inventory” should lead to a planning process that moves our community forward, while balancing growth and quality of life synergistically, and avoiding conflicting demands and unplanned problems. This effort should be transparent to and involve the public.

Utilizing these agencies and organizations to create and implement a unified plan now, rather than reacting to growth in a piecemeal manner as it occurs, will save the County considerable time and money in the future.

The following is a draft list of organizations and Key Participants for County-Related “Penta-Modal” Commercial Spaceport Task Force:

- o Brevard County Commission
- o NASA/KSC
- o DOD/Space Force/CCSFS
- o Space Florida
- o Space Coast Economic Development Council
- o Canaveral Port Authority
- o US Army Corps of Engineers
- o Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office
- o Titusville-Cocoa Airport Authority
- o Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
- o IRL National Estuary Program/ Indian River Lagoon Council
- o Titusville/Cocoa Municipal Representatives
- o USFWS/Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
- o National Park Service/Canaveral National Seashore
- o FAA/COMSTAC
- o US Coast Guard – Canaveral MSD
- o US Department of Commerce
- o NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service
- o Brevard County Tourist Development Council
- o Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- o Florida Dept. of Transportation
- o St. Johns River Water Management District
- o Indian River Lagoon Roundtable
- o Marine Resources Council of East Florida
- o Space Coast Audubon Society
- o Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Staff Analysis:

This recommendation repeats CEER #2024059 that was submitted in the 2024 CEER Program. The following staff analysis was provided:

"The long-term strategic planning discussed as part of this recommendation is best addressed through the comprehensive plan process. The process is objective, allows for public and stakeholder participation, and carries significant weight in related decision-making. The County's efforts in 2022 in amending the Coastal Management Element of the Comprehensive Plan is an example of such an effort, during which 13 policies were adopted to include language that creates procedures to allow consideration of the changing dynamics of flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge in growth management decisions through nature-based design standards and/or Low Impact Development. This process included review by several of the listed agencies, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Staff would also note that the County is currently in the process of implementing an Area of Critical State Concern in the South Beaches Area. This process, which is overseen by our partners at Florida Commerce, will involve public and stakeholder input (such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission), and is expected to have a significant impact on several of the issues raised here, including wastewater infrastructure, additions to educational resources, and growth management.

Staff will continue to advance effective growth management policies consistent with Board direction."

Since this action was taken, the Planning and Development Department has continued to work proactively with the Board and our community stakeholders to advance effective growth management policies. Ordinances implementing the Barrier Island Area of Critical Concern plan have been approved by the Board and transmitted to Florida Commerce.

As part of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program (SOIRL), the SOIRL Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) was established by Brevard County Ordinance 2016-15 to play a key role in ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of funds from the half-cent sales surtax for the SOIRL program. Members of the COC are selected to represent a diversity of professions and perspectives including science, technology, finance, real estate, tourism, lagoon commerce, and lagoon advocacy. Although there is currently no known COC member with extensive experience in the space industry, a member with expertise could be appointed in the future to give voice to space interests and responsibility.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The County has added an Environmental Policy and Resilience Administrator position to the Natural Resources Management Department to oversee comprehensive planning and resilience initiatives, including risk assessment and analysis, strategy development, and partnership opportunities. This position also works closely with the Planning and Development Department to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Brevard County Comprehensive Plan and other regulations relating to land use and land development activities within the County.

The County is also working with Economic Development Council (EDC) of the Space Coast, Space Launch Delta (SLD) 45 Command and Operations at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CCSFS) NASA at the Kennedy Space Center, Space Florida, and the City of Titusville to determine the best path forward to support the wastewater needs of the residents and the requested increase from Space Florida to the Brevard County Utility system.

Staff Recommended Action:

The Board of County Commissioners accepted this recommendation with revisions on April 9, 2024.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 2:21 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026045

Recommendation # 2026045

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026045 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Brevard Resident (employed by Wakefield Biochar)
Name	Robert Pickert
Address	121 Windward Way, INDN HBR BCH FL 32937
Phone	(321) 543-4414
Email	rpickert@ehsroundtable.org
Alternate Email	rpickert@ehsroundtable.org

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026045
Recommendation Title	Soil Health Moonshot - Transform Brevard Soils into a Sustainable Living Filter
Areas Affected	Natural Resources - SOIRL, Solid Waste
Department Affected	Natural Resources Management
Current problem	I have proposed how the use of biochar (and other local natural ingredients) as a slow-release fertilizer (SRF) and soil amendment (SA) to enhance the beneficial reuse of some of the IRL muck, and possibly provide a sustainable non-tax revenue for the IRL restoration)comments attached). I have suggested this as one example of how biochar could be a keystone for soil health in the IRL watershed – a surprisingly critical missing link in the current SOIRL program. Biochar could be an effective tool to help address 77% of the identified IRL pollutant sources. Brevard County could provide all of the biochar it needs from the Solid Waste yard waste curbside pick-up program and accumulated storm debris. The SOIRL Citizen's Advisory Committee is looking into the value biochar could provide to the IRL restoration. It is my hope the SOIRL COC will follow the science on biochar, and apply the original SOIRL ordinance and Comprehensive Management Plan, which requires the SOIRL COC to: • "not only allow, but foster tools and techniques for restoration of the lagoon", and • "To identify and develop long-term funding sources to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the IRL system". Kudos to the County Commission, the NEP Team, SOIRL staff and COC, and countless engaged citizens for their tremendous progress in the Herculean

task of addressing sources of pollutants to the Lagoon. Even if the County continues to make progress through the SOIRL programs (dependent on public funding) and implements new programs (e.g., encourage low impact design), it seems unlikely we will be able to declare victory in restoring the Lagoon from the relentless onslaught of nutrients and ubiquitous chemicals like PFAS/PFOS and tire stabilizer 6PPD-quinone as an expanding population loves the Lagoon to death. Biochar is produced by pyrolysis of clean wood sources to create a natural and stable material with incredible surface area similar to activated carbon that absorbs water and adsorbs nutrients in a way that makes them bio-available plants and less leachable to groundwater and the Lagoon. Biochar occurs naturally from forest fires and is a primary contributing factor to how we see green shoots and lush vegetative growth from fire-impacted forests. The incredible surface area of biochar provides the ideal habitat for the beneficial soil microbes critical to soil health. IFAS has done a lot of research demonstrating the benefits of biochar for soil health and is generally an advocate for biochar's role in soil health. The widespread addition of biochar (and other local ingredients such as worm castings for microbes and seaweed extract for nutrients) to landscaped soils in Brevard would transform our soils into a permanent living filter for the IRL where soil microbes do the work and no maintenance is required. A review of sales for commercial fertilizers in Brevard County could be used to establish a nutrient loading baseline. The list of uses for biochar to help restore the Lagoon is long. Biochar could be added to geotubes with raw muck to eliminate costly interstitial water treatment and render the resulting dewatered muck more useful for other beneficial uses. The current SOIRL Program chooses to exclude private companies from speaking to the COC and receiving SOIRL grants. The SOIRL mission belongs to everyone and is an "all hands" mission. The SOIRL Program should welcome private sector involvement and partnerships, especially a moonshot effort like improving soil health across the watershed. In fact, there may be a variety of public-private partnerships that could support SOIRL objectives in a way that is fair and open, makes best use of public funds, and avoids conflicts of interest.

Recommendation

I recommend a moonshot effort to enhance soil health in Brevard County (together with the low-impact design recommendations provided by others) to transform Brevard soils into a sustainable living filter for the Lagoon. The result will be a Brevard-based industry, creating jobs and reducing taxes while restoring the IRL. I recommend the following path forward:

- Additional testing and inventory of dewatered muck from various dredge dewatering sites & management areas to determine appropriate beneficial uses, and/or disposal requirements,
- Convene an adhoc group of soil health experts and stakeholders to establish a consensus on appropriate soil health objective(s), and desirable product formulation specifications for a broadly-applicable lawn & garden slow-release fertilizer & soil amendment, including the beneficial use of IRL muck and biochar;
- Conduct nutrient loading and leaching performance testing of biochar, biochar-amended muck, and popular commercial fertilizers to demonstrate nutrient removal / prevention potential for the IRL;
- Sales & Marketing and/or distribution ground game (big box & other retail, nurseries & distributors) – this would require a County commitment, and would be good use of college environmental and marketing students if well managed,
- Limited blending, mixing, pelletizing for pilot production, and quality confirmation testing,
- Qualifications-based selection for limited production & distribution of the SRF & SA by the truckload (include bag label design),
- Competitive bid for expanded biochar supply and SRF & SA fertilizer production and distribution (especially if the SOIRL V2 tax referendum fails), and
- Brevard County installation and operation of pyrolysis equipment to produce our own biochar.

I propose the following potential sources of funding:

- SOIRL tax money to invest in as much of the above as possible while we have the funding,
- Savings from eliminating the need for current interstitial water treatment practices and costs.
- Sale of amended IRL muck as a SRF & SA (either at a profit for surplus proceeds to fund the program (especially if the referendum fails), or at a lower (breakeven) price to inspire greater distribution),
- Reduce solid waste garbage pick-up from twice per week to once per week (we have long since segregated yard waste and recyclables from the garbage stream, yet we still collect twice per week),
- Sale of carbon credits – Verified carbon credits for biochar production can be sold (through Puro Earth to various parties) on

the private market for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – in this case the methane and carbon dioxide that is not emitted from decomposing yard waste and storm debris.

- Pursue matching funds from federal or state grants such as US Department of Agriculture (Conservation Innovation Grants), USEPA (e.g., South Florida Program), FDEP Water Quality or HAB grants through non-profit partners).

Attachments

Circularity of IRL Muck - Comments Bob Pickert (Resident - Wakefield Biochar) 111825.pdf

Comments by Bob Pickert (Biochar-Soil Health) - Brevard County SOIRL Tax Extension Workshop (Jan 12,

Comments by Bob Pickert - Brevard County SOIRL Tax Extension Workshop (Jan 5, 2026).pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Good morning. I am Bob Pickert, a long-time Brevard resident, IRL supporter, and EHS manager for Wakefield Biochar. I would like to propose a circular approach to managing dredged Lagoon muck that would be good for the lagoon, the watershed, and Brevard's economy. In a word – biochar. Amending dewatered muck with biochar would:

- Transform the muck into a slow-release fertilizer and soil amendment,
- Replace or supplement the SOIRL Tax with a non-tax revenue from sales within (and beyond) the watershed,
- Distribute a high-quality and permanent source of carbon to landscaped soils that would reduce the flux of nutrients and other contaminants to the lagoon, and
- Provide a way for Brevard residents and businesses to contribute directly to the restoration of the Lagoon.

The irony is that to get the muck out - and stay the muck away – we need to **embrace** and enhance the muck.

First, let me talk about biochar. Biochar is a powerful plant-based soil amendment produced by woody biomass in a high-temperature, low oxygen environment through a process known as pyrolysis. This locks carbon into a lightweight and stable form with incredible surface area – think activated carbon – that remains stable in soils for hundreds of years. Biochar has impressive soil health benefits:

- *Absorbs* and retains water making landscaped soils more drought-resilient;
- *Adsorbs* nutrients - including nitrogen and phosphorus - making them more bio-available to plants, and less leachable to surface and groundwater;
- Adsorbs and retains metals (such as arsenic and chromium) and organic contaminants including the many emerging ubiquitous contaminants like PFAS;
- Provides the ideal habitat for beneficial microbes critical to soil health - increasing nutrient utilization, decreasing nutrient demand, and increasing microbial metabolism of a growing list of toxic chemicals; and
- Increases soil cationic exchange capacity making plants more salt-tolerant.

There are more benefits, including the fact that biochar is carbon negative, often providing sellable carbon credits in voluntary carbon markets. You don't have to take my word for it – I have distributed a biochar flyer from IFAS explaining some of the benefits of biochar. Pelletized biochar is also a highly effective media for stormwater treatment in low-impact designs.

To get a feel for how this could finance the SOIRL Programs - The sale of 2 million, 1 cubic foot bags for \$45 each – the equivalent of 4 bags for every home and business in Brevard, Volusia, Indian River, and Martin Counties - would generate nearly \$100 million of annual

gross sales. Assuming 40% goes to retailers, the remaining 60% (\$60M) would cover capital and operating costs and generate annual net non-tax revenues of \$20M-\$40M for SOIRL Programs. We could also produce super sacks for commercial landscapers. The numbers will start out smaller, but could be larger if distribution was extended beyond the IRL watershed (think taking market share from biosolids products like Milorganite).

The owner of a popular nursery said that if Sally Sclaera of the IFAS Brevard County Extension gave a dewatered muck-biochar soil amendment a favorable review in the Sunday paper, they would have a hundred customers asking for it Monday morning. Sally has responded to the idea enthusiastically calling it “fantastic”. I brought some bags of biochar for you to play with.

There are a variety of other powerful soil amending additives from local sources that could be incorporated into a dewatered muck-biochar product, including seaweed & worm casting extracts and beneficial microbes. The dewatered muck is likely to serve as a good base for the fertilizer-soil amendment. It contains 7% organic carbon – after all it is dead algae not toxic waste – and minerals (2% sulfur, 11% calcium, 2% magnesium). The only heavy metals analyzed include arsenic, chromium, and copper but these are present at very low concentrations consistent with background soil levels and government exposure standards, and well below fertilizer guidelines.

We suggest convening a group of experts and stakeholders to reach a consensus on the appropriate product formulation; and additional testing of dewatered muck from various dredge dewatering sites to better characterize the variability of muck quality and assist with the product formulation effort. The result will be a Brevard-based industry, creating jobs and reducing taxes. This is an aspirational and entrepreneurial vision. It would take a lot of work to do to make this happen, but we’re going to do a lot of work anyway, we might as well make it productive for the Lagoon.

We recommend the following path forward to limit initial investment while gaining confidence in the feasibility of the circularity of IRL muck:

- Additional testing and inventory of dewatered muck from various dredge dewatering sites & management areas,
- Nutrient loading and leaching performance testing,
- Product formulation consensus-building;
- Sales & Marketing ground game (big box & other retail, nurseries & distributors);
- Limited blending, mixing, pelletizing, confirmation testing;
- Bag design and limited production and distribution (by the truckload).

Caution: *Charge* your biochar sample by soaking it with nutrient-rich water before use.

I am Bob Pickert, long-time Brevard County resident, sailor, and lover of the IRL. I supported the initial SOIRL tax, and offer conditional support for a continued tax. I offer a general observation for improvement to the SOIRL program, and a specific proposal that would be good for the lagoon, watershed, and Brevard's economy; providing long-term funding to reduce or eliminate the SOIRL tax.

A Muck Fact Sheet on the SOIRL Project Plan website states (in part) "(The dewatered muck) can be used for beneficial purposes, if deemed to be safe and cost effective, or disposed of at a landfill, if contaminated".

The County Muckateers did step up and arrange for 4 samples of the Grand Canal muck from the Pineda dewatering site and the results indicate the muck is likely to serve as a good base for a pelletized biochar-based fertilizer-soil amendment. The utility of a biochar-amended muck comes from the incredible properties of biochar to absorb water and adsorb nutrients to make them bioavailable to plants while dramatically reducing the leaching to surface and groundwater, and improving drought resistance. Adding 60-75% biochar and other ingredients to the muck could:

- Transform the muck into a slow-release fertilizer and soil amendment,
- Distribute a high quality and permanent source of carbon to landscaped soils that would reduce the flux of nutrients and other contaminants to the lagoon,
- Provide a way for Brevard residents and business and learn about soil health that would contribute directly to the restoration of the lagoon, and
- Replace or supplement the SOIRL tax with a non-tax revenue from sales within (and beyond) the watershed.

Think of it as adding the activated carbon in your water pitcher to the soil, using clean sources of wood waste.

The sale of 2 million bags of IRL SRF & SA at \$45 per bag (typical rate for biochar) could generate \$100 million in sales, and provide Brevard County \$20-40M in net proceeds to pay for SOIRL programs. This could be implemented as a pilot project to demonstrate the commercial viability, and scaled-up through greater investment. It would require a focused marketing campaign but would likely build quickly. The result would be a Brevard industry, creating jobs and reducing taxes. You don't have to take my word for it, Sally Scalera of the UF IFAS County Extension called the idea "fantastic". Fertilizer companies are adding biochar to their products. Biochar also makes an effective stormwater treatment media.

This would require a lot of biochar – fortunately the Solid Waste Department is in the process of developing a plan for the reuse of the county’s woody waste, and could eventually produce all the biochar needed for this effort.

I would support a renewed tax providing it was supplemented with a parallel effort to create a commercial soil health initiative featuring the IRL muck, biochar, and other local ingredients.

I suggest the SOIRL Program drop its exclusive focus on funding the efforts of only non-profit organizations, and **engage the private sector** - - this should be an “all hands” effort.

In addition, I would strongly recommend the program revisit some of the directives in the original ordinance (2016-15) and the IRL Comprehensive Management Plan, including:

- “**not only allow, but foster** tools and techniques for restoration of the lagoon”,
- “To identify and develop **long-term funding sources** to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the IRL system”.

What are these other funding sources?

Soil Health for a Healthy Lagoon

I am Bob Pickert, long-time Brevard resident, sailor, IRL supporter, career environmental professional, and EHS manager for Wakefield Biochar. I have provided previous comments proposing the beneficial reuse of IRL muck amended with biochar (and other Brevard natural resources) for a local industry to produce a slow-release fertilizer and soil amendment. I stand by my previous comments that the sale of this material could replace or supplement the SOIRL tax with \$20-40M of annual **non-tax net proceeds** to fund SOIRL programs, including muck dredging. Today, I would like to take a different tack and emphasize the soil health benefits for restoration of the Lagoon.

First, I want to make it clear my comments are mine and mine alone as a Brevard resident, and based on the limited muck analyses. Wakefield Biochar has been supportive, but the restoration of the IRL is not in the company's business plan. The County could produce all the biochar it would need. The Solid Waste Department is developing a plan to manage woody wastes from the curbside yard waste collection program and storm debris. The Director of Solid Waste has advised me that "the Solid Waste Department has no interest in a commercial venture in which we are attempting to sell a product". My 3-minute pitch to the SOIRL COC was not enough time to educate the Committee on the use of biochar to support the restoration of the IRL. I hope the COC invites me back for a more thorough presentation on the properties and relevant applications for biochar. The original SOIRL ordinance and Comprehensive Management Plan, requires the SOIRL COC to:

- "not only allow, but foster tools and techniques for restoration of the lagoon", and
- "To identify and develop **long-term funding sources** to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the IRL system".

Now to soil health. In all the IRL restoration projects discussed, there has been precious little focused on soil health. If I look at Virginia's slide on Pollution Sources vs. Fund Allocations, muck flux and stormwater treatment amount to over 50% of pollutant sources. I see an additional 26% where soil health is critical to the success of the lagoon restoration, including:

- Miscellaneous Base Flow,
- Atmospheric deposition, and
- Lawn Maintenance

Biochar provides habitat for beneficial soil microbes, absorbs water, and adsorbs nutrients in a way that makes nutrients bioavailable to plants and less leachable to groundwater and the lagoon. I recommend the SOIRL program convene a group of soil health experts and

stakeholders to evaluate 'the benefits of a muck-biochar-based fertilizer-soil amendment appropriate for Brevard's sandy soils. This effort could support a public soil health information campaign and become a galvanizing message for soil health in Brevard. But first additional testing of dewatered muck from each of the dredge dewatering sites, and an inventory of where the muck is being stored or land applied must be completed to properly manage the muck.

Biochar would help address 77% of IRL pollutant sources, and could serve as a long-term funding source for SOIRL, making biochar something of a silver bullet to support the IRL restoration. I support the re-authorization of the SOIRL tax, as a supplement and/or transition to more sustainable funding.



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) # 2026045

CEER # 2026045, titled Soil Health Moonshot - Transform Brevard Soils into a Sustainable Living Filter, was received by the County from Robert Pickert.

Citizen Statement:

I have proposed how the use of biochar (and other local natural ingredients) as a slow-release fertilizer (SRF) and soil amendment (SA) to enhance the beneficial reuse of some of the IRL muck, and possibly provide a sustainable non-tax revenue for the IRL restoration (comments attached). I have suggested this as one example of how biochar could be a keystone for soil health in the IRL watershed – a surprisingly critical missing link in the current SOIRL program. Biochar could be an effective tool to help address 77% of the identified IRL pollutant sources. Brevard County could provide all of the biochar it needs from the Solid Waste yard waste curbside pick-up program and accumulated storm debris. The SOIRL Citizen's Advisory Committee is looking into the value biochar could provide to the IRL restoration. It is my hope the SOIRL COC will follow the science on biochar, and apply the original SOIRL ordinance and Comprehensive Management Plan, which requires the SOIRL COC to:

- “not only allow, but foster tools and techniques for restoration of the lagoon”, and
- “To identify and develop long-term funding sources to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the IRL system”.

Kudos to the County Commission, the NEP Team, SOIRL staff and COC, and countless engaged citizens for their tremendous progress in the Herculean task of addressing sources of pollutants to the Lagoon. Even if the County continues to make progress through the SOIRL programs (dependent on public funding) and implements new programs (e.g., encourage low impact design), it seems unlikely we will be able to declare victory in restoring the Lagoon from the relentless onslaught of nutrients and ubiquitous chemicals like PFAS/PFOS and tire stabilizer 6PPD-quinone as an expanding population loves the Lagoon to death.

Biochar is produced by pyrolysis of clean wood sources to create a natural and stable material with incredible surface area similar to activated carbon that absorbs water and adsorbs nutrients in a way that makes them bio-available plants and less leachable to

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Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

groundwater and the Lagoon. Biochar occurs naturally from forest fires and is a primary contributing factor to how we see green shoots and lush vegetative growth from fire-impacted forests. The incredible surface area of biochar provides the ideal habitat for the beneficial soil microbes critical to soil health. IFAS has done a lot of research demonstrating the benefits of biochar for soil health and is generally an advocate for biochar's role in soil health. The widespread addition of biochar (and other local ingredients such as worm castings for microbes and seaweed extract for nutrients) to landscaped soils in Brevard would transform our soils into a permanent living filter for the IRL where soil microbes do the work and no maintenance is required. A review of sales for commercial fertilizers in Brevard County could be used to establish a nutrient loading baseline.

The list of uses for biochar to help restore the Lagoon is long. Biochar could be added to geotubes with raw muck to eliminate costly interstitial water treatment and render the resulting dewatered muck more useful for other beneficial uses.

The current SOIRL Program chooses to exclude private companies from speaking to the COC and receiving SOIRL grants. The SOIRL mission belongs to everyone and is an "all hands" mission. The SOIRL Program should welcome private sector involvement and partnerships, especially a moonshot effort like improving soil health across the watershed. In fact, there may be a variety of public-private partnerships that could support SOIRL objectives in a way that is fair and open, makes the best use of public funds, and avoids conflicts of interest.

Citizen Recommendation:

I recommend a moonshot effort to enhance soil health in Brevard County (together with the low-impact design recommendations provided by others) to transform Brevard soils into a sustainable living filter for the Lagoon. The result will be a Brevard-based industry, creating jobs and reducing taxes while restoring the IRL. I recommend the following path forward:

- Additional testing and inventory of dewatered muck from various dredge dewatering sites & management areas to determine appropriate beneficial uses, and/or disposal requirements,
- Convene an adhoc group of soil health experts and stakeholders to establish a consensus on appropriate soil health objective(s), and desirable product formulation specifications for a broadly-applicable lawn & garden slow-release fertilizer & soil amendment, including the beneficial use of IRL muck and biochar;
- Conduct nutrient loading and leaching performance testing of biochar, biochar-amended muck, and popular commercial fertilizers to demonstrate nutrient removal / prevention potential for the IRL;
- Sales & Marketing and/or distribution ground game (big box & other retail, nurseries & distributors) – this would require a County commitment, and would be good use of college environmental and marketing students if well managed,
- Limited blending, mixing, pelletizing for pilot production, and quality confirmation testing,

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- Qualifications-based selection for limited production & distribution of the SRF & SA by the truckload (include bag label design),
- Competitive bid for expanded biochar supply and SRF & SA fertilizer production and distribution (especially if the SOIRL V2 tax referendum fails), and
- Brevard County installation and operation of pyrolysis equipment to produce our own biochar.

I propose the following potential sources of funding:

- SOIRL tax money to invest in as much of the above as possible while we have the funding,
- Savings from eliminating the need for current interstitial water treatment practices and costs.
- Sale of amended IRL muck as a SRF & SA (either at a profit for surplus proceeds to fund the program (especially if the referendum fails), or at a lower (breakeven) price to inspire greater distribution),
- Reduce solid waste garbage pick-up from twice per week to once per week (we have long since segregated yard waste and recyclables from the garbage stream, yet we still collect twice per week),
- Sale of carbon credits – Verified carbon credits for biochar production can be sold (through Puro Earth to various parties) on the private market for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – in this case the methane and carbon dioxide that is not emitted from decomposing yard waste and storm debris.
- Pursue matching funds from federal or state grants such as US Department of Agriculture (Conservation Innovation Grants), USEPA (e.g., South Florida Program), FDEP Water Quality or HAB grants through non-profit partners).

Staff Analysis:

The Citizen Recommendation statement above includes 8 requests:

1. Testing and inventory of muck;
 2. Creation of an ad hoc soil expert group for soil health objectives and evaluation of muck biochar fertilizer;
 3. Test the “loading and leaching performance” of biochar, biochar muck, and commercial fertilizers for nutrient removal/prevention;
 4. Sales and marketing to retail stores;
 5. Production pilot of biochar muck fertilizer;
 6. RFQ for “limited production and distribution” of biochar muck fertilizer/soil amendment;
 7. Competitive bid for expansion of production and distribution of the material;
 8. Installation and operation of biochar production equipment by the county.
- 1) Muck was previously inventoried by Florida Tech and used to determine proposed muck projects in the SOIRL plan. Testing has also been done for various nutrient content, physical properties, and contaminants of concern. Upon Mr. Pickert’s

request, a few samples of dewatered muck were tested for calcium, magnesium, sulfur, alkalinity, electrical conductivity, pH, and 27 geotechnical parameters.

- 2) UF/IFAS already has soil experts that have made recommendations for soil health objectives and conveyed that to citizens through the Soil Guardian's program. Formulation of fertilizer is conducted by the fertilizer industry and questions regarding the formulation are included in the attached IRL Muck and Biochar White Paper recommended by the SOIRL COC to the County Commission. Brevard County already provides guidance on accepted fertilizer formulation through the Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscape Ordinance, Chapter 46, Article VIII. The ordinance states that fertilizer must contain no phosphorus unless there is "a soil or plant tissue deficiency as verified by a University of Florida." Muck contains phosphorus so a biochar muck fertilizer would not be permitted for common use without additional tests and verification of a phosphorus deficiency.
- 3) Biochar has been tested for nutrient removal and prevention and is an accepted media for use in various nutrient removal projects including stormwater treatment. Biochar muck fertilizer and commercial fertilizers are intended to release nutrients to feed plants and have the potential of adding excess nutrients to the system. Mr. Pickert indicated in previous conversations that the nutrient content of muck was not high enough in comparison to current retail fertilizer so would need to be amended with additional nutrients to be viable for residential and commercial land use as fertilizer. This suggests there is potential for additional nutrient pollution introduction to the Indian River Lagoon using amended biochar muck fertilizer. The SOIRL program has been directing education efforts toward reducing fertilizer use, so it would be counter to current messaging to suggest use of biochar muck fertilizer. SOIRL has promoted the UF/IFAS Soil Guardians program in the past to encourage the creation of healthier soils, including through soil amendments.
- 4) Muck is considered "Sovereignty Submerged Lands" owned by the state and all use must be authorized by the State's Board of Trustees. FDEP states that any permitted activities using Sovereignty Submerged Lands must "not be revenue generating." Therefore, sales to retailers would have to be cost neutral and would have no financial benefit to SOIRL. There is also a question of whether retailers would be able to mark up the cost when selling it to consumers.
- 5) Brevard County does not currently have facilities or staff trained to produce fertilizer. Mr. Pickert's grant application to FDEP estimated initial startup costs for such a facility to be \$11,250,000 and additional yearly operating costs to be \$1,000,000. While standard retail markups are estimated to be 40%-50%, some sources suggest markups for organic fertilizers may be as high as 90% of the production cost due to the proprietary nature of the products. A preliminary search showed the retail cost of organic fertilizers ranges from an average per bag of \$6.30 for Black Cow, \$26.09 for Milorganite, and \$28.05 for other organic fertilizers, thus putting the average cost around \$20.15. At a markup of 40% to 90%, this would put the production cost of

organic fertilizers between \$2.01-\$12.09. Assuming a biochar muck fertilizer was comparable in production costs, this would mean neutral-cost sales of this product would require the sale of over 1 to 6 million bags of fertilizer to cover the startup and first year production costs and 83,000-498,000 bags to cover yearly operating costs. Retail sales of fertilizer for Brevard County in 2015 (the last year the state reported fertilizers sales) was 81,644 pounds of nitrogen and most lawn fertilizer contains around 12 pounds of fertilizer per bag providing an estimated 6,800 bags sold in one year. Therefore, it would take over 147 to 882 years just to break even on the startup costs if everyone in Brevard County switched to buying only this fertilizer. Even if marketing to the other 4 IRL-based counties, which combined are nearly twice the population of Brevard, the cost and time to break even would not be financially feasible.

- 6,7) Considering companies would not be able to make a profit from the production and sale of this material, it is unlikely there would be interest in participating in the production.
- 8) Considering there are many private companies offering biochar commercially, the county would be in direct competition with them. It is unknown what the cost of building this facility would be or where it could be located.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER # 2026045 as stated in staff analysis and because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency as required by Home Rule Charter.

Attachment A: White Paper Recommended to the Board by the Citizen Oversight Committee

Main Line: (321) 633-2016
Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

Over 800,000 cubic yards of muck has been removed using SOIRL funds. This muck has been deposited at permitted dredged material management areas and applied in uplands and other approved sites. In the upland sites, the muck is mixed and tilled into soils. The contractors handling the muck are not permitted to sell it.

Undetermined issues

What conductivity levels would be acceptable for use as a fertilizer?

What material(s) would be added to the muck to increase the nutrient availability?

What ratio of muck to biochar and charging agents is needed?

Has a market analysis been performed to assess the viability of this proposed product?

Regulatory Concerns

As muck contains phosphorous, adding it to biochar as a fertilizer could prohibit its application in Brevard County unless soil testing indicated phosphorous deficiency. (Brevard County Chapter 46. Article VIII Fertilizer Use on Urban Landscape, Section 46-341 Fertilizer Content and Application Rates).

SOIRL dredging projects must comply with strict FDEP permits¹. Mixing muck with biochar, marketing, and selling it as a product is NOT authorized by any active permit. There is a permit modification process, but NRMD staff believe that FDEP will NOT authorize the proposed use, blended with biochar and sold to homeowners, for the following reasons:

- 1) "Construction, alteration and operation shall not allow excavated or dredged material to be placed in a location other than a self-contained upland disposal site"².
- 2) The muck itself is "Sovereignty Submerged Lands" and owned by the State of Florida³. As such, the State's Board of Trustees must authorize any activities that are not specified on FDEP permits⁴.
- 3) Permitted activities using Sovereignty Submerged Lands must "not be revenue-generating" ⁵.

References:

¹FDEP "General Conditions for Individual Permits"

²Florida Administrative Code 62-330.-50 (9) (a)

³FDEP "General Conditions for Sovereignty Submerged Lands Authorization"

⁴Florida Administrative Code 18-21.003 (67)

⁵Florida Administrative Code 18-21.005 Forms of Authorization

*This is based on NRMD staff review. A more detailed analysis would require County legal staff review.

Technical Issues

SOIRL projects' effectiveness are primarily based on nutrient reduction. What nutrient reduction would be realized by the application of biochar fertilizers to all homeowners (Brevard, Indian River, Martin and Volusia Counties) in the IRL watershed?

The benefits of biochar to soil health has been reported in scientific journals. However, there is no evidence that the addition of muck to biochar will enhance its effectiveness. It appears muck would act more as a filler.

Muck management projects are shifting to capping rather than dredging. The costs associated with capping are much less than dredging. Dredged muck soon may not be available to blend with biochar.

Recommendations

As no studies have been conducted by the proponent to assess the viability of this concept, extensive research would be required. The SOIRL program does not include a category for primary research. To date, data collection through SOIRL funds has been limited to assessing project performance.

There would not be any reduction of nitrogen or phosphorus from this proposal (based on the FDEP grant application).

\$250,000 is a significant amount of funds, especially for an unproven concept. This cost estimate does not include the price to bring this proposed product to market.

In the FDEP grant application Wakefield stated they have the "capacity to produce, ship, and blend bulk biochar for a larger-scale proof of concept project (Phase 2); and to establish and operate a company-owned & operated turn-key full-scale biochar production and fertilizer bagging operation using Brevard County waste biomass (e.g., IRL muck sludge, woody yard wastes, hurricane debris, and wastewater treatment sludge) for local and regional distribution through retail outlets in and around Brevard County while generating and selling carbon credits to enhance the project feasibility." Awarding a single source contract to Wakefield would be inconsistent with Brevard County's competitive procurement policies.

This is a project that should be funded with private funds (venture capitalist). The proponent should conduct the studies to assess the viability of their idea. Information needed includes how a muck/biochar fertilizer would perform in a lab as well as in the field. Does the muck/biochar fertilizer slowly release nutrients at an acceptable rate? Would the muck/biochar

fertilizer adsorb other contaminants such as atmospheric nitrogen and PFAS? If testing proves IRL muck/biochar functions as they theorize, this concept could be brought back to the SOIRL COC. Brevard County cannot sell what is defined as sovereign submerged lands owned by the state of Florida. If requirements can be changed to allow the transfer of muck to a fertilizer/biochar company, any profits from the sale of the proposed would flow to the producer although they may be able to donate to the county for SOIRL.

The proponent could seek grant funding for innovative technologies from organizations such as the IRLNEP.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 4:58 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026046

Recommendation # 2026046

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026046 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	brevardNEWS
Name	Kevin D Jeffrey
Address	6075 WINDOVER WAY, TITUSVILLE FL 32780
Phone	(321) 626-8398
Email	Perhaps2day1@gmail.com
Alternate Email	Perhaps2day2@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

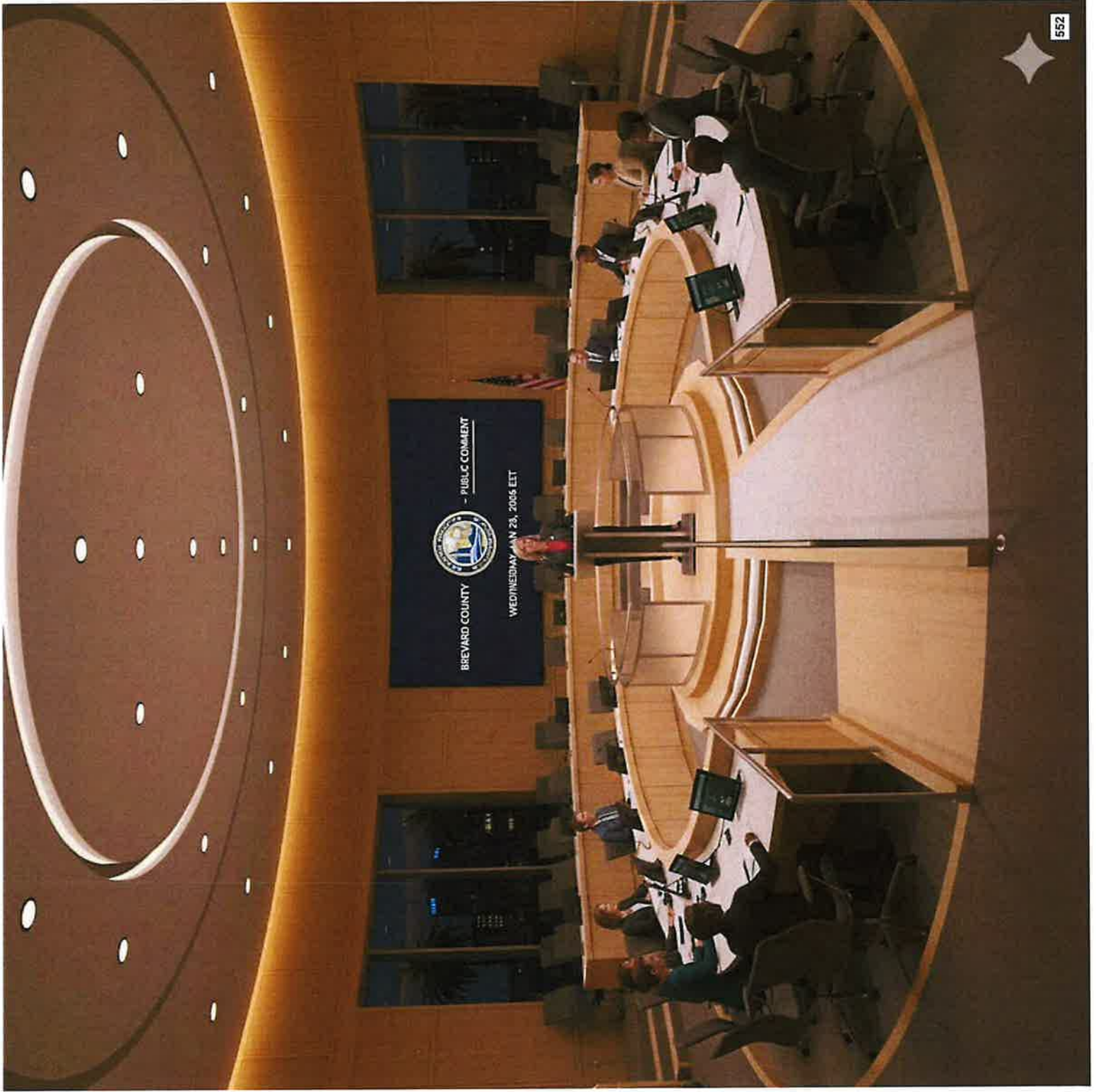
Recommendation ID	2026046
Recommendation Title	Lower The Dias
Areas Affected	County Comission
Department Affected	
Current problem	The County organizational chart has the citizens at the top of the structure. The County Comission meetings should reflect that.
Recommendation	The Commissioner dias should be lowered and the public speaker platform should be raised. This allows for the chamber to reflect the organizational flow chart as well as reversing the psychological disadvantage the citizens have when speaking before the commission in a subservient position. The below info generated by AI reflects a possible scenario: To visualize this, we have to look at the lines of sight. Currently, the Brevard County Commission chambers feature a high, tiered "bench" (the dais) where commissioners look down on the public speaker. Reversing this dynamic involves two structural changes: lowering the commissioners to floor level (or near it) and installing a raised platform (plinth) for the speaker. Structural Concept: The Equality Shift Code snippet graph TD subgraph Current_Setup [Traditional Hierarchy] A[Commissioners: High Tier] --- Look Down B[Public Speaker: Floor Level] end subgraph Proposed_Setup [Democratic Leveling] C[Public Speaker: Raised Platform] --- Eye Level D[Commissioners: Lowered Floor Level] end Side-Profile Visualization (Cross-

Section) Below is a representation of how the floor elevation would change to achieve a "peer-to-peer" eye line. Feature Current Elevation Proposed Elevation Result
Commission Dais +24" to +36" 0" to +6" Removes the "bench" authority feel. Speaker
Lectern 0" (Floor) +12" to +18" Places the citizen at the focal point. Sight Line
Downward Angle Horizontal / Upward Empowers the speaker's presence. Key
Architectural Changes If the county were to move forward with this "inverted" design,
the following adjustments would be necessary: The Pit Excavation: The area behind
the current dais would likely need to be excavated or the surrounding floor built up.
Lowering the commissioners often requires rerouting the extensive wiring
(microphones, voting buttons, and monitors) that currently runs beneath the raised
platform. ADA Compliance: To raise the public comment area, a permanent ramp or a
low-profile wheelchair lift must be integrated into the new speaker platform to ensure
all citizens have the same elevated vantage point. Acoustic Redesign: Sound travels
differently when the source is elevated. The overhead microphones and "cloud"
baffles in the Brevard chambers would need to be recalibrated so the speaker's voice
doesn't echo off the high ceilings. Sightlines for the Audience: A higher speaker
platform might block the view for the front row of the gallery. This usually requires a
"stadium seating" approach for the remaining audience chairs. Funding for this project
can come from the district CRAs.

Attachments

image.png

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.





Public Works
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Marc Bernath, Public Works Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026046

CEER #2026046 was received by the County from Kevin D Jeffrey.

Citizen Statement:

The County organizational chart has the citizens at the top of the structure. The County Commission meetings should reflect that.

Citizen Recommendation:

The Commissioner dais should be lowered and the public speaker platform should be raised. This allows for the chamber to reflect the organizational flow chart as well as reversing the psychological disadvantage the citizens have when speaking before the commission in a subservient position. The below info generated by AI reflects a possible scenario: To visualize this, we have to look at the lines of sight. Currently, the Brevard County Commission chambers feature a high, tiered "bench" (the dais) where commissioners look down on the public speaker. Reversing this dynamic involves two structural changes: lowering the commissioners to floor level (or near it) and installing a raised platform (plinth) for the speaker. Structural Concept: The Equality Shift Code snippet graph TD subgraph Current_Setup [Traditional Hierarchy] A[Commissioners: High Tier] ---|Look Down| B[Public Speaker: Floor Level] end subgraph Proposed_Setup [Democratic Leveling] C[Public Speaker: Raised Platform] ---|Eye Level| D[Commissioners: Lowered Floor Level] end Side-Profile Visualization (Cross-Section) Below is a representation of how the floor elevation would change to achieve a "peer-to-peer" eye line. Feature Current Elevation Proposed Elevation Result Commission Dais +24" to +36" 0" to +6" Removes the "bench" authority feel. Speaker Lectern 0" (Floor) +12" to +18" Places the citizen at the focal point. Sight Line Downward Angle Horizontal / Upward Empowers the speaker's presence. Key Architectural Changes If the county were to move forward with this "inverted" design, the following adjustments would be necessary: The Pit Excavation: The area behind the current dais would likely need to be excavated or the surrounding floor built up. Lowering the commissioners often requires rerouting the extensive wiring (microphones, voting buttons, and monitors) that currently runs beneath the raised platform. ADA Compliance: To raise the public comment area, a permanent ramp or a low-profile wheelchair lift must be integrated into the



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

new speaker platform to ensure all citizens have the same elevated vantage point. Acoustic Redesign: Sound travels differently when the source is elevated. The overhead microphones and "cloud" baffles in the Brevard chambers would need to be recalibrated so the speaker's voice doesn't echo off the high ceilings. Sightlines for the Audience: A higher speaker platform might block the view for the front row of the gallery. This usually requires a "stadium seating" approach for the remaining audience chairs. Funding for this project can come from the district CRAs.

Staff Analysis:

The Commission Chamber is used for more than Brevard County Commission Meetings. It is also a community resource that is regularly used for employee training, development, and recognition, as well as by the public for various meetings. Board Policy BCC-56 outlines the use of meeting rooms, including the Commission Chamber. BCC-56 specifies room capacities, fee structures, and rules for meeting room rentals. Changing the structure of the Commission Chamber would impact available uses for internal and external stakeholders. Additional security considerations must also be considered when making changes to the Commission Chamber.

The Brevard Board of County Commissioners is a legislative body, with the Board acting on behalf of County citizens. A Legislative Dais is traditionally set at a higher elevation, which serves multiple purposes. The higher seating allows the Commissioners to see the entire room, while also being visible to everyone. As policy is debated or made, this position keeps the focus on the Board. The elevation allows the audience to be heard, while the Board's voices simultaneously carry to the public. This, in turn, allows the Chair to maintain order when input is disruptive. The dais also displays the official nature of the Board meeting, as the gathering of a formal body. A singular speaker as the focal point is a typical characteristic of a Town Hall-style meeting, which is less formal in nature.

Preliminary estimates indicate that it would be cost-prohibitive to reconstruct the Commission Room as requested. Additionally, Florida Statute 163 outlines the use of district CRAs for inadequate or insufficient infrastructure. Use on the Commission Chamber would not be legal, as it does not fall under the prescribed use. The Board would need to find alternative funding sources and prioritize this request over replacing dated, aging, and/or failing systems throughout the County.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Public Works

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026046 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of county government as required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 2:06 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026047

Recommendation # 2026047

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026047 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Elizabeth Baker
Address	1805 Augustine Drive, Titusville FL 32796 3210
Phone	(321) 506-8369
Email	ebaker2313@gmail.com
Alternate Email	ebaker2313@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026047
Recommendation Title	Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties
Areas Affected	County-Wide
Department Affected	
Current problem	Brevard County is home to the Indian River Lagoon and is also experiencing continued population, development, and tourism growth. New residential and commercial construction, combined with millions of annual visitors, places increasing pressure on solid waste systems, roadways, and stormwater infrastructure. Tourism contributes billions of dollars annually to the Space Coast economy, but visitors generate significantly more waste per person than residents. Much of that waste consists of single-use plastic food packaging, beverage containers, bags, and disposable service products. These materials have been consistently identified in international cleanup data studies as the most commonly littered items in coastal environments (besides cigarette butts). These lightweight plastics are easily transported by wind and rain from unsecured waste areas into storm drains and waterways, where they persist as microplastics. Roadside litter also presents public safety and infrastructure concerns. Debris contributes to traffic hazards, wildlife injury and mortality, clogged stormwater systems, localized flooding, and increased public maintenance costs, including damage to mowing equipment. These costly impacts are preventable and are ultimately borne by taxpayers. Brevard County Code already

establishes clear expectations regarding solid waste handling and property maintenance. Chapter 94 requires property owners and occupants to maintain properties free of litter and improperly stored waste, prohibits waste from escaping into public rights-of-way, and regulates solid waste collection within unincorporated areas. However, these requirements are most often addressed only after violations have been issued.

Recommendation

To address these issues proactively, I respectfully request that Brevard County adopt a proactive waste management planning provision for brick-and-mortar commercial properties and multifamily residential properties with shared waste systems, including apartments, condominiums, and HOA- or COA-managed communities. This proposal does not create new disposal requirements, hauling mandates, or enforcement authority. Instead, it supports early compliance with already existing County standards by confirming that adequate waste systems are in place before problems arise. A simple, one-page waste management plan could be incorporated into existing permit reviews, site plan approvals, or inspection processes. In most cases, solid waste and recycling services are already coordinated through County or municipal systems or franchised haulers. This plan would merely document those arrangements and ensure proper capacity and placement for the site. The plan could confirm: Property type and estimated occupancy or use Number, size, and placement of trash and recycling receptacles Confirmation of pickup schedules and waste streams Dumpster enclosure status and maintenance practices Litter-prevention measures for high-traffic areas Baseline guidance could include: Adequate trash and recycling capacity based on occupancy or usage Covered or enclosed dumpsters where appropriate Routine monitoring of shared waste areas Adjustment of service levels if overflow or repeated issues occur Placement of ashtrays at entrances or designated locations where smoking is permitted This approach is cost-neutral, requires no new staffing, and strengthens enforcement of existing County codes within Chapter 94 by addressing the most common causes of violations before they occur. It also provides an educational opportunity to ensure property owners and managers are aware of County requirements related to solid waste storage, recycling availability, and litter prevention. Jurisdictional Scope This proposal is intended to apply within unincorporated Brevard County. It is consistent with the County's land-use, permitting, and code enforcement authority. Municipalities would retain full authority within incorporated boundaries and may, at their discretion, adopt or align with similar standards if beneficial. Single-family residential properties generally operate under individual responsibility models that function effectively through existing code enforcement. The most persistent waste management challenges occur where trash is centralized and managed on behalf of many people. Commercial corridors and growing multifamily developments are unique in these aspects. As Brevard County continues to grow and welcome millions of visitors each year, preventing pollution at the source is the most fiscally responsible way to protect public safety, infrastructure, and the Indian River Lagoon while supporting economic vitality and tourism.

Attachments

SpeakUpBrevard2026.pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties

Elizabeth Baker - Brevard County Resident

Brevard County is home to the Indian River Lagoon and is also experiencing continued population, development, and tourism growth. New residential and commercial construction, combined with millions of annual visitors, places increasing pressure on solid waste systems, roadways, and stormwater infrastructure.

Tourism contributes billions of dollars annually to the Space Coast economy, but visitors generate significantly more waste per person than residents. Much of that waste consists of single-use plastic food packaging, beverage containers, bags, and disposable service products.

These materials have been consistently identified in international cleanup data studies as the most commonly littered items in coastal environments (besides cigarette butts). These lightweight plastics are easily transported by wind and rain from unsecured waste areas into storm drains and waterways, where they persist as microplastics.

Roadside litter also presents public safety and infrastructure concerns. Debris contributes to traffic hazards, wildlife injury and mortality, clogged stormwater systems, localized flooding, and increased public maintenance costs, including damage to mowing equipment. These costly impacts are preventable and are ultimately borne by taxpayers.

Brevard County Code already establishes clear expectations regarding solid waste handling and property maintenance. Chapter 94 requires property owners and occupants to maintain properties free of litter and improperly stored waste, prohibits waste from escaping into public rights-of-way, and regulates solid waste collection within unincorporated areas. However, these requirements are most often addressed only after violations have been issued.

To address these issues proactively, I respectfully request that Brevard County adopt a proactive waste management planning provision for brick-and-mortar commercial properties and multifamily residential properties with shared waste systems, including apartments, condominiums, and HOA- or COA-managed communities.

This proposal does not create new disposal requirements, hauling mandates, or enforcement authority. Instead, it supports early compliance with already existing County standards by confirming that adequate waste systems are in place before problems arise.

A simple, one-page waste management plan could be incorporated into existing permit reviews, site plan approvals, or inspection processes. In most cases, solid waste and recycling services are already coordinated through County or municipal systems or franchised haulers. This plan would merely document those arrangements and ensure proper capacity and placement for the site.

The plan could confirm:

Property type and estimated occupancy or use

Number, size, and placement of trash and recycling receptacles

Confirmation of pickup schedules and waste streams

Dumpster enclosure status and maintenance practices

Litter-prevention measures for high-traffic areas

Baseline guidance could include:

Adequate trash and recycling capacity based on occupancy or usage

Covered or enclosed dumpsters where appropriate

Routine monitoring of shared waste areas

Adjustment of service levels if overflow or repeated issues occur

Placement of ashtrays at entrances or designated locations where smoking is permitted

This approach is cost-neutral, requires no new staffing, and strengthens enforcement of existing County codes within Chapter 94 by addressing the most common causes of violations before they occur. It also provides an educational opportunity to ensure property owners and managers are aware of County requirements related to solid waste storage, recycling availability, and litter prevention.

Jurisdictional Scope

This proposal is intended to apply within unincorporated Brevard County. It is consistent with the County's land-use, permitting, and code enforcement authority. Municipalities would retain full authority within incorporated boundaries and may, at their discretion, adopt or align with similar standards if beneficial.

Single-family residential properties generally operate under individual responsibility models that function effectively through existing code enforcement. The most persistent waste management challenges occur where trash is centralized and managed on behalf of many people. Commercial corridors and growing multifamily developments are unique in these aspects.

As Brevard County continues to grow and welcome millions of visitors each year, preventing pollution at the source is the most fiscally responsible way to protect public safety, infrastructure, and the Indian River Lagoon while supporting economic vitality and tourism.

Sources & Data References

Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism & Florida Today – visitor spending, tourism volume, and economic impact

Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup – most commonly littered items in coastal environments

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) & Geneva Environment Network – plastic persistence and microplastic pollution

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – stormwater and litter impacts on waterways

Brevard County Property Appraiser & Space Coast MLS – growth, development, and housing trends

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – roadside litter and transportation safety impacts

Brevard County Budget Office - financial reports



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Billy Prasad, Director, Planning and Development Department

SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026047

CEER #2026047, titled Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties, was received by the County from Elizabeth Baker.

Citizen Statement:

Brevard County is home to the Indian River Lagoon and is also experiencing continued population, development, and tourism growth. New residential and commercial construction, combined with millions of annual visitors, places increasing pressure on solid waste systems, roadways, and stormwater infrastructure.

Tourism contributes billions of dollars annually to the Space Coast economy, but visitors generate significantly more waste per person than residents. Much of that waste consists of single-use plastic food packaging, beverage containers, bags, and disposable service products.

These materials have been consistently identified in international cleanup data studies as the most commonly littered items in coastal environments (besides cigarette butts). These lightweight plastics are easily transported by wind and rain from unsecured waste areas into storm drains and waterways, where they persist as microplastics.

Roadside litter also presents public safety and infrastructure concerns. Debris contributes to traffic hazards, wildlife injury and mortality, clogged stormwater systems, localized flooding, and increased public maintenance costs, including damage to mowing equipment. These costly impacts are preventable and are ultimately borne by taxpayers.

Brevard County Code already establishes clear expectations regarding solid waste handling and property maintenance. Chapter 94 requires property owners and occupants to maintain properties free of litter and improperly stored waste, prohibits waste from escaping into public rights-of-way, and regulates solid waste collection within unincorporated areas. However, these requirements are most often addressed only after violations have been issued.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

To address these issues proactively, I respectfully request that Brevard County adopt a proactive waste management planning provision for brick-and-mortar commercial properties and multifamily residential properties with shared waste systems, including apartments, condominiums, and HOA- or COA-managed communities.

This proposal does not create new disposal requirements, hauling mandates, or enforcement authority. Instead, it supports early compliance with already existing County standards by confirming that adequate waste systems are in place before problems arise.

Citizen Recommendation:

A simple, one-page waste management plan could be incorporated into existing permit reviews, site plan approvals, or inspection processes. In most cases, solid waste and recycling services are already coordinated through County or municipal systems or franchised haulers. This plan would merely document those arrangements and ensure proper capacity and placement for the site.

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Dumpster enclosure status and maintenance practices

Litter-prevention measures for high-traffic areas

Baseline guidance could include:

Adequate trash and recycling capacity based on occupancy or usage

Covered or enclosed dumpsters where appropriate

Routine monitoring of shared waste areas

Adjustment of service levels if overflow or repeated issues occur



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Placement of ashtrays at entrances or designated locations where smoking is permitted

This approach is cost-neutral, requires no new staffing, and strengthens enforcement of existing County codes within Chapter 94 by addressing the most common causes of violations before they occur. It also provides an educational opportunity to ensure property owners and managers are aware of County requirements related to solid waste storage, recycling availability, and litter prevention.

Jurisdictional Scope

This proposal is intended to apply within unincorporated Brevard County. It is consistent with the County's land-use, permitting, and code enforcement authority. Municipalities would retain full authority within incorporated boundaries and may, at their discretion, adopt or align with similar standards if beneficial.

Single-family residential properties generally operate under individual responsibility models that function effectively through existing code enforcement. The most persistent waste management challenges occur where trash is centralized and managed on behalf of many people. Commercial corridors and growing multifamily developments are unique in these aspects.

As Brevard County continues to grow and welcome millions of visitors each year, preventing pollution at the source is the most fiscally responsible way to protect public safety, infrastructure, and the Indian River Lagoon while supporting economic vitality and tourism.

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County currently regulates solid waste handling, storage, and property maintenance through Chapter 94 of the Brevard County Code, which requires property owners and occupants to properly contain solid waste and prevent litter or debris from escaping into public rights-of-way.

In addition, Chapter 62, Land Development Regulations, contains development review requirements applicable to commercial and multifamily projects. During the site plan review process, developments are required to demonstrate the location and design of solid waste disposal areas and dumpster enclosures, including screening and accessibility for collection vehicles. These requirements ensure that adequate space is reserved for waste collection and that facilities are properly integrated into site design.

Brevard County also administers Solid Waste Concurrency requirements, which ensure that adequate solid waste disposal capacity exists to serve new development prior to approval of development



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

orders. These concurrency provisions are intended to confirm that the County's landfill and waste management systems have sufficient capacity to accommodate projected growth.

In addition to regulatory requirements, Brevard County provides significant public education and waste management resources through the Brevard County Solid Waste Management Department website, including information on recycling, proper disposal practices, litter prevention, and waste reduction.

The County also operates Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facilities where residents can safely dispose of materials that should not enter the regular waste stream. These facilities are located at:

Sarno Road Landfill – Melbourne

Central Disposal Facility – Cocoa

North Brevard Disposal Facility – Titusville

These facilities are available to residents to properly dispose of chemicals, electronics, batteries, and other materials that may otherwise pose environmental or safety concerns.

While the citizen's recommendation emphasizes proactive planning and early compliance, implementation of a proactive monitoring or review program beyond current development review procedures would likely require additional staffing resources, particularly within Solid Waste Management or Code Enforcement. Existing processes largely address issues through development review and complaint-based enforcement.

Currently, the Solid Waste Management Department, like many County departments, operates under existing budgetary constraints. Implementing a proactive inspection or monitoring program would likely require the addition of new staff and associated operational funding.

Funding such an expansion could require increased ad valorem tax revenues or other funding mechanisms to support additional personnel and program administration. Without additional resources, the County's ability to implement a proactive enforcement or monitoring program would be limited.

As such, staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners take no further action currently, as Brevard County already maintains regulatory provisions addressing solid waste storage, litter



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

prevention, and development review through Chapters 62 and 94 of the County Code, as well as Solid Waste Concurrency requirements.

The County also provides multiple public education resources and waste disposal programs, including household hazardous waste collection facilities located in Melbourne (Sarno Road), Cocoa, and Titusville.

Should the Board desire to pursue a more proactive program as suggested in the citizen recommendation, staff recommends that such direction include evaluation of staffing, operational costs, and potential funding mechanisms, as additional personnel and financial resources would likely be required to implement and sustain such an initiative.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026047 with revisions as Brevard County will continue to maintain regulatory provisions addressing solid waste storage, litter prevention, and development review through Chapters 62 and 94 of the County Code, as well as Solid Waste Concurrency requirements.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 2:09 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026048

Recommendation # 2026048

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026048 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Sarah K Hodge
Address 390 Sanders Lane, Merritt Island, FL FL 32953
Phone (321) 452-3340
Email sarahkiserhodge@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026048
Recommendation Title Public Records Need to be Put on the Internet
Areas Affected
Department Affected
Current problem For many years the Public had difficulties getting Public Records from both the County and Cities. Extremely high costs sometimes or delays until the issue they needed the records for had been voted on.. the School Board charged the Florida Today many years ago \$30,000 for Public Records the Florida Today paid it and sued the School Board to get their money back along with the fees for the lawsuit. The School Board Appealed and lost so it cost the Taxpayers for the costs of both Lawsuits. Redacting Fees can be extremely expensive and sometimes almost everything is redacted. It would save Staff time and the Cost for them to Research to retrieve the Public Records. Miami/Dade has their Public Records on the Internet and Brevard Should Too.
Recommendation It would save Staff time and the Cost for them to Research to retrieve the Public Records. Miami/Dade has their Public Records on the Internet and Brevard Should Too.
Attachments No Documents were attached.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
FROM: Christine Reilly, Senior Law Clerk
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026048

CEER #2026048, titled *Public Records Need to be Put on the Internet*, was received by the County from Ms. Sarah K. Hodge.

Citizen Statement:

For many years the Public had difficulties getting Public Records from both the County and Cities. Extremely high costs sometimes or delays until the issue they needed the records for had been voted on.. the School Board charged the Florida Today many years ago \$30,000 for Public Records the Florida Today paid it and sued the School Board to get their money back along with the fees for the lawsuit. The School Board Appealed and lost so it cost the Taxpayers for the costs of both Lawsuits. Redacting Fees can be extremely expensive and sometimes almost everything is redacted. It would save Staff time and the Cost for them to Research to retrieve the Public Records. Miami/Dade has their Public Records on the Internet and Brevard Should Too.

Citizen Recommendation:

It would save Staff time and the Cost for them to Research to retrieve the Public Records. Miami/Dade has their Public Records on the Internet and Brevard Should Too.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that Brevard County place all of its public records on the internet. It is virtually identical to a CEER submitted by the same citizen last year. The Board of County Commissioners rejected that CEER.

As an initial matter, Brevard County presently makes a veritable treasure trove of records available to the public on the internet. For example, detailed agendas, minutes, and videos of Board of County Commissioners' meetings are readily available online. The

Brevard County Code of Ordinances, County budgets, the Comprehensive Plan and various land use studies, interactive maps providing data on future land use and zoning classifications, flood zones, coastal setback and erosion control lines, the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan, and many more records are all easily accessed from Brevard County Government's official website. Brevard's Advance Service Site (BASS) provides immediate access to records related to building permits and Code Enforcement cases. The public may request records online at brevardfl.gov/PublicRecordsRequest, by email at PublicRecordsRequest@BrevardFL.gov, by calling the Public Records Request Coordinator at (321) 633-2071, or in person at the County Attorney's Office located at 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Bldg. C-308, Viera, Florida 32940 or any other Brevard County office.

Brevard County's response to public records requests is governed by Chapter 119, Florida Statutes (Florida's Public Records Law) and Brevard County Administrative Order AO-47, *Coordination of Public Records Requests*.

Section 119.011(12), Florida Statutes, defines "public records" as follows:

"Public records" means all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.

See *also* section 119.07(4), Florida Statutes, which indicates that the furnishing of public records is made upon payment of a fee, prescribed by law, or if a fee is not prescribed by law, a fee which is in keeping with the provisions of that section.

The determination of what constitutes a public record is a question of law. See *State v. City of Clearwater*, 863 So.2d 149, 151 (Fla. 2003). In many instances, this is not a simple analysis. "It is impossible to lay down a definition of general application that identifies all items subject to disclosure under the [Florida Public Records Act, Chapter 119, Florida Statutes]." *Shevin v. Byron, Harless, Schaffer, Reid & Assocs.* 379 So.2d 633, 640 (Fla. 1980). "Consequently, the classification of items which fall midway on the spectrum of

clearly public records on the one end and clearly not public records on the other will have to be determined on a case-by-case basis.” *Id.*

“A public record is ‘any material prepared in connection with official agency business which is intended to perpetuate, communicate, or formalize knowledge of some type.’” *Id.* For instance, “the handwritten notes of the consultant ... made during or shortly after his interviews with job prospects, are merely preliminary materials intended to aid the consultant when he later formalized the knowledge gained during the interviews” and therefore are not public records. *Id.* at 641. Similarly, drafts are not usually considered public records, unless they have been shown to others. *Times Pub. Co. Inc. v. City of St. Petersburg*, 558 So.2d 487 (Fla. 2d DCA 1990).

To make all County “public records” available on the internet would require every member of the County staff to review on a continuous basis every communication that they create or receive to determine if it qualifies as a “public record.”¹ This would almost certainly result in frequent staff inquiries to the County Attorney’s Office, requiring significant staff and attorney time to review countless documents that may never be the subject of a request or search by any member of the public.

In addition, each member of the County staff would need to review every document he or she creates or receives to see if it is subject to a provision of confidentiality or exemption under the Public Records Act and prevent records containing confidential or exempt information from being placed on the internet or redact it accordingly. Statutory exemptions are extensive and change frequently.² On one day a public record placed on the internet would meet the requirements of the law; however, on a later day, information

¹ At a minimum, this would entail a new, rigorous, costly, and time-consuming training process to ensure that all staff would have considerable expertise in Florida law relating to what constitutes a public record, the myriad provisions of exemption or confidentiality, and what information should be redacted if a record is determined to be a public record. Currently, it is the records custodian in each department who receives this level of in-depth training regarding public records.

² According to the First Amendment Foundation, there are over 1,100 exemptions to Florida’s Public Records Act. In 2022, lawmakers filed over 50 bills adding new exemptions to the state’s public records law.

contained in the same public record might be deemed confidential or exempt. This means that County staff would need to constantly review all the records placed on the internet for continued compliance with then-current law.

Further, every document uploaded to the internet would need to be formatted to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This process would considerably impinge on the County staff's ability to complete its work in a timely fashion, thereby affecting the ability for all departments to work efficiently. To make all County public records available online would also require a new database requiring multiple operating systems, and the new database would need to be designed to be user-friendly. In addition, optical character recognition would need to be performed on scanned paper documents for a search function to be able to read the documents.

No matter how user-friendly a new database might be, if a public user misspelled a search term, did not know the proper acronyms for a search, or used abbreviations, this might lead to an erroneous response of "no results" or omit some records responsive to the user's intended inquiry. Currently, when a public records request is made to Brevard County, the person responsible for making sure all the relevant records are produced notifies the department(s) that would have the records. As needed, questions are asked of the department(s) to ascertain whether additional information is required to perform the search. This process allows for a more thorough and successful search than would a public records requestor entering search terms on their own into a website search engine.

This CEER suggests that placing all records on the internet would reduce staff time and save money. However, the Herculean effort and corresponding expense required to place all of its public records on the internet would not even relieve Brevard County of its current obligation to respond to public records requests the "old-fashioned" way. In *Lake Shore Hospital Authority v. Lilker*, 168 So. 3d. 332 (Fla. 1st DCA 2015), a requestor initially asked for electronic access to certain public records. He then changed his request to one for actual paper copies of the public records, due to his alleged difficulty with the website. When the agency only referred the requestor to the website, this was considered a violation of the Public Records Law. As the court in *Lake Shore* explained, "Access to

public records by remote electronic means is merely ‘an *additional* means of inspecting or copying public records.’ §119.07(2)(a), Fla. Stat. (2013) (emphasis added). This additional means of access, however, is insufficient where the person requesting the records specifies the traditional method of access via paper copies.” *Id.* at 333.

Nor would placement of public records on the internet necessarily allow Brevard County to greatly reduce its current physical or electronic storage requirements. An agency must provide a copy of a public record in the medium requested, if the agency maintains the record in that medium. §119.01(2)(f), Fla. Stat.; see *also* Op. Att’y Gen. Fla. 91-61 (1991) (custodian must provide a copy of computer disk in its original format; a typed transcript does not satisfy the requirements of this statute.) Placing all public records on the internet as proposed by CEER #2026014 would require the County to maintain many records in an additional, internet-friendly and ADA-compliant format, while still maintaining the record in its original medium.

Contrary to the Citizen Statement in this CEER, Miami-Dade County does not place all “its records on the Internet.” Rather, like Brevard County, Miami-Dade County makes specific documents, e.g., agendas, meeting minutes, building and zoning violations, and code enforcement citations available online. Disclaimers on the Miami-Dade County website make clear that the website is not the official record, and that the public should contact the appropriate county staff to assure the accuracy of data or information on the website. By way of example, if a citizen wished to see internal memos or emails between Miami-Dade County staff members, those are nowhere to be found on the county’s website. The citizen would have to make a public records request. Like Brevard County, Miami-Dade County provides multiple ways to submit public records requests including an online form.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026048 as it is inconsistent with the Board’s prior rejection of a virtually identical CEER submitted last year, and because it would not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County

Government as contemplated by Section 2.9.10 of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 2:10 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026049

Recommendation # 2026049

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026049 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Mary L Harvey
Address	1019 Harrison Street, Titusville FL 32780
Phone	(321) 413-8610
Email	mharveyforrotary@hotmail.com
Alternate Email	mharveyforrotary@hotmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026049
Recommendation Title	Intergovernmental Coordination/Ethics & Transparency
Areas Affected	
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	A current City of Titusville Council Member, Megan Moscoso, has been hired by the District 1 County Commissioner. This situation creates a perception of a potential conflict of interest when matters affecting the City of Titusville or the surrounding District 1 area come before either body for discussion, coordination, or voting. At present, there does not appear to be a clearly defined or publicly communicated countywide policy addressing employment relationships between elected officials at different levels of local government and how potential conflicts or recusals should be handled. This can lead to public confusion, concerns about impartiality, and reduced confidence in decision-making processes. Titusville Council woman Megan Moscoso frequently comments on County decision making and policies at City Council Meetings when discussing issues that are before the city council. As recently as Jan 29th, 2026.
Recommendation	Develop and publish a clear county policy addressing employment or contractual relationships involving elected officials across overlapping jurisdictions. The policy should include: Required disclosure of such relationships. Clear guidance on recusal or abstention when matters directly affect the employing or employed jurisdiction.

Consistent application across all districts and departments. Additionally, making this information easily accessible to the public would improve transparency and understanding. Improves transparency and public trust in local government. Reduces the appearance of CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. Provides clear guidance to elected officials and staff.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026049

CEER #2026049, titled *Intragovernmental Coordination/Ethics & Transparency*, was received by the County from Ms. Mary L. Harvey.

Citizen Statement:

A current City of Titusville Council Member, Megan Moscoso, has been hired by the District 1 County Commissioner. This situation creates a perception of a potential conflict of interest when matters affecting the City of Titusville or the surrounding District 1 area come before either body for discussion, coordination, or voting. At present, there does not appear to be a clearly defined or publicly communicated countywide policy addressing employment relationships between elected officials at different levels of local government and how potential conflicts or recusals should be handled. This can lead to public confusion, concerns about impartiality, and reduced confidence in decision-making processes. Titusville Council woman Megan Moscoso frequently comments on County decision making and policies at City Council Meetings when discussing issues that are before the city council. As recently as Jan 29th, 2026.

Citizen Recommendation:

Develop and publish a clear county policy addressing employment or contractual relationships involving elected officials across overlapping jurisdictions. The policy should include: Required disclosure of such relationships. Clear guidance on recusal or abstention when matters directly affect the employing or employed jurisdiction. Consistent application across all districts and departments. Additionally, making this information easily accessible to the public would improve transparency and understanding. Improves transparency and public trust in local government. Reduces the appearance of CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. Provides clear guidance to elected officials and staff.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that the County adopt a policy addressing the County's employment of, and contractual relationships with, elected officials from other government

agencies to improve transparency and public trust, reduce the appearance of conflicts of interest, and provide clear guidance to elected officials and staff. The CEER specifically points out perceived conflicts relating to Commissioner Katie Delaney's employment of Ms. Megan Moscoso, a Titusville city council member.¹ Various provisions of state law and county policy are relevant to the consideration of this CEER.

Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees (Chapter 112, Part III, Fla. Stat.)

Dual Public Employment

A person may not be employed by a state agency or political subdivision of the state while at the same time holding office as a member of the governing body which is his or her employer.² Thus, a person may not simultaneously serve as a Brevard County commissioner and be employed by the Board of County Commissioners. However, this prohibition does not apply to a person serving as a municipal council member while employed by the Board of County Commissioners because Brevard County and its municipalities are separate and distinct political subdivisions.

Section 112.3125, Florida Statutes is relevant to the consideration of this CEER because it addresses so-called "dual public employment" – that is, when a person who is elected to, or is a candidate for, state or local office seeks public employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions. The statute defines the term "public officer" to include any person who is elected to state or local office or, for the period of his or her candidacy, has qualified as a candidate for office.³

¹ It should be noted that a complaint was filed with the State of Florida Commission on Ethics alleging that Ms. Moscoso "has conflict of interest due to serving as both Communications Coordinator for Brevard County, District 1 and as a Councilwoman for the City of Titusville." The Florida Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint for "failure to constitute a legally sufficient complaint..." *In re Megan Moscoso, Complaint No. 25-205, Public Report and Order Dismissing Complaint* (COE Jan. 28, 2026). A similar complaint against Commissioner Delaney was dismissed on the same grounds. *In re Kathryn "Katie" Delaney, Complaint No. 25-206, Public Report and Order Dismissing Complaint* (COE Jan. 28, 2026).

² Fla. Stat. § 112.313(10).

³ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(1).

Pursuant to Section 112.3125, Florida Statutes, public officers are subject to the following restrictions:

- A public officer may not accept public employment if the public officer knows, or with the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the position is being offered by the employer for the purpose of gaining influence or other advantage based on the public officer's office or candidacy.⁴
- Any public employment accepted by the public officer must meet each of the following four conditions:⁵
 - The position was already in existence or was created by the employer without knowledge or anticipation of the public officer's interest in such position.⁶
 - The position was publicly advertised.⁷
 - The public officer was subject to the same application and hiring process as other candidates for the position.⁸
 - The public officer meets or exceeds the required qualifications for the position.⁹
- A person who was employed by the state or a political subdivision before qualifying as a public officer may continue in his or her employment. However, he or she may not accept promotion, advancement, additional compensation, or anything of value that he or she knows, or should know, is provided or given as a result of his or her election or position, or that is otherwise inconsistent with the

⁴ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(2).

⁵ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3).

⁶ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3)(a).

⁷ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3)(b).

⁸ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3)(c).

⁹ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3)(d).

promotion, advancement, additional compensation, or anything of value provided or given a similarly situated employee.¹⁰

Conflicting Employment or Contractual Relationship

Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, is relevant to the consideration of this CEER. It provides:

No public officer or employee of an agency shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity or any agency which is subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, an agency of which he or she is an officer or employee ...; nor shall an officer or employee of an agency have or hold any employment or contractual relationship that will create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict between his or her private interests and the performance of his or her public duties or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties.

The first clause prohibits a public officer or employee from contracting with or being employed by any entity that does business with or is regulated by his or her agency. For purposes of this clause, Brevard County generally is not considered to be doing business with its municipalities.¹¹ Likewise, while a municipal council may occasionally be involved with the enactment of zoning or land use ordinances affecting proposed County projects, the Commission on Ethics has determined that this does not constitute “regulation” for purposes of the first part of Section 112.313(7)(a).¹²

The second clause of Section 112.313(7)(a) prohibits the holding of employment or a contractual relationship that will create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict between a public officer’s private interests and the performance of his or her public duties or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties. This is a fact-specific inquiry. For example, where a city council member was employed as an assistant school superintendent, the Commission on Ethics opined that the council

¹⁰ Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(4).

¹¹ See CEO 92-39 (1992) (“intergovernmental agreements and dealings between governmental entities have generally been found by [the Commission on Ethics] not to constitute ‘doing business’ for purposes of the first part of Section 112.313(7)(a).”).

¹² See *id.*

member did not violate the second clause of Section 112.313(7)(a) because his job duties as assistant superintendent did not generally conflict with his council member duties, and he had the ability to delegate specific duties that might cause a conflict.¹³

Voting Conflicts

Section 112.3143(3)(a), Florida Statutes, is relevant to this CEER. The statute provides:

No county, municipal, or other local public officer shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained . . . , other than an agency as defined in [Fla. Stat. §] 112.312(2); or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer.

The statute defines “principal by whom retained” to exclude county, local, and municipal agencies of the state.¹⁴ Thus, a municipal council member employed by the Board of County Commissioners would not violate the statute by voting on a measure that might inure to the gain or loss of Brevard County. Likewise, the statute would not bar a commissioner from voting on matters that might inure to the gain or loss of a municipality simply because the commissioner employs a member of the municipality’s governing body.

Brevard County Personnel Policies

Existing Brevard County personnel policies and procedures address many of the concerns raised by this CEER. For example, Merit System Policy VI.II.A., Outside Employment and Activities, provides in part:

¹³ See *id.*

¹⁴ Fla. Stat. § 112.3143(1)(a) (“Principal by whom retained” means an individual or entity, other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2), that for compensation, salary, pay, consideration, or similar thing of value, has permitted or directed another to act for the individual or entity, and includes, but is not limited to, one’s client, employer, or the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of one’s client or employer.); Fla. Stat. § 112.312(2) (“Agency” means any state, regional, county, local, or municipal government entity of this state, whether executive, judicial, or legislative...).

Employees of the County Service shall not engage in any outside employment, enterprise, or other activity, whether paid or unpaid, which would interfere, be inconsistent, incompatible, or in legal, ethical or technical conflict with their duties as County employees or with the functions and responsibilities of the department or office for which they work. ...Permission to engage in outside employment or other activities may be denied or withdrawn at any time when it is determined by the appointing authority such activity interferes with the employee's production, efficiency, causes discredit to, or is in conflict with the interests of the County.

As referenced herein above, employees are required to complete a Request for Approval to Engage in Outside Employment/Activities form to request permission to engage in certain outside employment or activities, and new hires are required to disclose such outside employment or activities during the new hire process.

Merit System Policy VI.II.G., Political Activities of Employees, provides in part:

No employee shall use or promise to use, directly or indirectly, any official authority or influence, whether possessed or anticipated, to secure or attempt to secure for any person an appointment or advantage in appointment to a position in the County Service, or an increase in pay or other advantage in employment in any such position for the purpose of influencing the vote or political action of any person, or for any consideration provided, however, that letters of inquiry, recommendations and references by employees in the County Service shall not be considered political pressure unless any such letter contains threatening, intimidating, irrelevant, derogatory or false information.

* * *

Any employee holding elective public office shall be required to use annual leave or leave without pay when the duties of the elective public office require the attention of the employee during the employee's normal duty hours.

Ethics and Optics

Both the Florida Code of Ethics and existing Brevard County policy address situations where Brevard County might employ a public officer from another jurisdiction. In relation to the case referenced in the CEER, neither Commissioner Delaney nor her staff consulted with Human Resources or the County Attorney regarding the prospective hire

of a sitting municipal council member.¹⁵ A policy specifically addressing the County's employment of public officers, including the dual public employment requirements of Section 112.3125, Florida Statutes, will help ensure that these issues are addressed during the employment process, improve transparency and public trust, reduce the appearance of conflicts of interest, and provide clear guidance to elected officials and staff.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026049 with revisions. Specifically, it is recommended that the Board direct the County Attorney, together with the County Manager and Human Resources staff, to prepare appropriate revisions to existing personnel policies to address the subject of dual public employment.

¹⁵ By comparison, in 2016 former District 1 County Commissioner Rita Pritchett sought a County Attorney opinion before hiring a city council member to a staff position. Based in part on the opinion issued by the County Attorney, Commissioner Pritchett elected not to proceed with the hire. A copy of that opinion is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Commissioner Rita Pritchett, District 1 County Commissioner
FROM: Scott Knox
SUBJECT: County commissioner hiring a city councilmember to a staff position
DATE: 12/6/16 *amended 12/7/16

Question: Can a County commissioner hire a sitting city councilmember to join the commissioner's staff?

Short Answer: While it depends on the nature and responsibilities of the staff position, it seems likely that there is no violation for purposes of the dual-office holding provision. As of this writing, it seems as though no ethics laws will be violated as long as: 1) the position already existed or was created without the knowledge or anticipation of the councilmember's interest in the position; 2) the position is publicly advertised; 3) the councilmember is subject to the same application and hiring process as other potential candidates; and, 4) the councilmember is qualified for the position.¹ However, issues will likely arise, especially for the city councilmember, as it relates to fully and faithfully discharging his or her public duties and responsibilities as both a County employee and a municipal officer.

Analysis

1. Cities and the County are Separate Entities

"No public officer or employee of an agency shall have or hold any employment . . . with . . . any agency which is subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, an agency of which he or she is an officer or employee . . ."² In addition, "[n]o employee of a . . . county . . . shall hold office as a member of the governing board, council, commission, or authority, . . . which is his or her employer while, at the same time, continuing as an employee of such employer."³ Holding a city councilmember position and a County commissioner staff position would not violate either statutory provision because the positions are from distinct political subdivisions independent of each other. Importantly, however, "an officer or employee of an agency [shall not] have any

¹Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3).

²Fla. Stat. § 112.313(7)(a)

³Fla. Stat. § 112.313(10)(a).

employment or contractual relationship that will create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict between his or her private interests and the performance of his or her public duties or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties.”⁴ While the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner staff position will need to be identified, it is unlikely that these duties will interfere with the councilmember’s ability to fully and faithfully discharge his or her public duties.

2. Dual Public Employment Concerns

The Florida Legislature addresses the ability for a public officer, i.e., a city councilmember, to simultaneously hold a position of employment with a governmental entity. “A public officer may not accept public employment with . . . [a] political subdivision[] if the public officer knows, or with the exercise of reasonable care should know, that the position is being offered by the employer for the purpose of gaining influence or other advantage based on the public officer’s office”⁵ Furthermore, as it specifically relates to the current situation, in order for the city councilmember to work on the commissioner’s staff, the staff position must be in existence or created by the commissioner “without the knowledge or anticipation of the [councilmember’s] interest in such position;” the staff position must have been publicly advertised; the councilmember was subject to the same application and hiring process as other candidates; and, the councilmember is qualified for the staff position.⁶ As long as these conditions are met, the dual public employment requirements will be satisfied.

3. Dual-Office Holding Concerns

In pertinent part, Article II, Section 5(a) of the Florida Constitution provides that “[n]o person shall hold at the same time more than one office under the government of the state and the counties and municipalities therein.” “This constitutional provision prohibits a person from serving in more than one state, county, or municipal office simultaneously.”⁷ It is clear that, for purposes of this dual-office holding provision, a city councilmember is a public officer.⁸ However, in order to determine the status of the staff position, it is the nature and character of the position that will determine if it should be classified as an office or an employment.

As a result, “it must be determined whether each of the positions . . . is an office for purposes of the dual office-holding prohibition.”⁹ In order to make such a determination, the Florida Supreme Court has provided guidance on how to distinguish an “office” from an “employment.” Specifically, in *State ex rel. Holloway v. Sheats*, 83 So. 508 (Fla. 1919), the court found that

⁴Fla. Stat. § 112.313(7)(a)

⁵Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(2).

⁶Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(3)

⁷Op. Att’y Gen. Fla. 2002-49 (2002).

⁸Op. Att’y Gen. Fla. 2005-59 (2005) (“Membership on the governing body of a governmental entity, such as a county or municipality, clearly constitutes an office.”).

⁹Op. Att’y Gen. Fla. 2016-15 (2016).

[t]he term “office” implies a delegation of a portion of the sovereign power to, and the possession of it by, the person filling the office, while an “employment” does not comprehend a delegation of any part of the sovereign authority. The term “office” embraces the idea of tenure, duration and duties in exercising some portion of the sovereign power, conferred or defined by law and not by contract. An employment does not authorize the exercise in one’s own right of any sovereign power or any prescribed independent authority of a governmental nature; and this constitutes perhaps the most decisive difference between an employment and an office, and between an employee and an officer.

State ex rel. Holloway, at 509.

Based on this reasoning, the commissioner staff position’s duties and responsibilities will likely result in the position being considered an employment, not an office. Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be a violation of the dual-office holding prohibition.

4. Voting Conflict Concerns

Fla. Stat. § 112.3143(3)(a) provides that

[n]o county, municipal, or other local public officer shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained . . . , other than an agency as defined in [Fla. Stat. §] 112.312(2); or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the public officer.

It must be determined whether the councilmember inures a special private gain or loss for himself/herself and/or their family or business associates. This would require a case-by-case analysis of the issues going before the councilmember for a vote, as well as the method by which the commissioner staff position would be compensated. On the other hand, as it relates to special private gains or losses for the principal by whom the councilmember is retained, both the city council and the Board of County Commissioners would be exempt from analysis. Specifically,

“Principal by whom retained” means an individual or entity, *other than an agency as defined in s. 112.312(2)*, that for compensation, salary, pay, consideration, or similar thing of value, has permitted or directed another to act for the individual or entity, and includes, but is not limited to one’s client, employer, or the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of one’s client or employer.¹⁰

Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 112.312(2), an “[a]gency” means any . . . county, local, or municipal entity of this state, whether executive, judicial, or legislative . . .” As a result, at least as it

¹⁰Fla. Stat. § 112.3143(1)(a) (*emphasis added*).

applies to any gains or losses received by the County or city, there are no voting conflicts. Additionally, the compensation awarded to the councilmember in his or her capacity as the commissioner's staff needs to avoid being contingent upon any activities undertaken by the councilmember in his or her capacity on the city council.¹¹

Example: CEO 92-39

The Florida Commission on Ethics issued an opinion (CEO 92-39) that addressed whether a city councilmember could serve as an assistant school superintendent. This example is relevant because it deals with two separate political entities that work independent of each other, similar to the employment position with the Board of County Commissioners and an officer position on a city council. In that situation, the assistant school superintendent would have the school board as a public agency and the city council as a public agency. The Commission first looked at whether the city councilmember/assistant school superintendent held "any employment or any contractual relationship with any business entity or agency which is subject to the regulation of or which is doing business with either of his public agencies."¹²

The Commission then focused on whether the school board, i.e., the employing agency, was "subject to the regulation of or is doing business with the [c]ity [c]ouncil, for the purposes of . . . [Fla. Stat. §] 112.313(7)(a)."¹³ The Commission found that constructing a school within the city or having the school board enter into an interlocal agreement with the city council for said school would not subject the school board to the regulation of the city council. Furthermore, "intergovernmental agreements and dealings between governmental entities have generally been found by [the Commission] not to constitute 'doing business' for purposes of the first part of Section 112.313(7)(a) . . ."¹⁴ Importantly, "[a] purpose of the Code of Ethics is to prevent private gain at public expense, not to prevent dealings between governmental entities."¹⁵

Next, the Commission examined whether these two positions would "create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict between a public officer's private interests and the performance of his public duties or what would impede the full and faithful discharge of his public duties."¹⁶ In order to reach a conclusion, the Commission looked at the position's actual duties and responsibilities to ultimately determine that there would not be a violation of the second part of Fla. Stat. § 112.313(7)(a). The commissioner staff position will need to have duties that do not interfere with the councilmember's ability to discharge his or her duties as an elected official.

Lastly, the Commission examined whether such positions would cause a voting conflicts issue in violation of Fla. Stat. § 112.3143. The Commission came to the conclusion that there would not

¹¹See, Fla. Stat. § 112.3143.

¹²CEO 92-39 (1992).

¹³*Id.*

¹⁴*Id.*

¹⁵*Id.*

¹⁶*Id.*

be a violation of the voting conflicts law “because that law exempts from its prohibitions votes on measures inuring to the gain of an ‘agency.’”¹⁷ As mentioned above, the Board of County Commissioners and a city council fall under the definition of “agency” and, therefore, are not subject to analysis to determine if a vote inured to the gain or loss of such governmental entities.

5. *Consultation with Ethics Attorney

After informally consulting¹⁸ with an ethics attorney at the Florida Commission on Ethics, it seems there may be a challenge avoiding perceived violations of Florida’s ethics laws. In particular, “[a] public officer may not accept public employment . . . if the public officer knows, or *with the exercise of reasonable care should know*, that the position is being offered by the employer for purposes of gaining influence or other advantage based on the public officer’s office . . .”¹⁹ This is interpreted to mean that constructive knowledge, based on the facts and circumstances of the situation. It is conceivable that an allegation of an ethics violation could be raised in circumstances where a city council member was employed by a County commissioner after voting in their official capacity as a city council person on a matter that directly affects the Commissioner or the Commissioner’s office.

Additionally, Fla. Stat. §§ 112.313(6) and 112.313(7)(a) will need to be addressed by the councilmember, especially as it relates to misuse of the power and authority entrusted to the councilmember. In particular, “[n]o public officer . . . shall . . . attempt to use his or her official position or any property or resource which may be within his or her trust . . . to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others.”²⁰ For example, a perceived ethics issue could arise if the councilmember was to vote on a matter that would provide favorable terms to his/her employer, the County Commissioner, on the lease of a workspace owned by the city he/she represents. Likewise, the city councilmember is not permitted to hold any employment that “would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties.”²¹ Due to these prohibitions, the city councilmember could foreseeably be placed in a difficult position as far as separating his/her duties and responsibilities as a member of the city council from his/her role on the Commissioner’s staff.

However, one obstacle that can potentially be avoided would be to craft the aforementioned lease agreement as an interlocal agreement with the City rather than a commercial sublease. Florida law states that “[n]o public officer or employee of an agency shall have or hold any employment . . . with . . . any agency which . . . is doing business with[] an agency of which he or she is an officer or employee . . .”²² As mentioned above, the Ethics Commission does not consider

¹⁷*Id.*

¹⁸A letter can also be submitted to the Commission, with permission from the commissioner and the councilmember, to get a more concrete opinion on the situation. Such an opinion usually takes two (2) weeks to complete.

¹⁹Fla. Stat. § 112.3125(2) (*emphasis added*).

²⁰Fla. Stat. § 112.313(6).

²¹Fla. Stat. § 112.313(7)(a).

²²*Id.*

interlocal agreements as “doing business.”²³ Therefore, if the agreement includes the certain language and provisions to satisfy the requirements of an interlocal agreement then it is possible that the “doing business” prohibition found in Fla. Stat. § 112.313(7)(a) can be avoided.

Conclusion

The hiring of the city councilmember onto the County commissioner’s staff does not violate the dual-office holding provision established by Art. II, Sec. 5(a) of the Florida Constitution. However, there are additional considerations that need to be taken into account before the councilmember joins the County commissioner’s staff. In any event, the councilmember will need to ensure the provisions of the State’s ethics laws, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, are not violated. Therefore, it may be advisable to seek an informal opinion from the Ethics Commission on the issues raised above, particularly the issues raised in point 5. The Ethics Commission attorney suggested that any such informal opinion would have to be jointly requested by the County Commissioner and the City Council person.

²³See, CEO 92-39 (1992).

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 2:47 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026050

Recommendation # 2026050

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026050 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026050
Recommendation Title	Board Reports
Areas Affected	
Department Affected	BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem	County Commissioners often give no board report.
Recommendation	In the interest of the benefit of transparency and accountability, request county commissioners provide updates on the boards they serve on i.e. TPO, ECFRPC, etc
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026050

CEER #2026050, titled *Board Reports*, was received by the County from Ms. Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

County Commissioners often give no board report.

Citizen Recommendation:

In the interest of the benefit of transparency and accountability, request county commissioners provide updates on the boards they serve on i.e. TPO, ECFRPC, etc

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that the Board of County Commissioners request that its individual members provide reports on their *ex officio* service on other boards. The Board of County Commissioners allows (but does not compel) individual commissioners to give such reports as they deem appropriate by including a "Board Reports" section on the agenda for each meeting. Whether and when to report on outside board service is a matter best left to the discretion and sound judgment of the individual commissioners.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026050 and leave the subject of "Board Reports" to the wisdom, prudence, discernment, and common sense of its elected members.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:04 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026051

Recommendation # 2026051

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026051 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Lisa Mosier
Address 525 Indian River Ave 104, Titusville FL 32796
Phone (321) 536-3308
Email lisamosier3847@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026051
Recommendation Title District 1 staff
Areas Affected
Department Affected BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Current problem How can the District 1 hire as a staff member a sitting City of Titusville council member. Ethically, the county and the city has to vote on items, case in point, Parrish Board member. One has to be voted on county level and then approved by city of Titusville.
Recommendation To prevent any issue with a potential ethic complaints, both the District 1 Commissioner and the City Council employee should refrain on a vote
Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026051

CEER #2026051, titled *District 1 Staff*, was received by the County from Ms. Lisa Mosier.

Citizen Statement:

How can the District 1 hire as a staff member a sitting City of Titusville council member. Ethically, the county and the city has to vote on items, case in point, Parrish Board member. One has to be voted on county level and then approved by city of Titusville.

Citizen Recommendation:

To prevent any issue with a potential ethic complaints, both the District 1 Commissioner and the City Council employee should refrain on a vote

Staff Analysis:

This CEER points out perceived conflicts relating to Commissioner Katie Delaney's employment of Ms. Megan Moscoso, a Titusville city council member. The CEER recommends that to prevent ethics violations, both Commissioner Delaney and Ms. Moscoso should refrain from voting (presumably on items that may present a conflict relative to their employer/employee relationship and respective elected offices).¹ Recently, Ms. Delaney submitted her resignation from the office of District 1 County Commissioner effective May 2, 2026. Subsequently, Ms. Moscoso submitted her

¹ It should be noted that a complaint was filed with the State of Florida Commission on Ethics alleging that Ms. Moscoso "has conflict of interest due to serving as both Communications Coordinator for Brevard County, District 1 and as a Councilwoman for the City of Titusville." The Florida Commission on Ethics dismissed the complaint for "failure to constitute a legally sufficient complaint...." *In re Megan Moscoso, Complaint No. 25-205, Public Report and Order Dismissing Complaint* (COE Jan. 28, 2026). A similar complaint against Commissioner Delaney was dismissed on the same grounds. *In re Kathryn "Katie" Delaney, Complaint No. 25-206, Public Report and Order Dismissing Complaint* (COE Jan. 28, 2026).

resignation from the District 1 staff effective the same date. These resignations render the citizen's specific recommendation moot.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners deny CEER #2026051 as it has been rendered moot by the resignations of Ms. Delaney and Ms. Moscoso from their County positions. Please reference CEER #2026049 for a broader discussion relating to the ethics issues raised by so-called "dual public employment."

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:08 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026052

Recommendation # 2026052

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026052 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026052
Recommendation Title	Infrastructure Surtax
Areas Affected	Several depts
Department Affected	FACILITIES DEPARTMENT
Current problem	Brevard County has billions in deficit in infrastructure for sewage, transportation, stormwater etc The Infrastructure surtax is used by other Counties to address these critical needs. Unfortunately, Brevard County kicked the can down the road in addressing this looming problem when they rejected the impact fee study in 2016 with 25+ years of no impact fee increases. Now Brevard has a fiscal crisis. At the last meeting of 2025, BOCC discussed raising taxes or eliminating the 3% cap. The Lagoon "Muck" Tax is using the surtax for as tax for military to put the burden of the PFAS contaminated Muck on the taxpayers of Brevard. The truth is out. The studies that salinity causes the PFAS they put to the lagoon for decades is in the muck. It requires federal funding and proper disposal - current disposal is a liability for Brevard as now CERCLA superfund chemicals. I find it interesting that BOCC stopped spraying in 2024 the ditches along the lagoon like SR513 South patrick, US1, Tropical Trail etc as herbicides feed algae blooms kill seagrass - in this way you can say - oh look the lagoon plan is working in 2025 saying seagrass is growing LOL. You know the truth. So do we the people. The gig is up. As is highlighted in this news story, it is not a legal use of the Infrastructure Surtax for maintenance muck dredging: The law

was never successfully updated to be legal. Neither is grass clipping marketing and other uses which are not capital projects.
<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/environment/2015/12/11/legislators-propose-tapping-sales-tax-remove-muck/77108050/>

Recommendation

It is important that Brevard leadership address the most critical need of Brevard which is infrastructure. We have a fiscal cliff coming and inaction is not acceptable. Please instead of the Lagoon Tax approve language for Infrastructure Surtax for Sewage, Stormwater, Septic to Sewer, (and possibly) transportation. I do not expect that the people of Brevard will renew the Lagoon "Muck" Tax - IMO it will fail. If you do not take the above suggestion, in light of the property tax bill(s) in Tally, it would be prudent to at minimum delay the lagoon tax with the ~\$450 MILLION not spent and more than \$100 not yet allocated there is plenty to fund projects until 2028 when we know where we are on the Property Tax referendum.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
FROM: Heather A. Balser, Assistant County Attorney
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026052

CEER #2026052, titled *Infrastructure Surtax*, was received by the County from Ms. Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

Brevard County has billions in deficit in infrastructure for sewage, transportation, stormwater etc The Infrastructure surtax is used by other Counties to address these critical needs. Unfortunately, Brevard County kicked the can down the road in addressing this looming problem when they rejected the impact fee study in 2016 with 25+ years of no impact fee increases. Now Brevard has a fiscal crisis. At the last meeting of 2025, BOCC discussed raising taxes or eliminating the 3% cap. The Lagoon "Muck" Tax is using the surtax for as tax for military to put the burden of the PFAS contaminated Muck on the taxpayers of Brevard. The truth is out. The studies that salinity causes the PFAS they put to the lagoon for decades is in the muck. It requires federal funding and proper disposal - current disposal is a liability for Brevard as now CERCLA superfund chemicals. I find it interesting that BOCC stopped spraying in 2024 the ditches along the lagoon like SR513 South patrick, US1, Tropical Trail etc as herbicides feed algae blooms kill seagrass - in this way you can say - oh look the lagoon plan is working in 2025 saying seagrass is growing LOL. You know the truth. So do we the people. The gig is up. As is highlighted in this news story, it is not a legal use of the Infrastructure Surtax for maintenance muck dredging: The law was never successfully updated to be legal. Neither is grass clipping marketing and other uses which are not capital projects. <https://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/environment/2015/12/11/legislators-propose-tapping-sales-tax-remove-muck/77108050/>

Citizen Recommendation:

It is important that Brevard leadership address the most critical need of Brevard which is infrastructure. We have a fiscal cliff coming and inaction is not acceptable. Please instead of the Lagoon Tax approve language for

Infrastructure Surtax for Sewage, Stormwater, Septic to Sewer, (and possibly) transportation. I do not expect that the people of Brevard will renew the Lagoon "Muck" Tax - IMO it will fail. If you do not take the above suggestion, in light of the property tax bill(s) in Tally, it would be prudent to at minimum delay the lagoon tax with the ~\$450 MILLION not spent and more than \$100 not yet allocated there is plenty to fund projects until 2028 when we know where we are on the Property Tax referendum.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends enacting a new local government infrastructure surtax to replace the existing Save Our Indian River Lagoon half-cent surtax. The Board considered this very issue at its meeting on February 24, 2026, and approved legislative intent for the renewal of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon half-cent surtax, subject to approval by the voters at a referendum election in November 2026. If the Board reverses its prior direction and accepts this CEER recommendation, it will dramatically change the process and timeline for placing the surtax on the ballot, likely rendering it impossible.

Recent Board Direction to Renew SOIRL Half-Cent Surtax

On February 24, 2026, the Board of County Commissioners considered Item I.1., which requested that the Board of County Commissioners discuss infrastructure funding options and provide staff direction. The Clerk to the Board's memorandum on Item I.1. describes the Board's action as follows:

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 24, 2026, discussed legislative intent for infrastructure funding options and approved preserving the existing legislative intent approved by the Board on November 18, 2025, for renewal of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) 0.5 percent infrastructure sales surtax, subject to voter approval, as currently structured, which allows the surtax to be considered as a renewal and would not require Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) review.

The Board specifically considered and rejected altering the SOIRL surtax to authorize infrastructure project types not currently included in the SOIRL Project Plan (such as public facilities, transportation, drainage, etc.). The CEER's proponent, Sandra Sullivan, spoke on the subject at that meeting. Essentially, the Board already considered and rejected this CEER at its February 24, 2026 meeting.

Statutory Authority and Timeline to Enact a New Surtax

Section 212.055(2), Florida Statutes, entitled the “Local Government Infrastructure Surtax”, authorizes a county to levy a discretionary sales surtax of 0.5 or 1 percent, pursuant to an ordinance enacted by a majority of the county governing body, and approved by a majority of county electors voting in a referendum. A statement including a “brief general description of projects to be funded” by the tax shall be placed on the ballot when the referendum takes place.

Section 212.055(2)(b), Florida Statutes, provides that the Board of County Commissioners must enact an ordinance calling for a referendum on the levy of the surtax. Section 212.055(2)(c), Florida Statutes, states that the proceeds of the surtax shall be distributed according to an interlocal agreement or by state Department of Revenue formula.

Pursuant to section 212.055(11)(a), Florida Statutes, in order to adopt a new surtax, a certified public accountant must conduct a performance audit of the program associated with the proposed surtax. Section 212.055(11)(b), Florida Statutes, provides a strict timeline for this performance audit process that must be completed before placing the referendum on the ballot.

First, at least 180 days before the referendum is held (i.e., no later than May 7, 2026), the county must provide a copy of the final surtax ordinance to the state Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA). This means that the proposed surtax ordinance must have been drafted, advertised, heard, and enacted by a majority of the Board of County Commissioners on or before May 7, 2026. If the Board does not act on this CEER until May 5, 2026, it will be literally impossible to meet this requirement for the 2026 general election year, as ordinances must be advertised at least ten days before the meeting at which they are enacted.

Second, assuming that the deadline to submit the final surtax ordinance to OPPAGA is satisfied, OPPAGA shall procure the certified public accountant services within 60 days of receiving the ordinance. Third, at least 60 days before the referendum is held (i.e., by

September 4, 2026), the performance audit must be completed and the report, findings and recommendations be made available on the county's official website.

History of the SOIRL Surtax and Process for Renewal

On August 23, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners passed an ordinance calling for a referendum to be placed on the November 2016 ballot for the voters to decide whether to approve a Save Our Indian River Lagoon local infrastructure half-cent surtax. Also on August 23, 2016, pursuant to Section 212.055(2)(c), Florida Statutes, the Board approved an interlocal agreement, to be signed by the governing bodies of municipalities representing a majority of the county's municipal population, which provided for the use and distribution of the proceeds from the half-cent surtax.

On November 8, 2016, a majority of Brevard County qualified electors voted in favor of a half-cent tax being expended on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan, aiming to restore the Indian River Lagoon through financing, planning, constructing, maintaining, and operating capital improvements and capital maintenance projects and programs designed to improve water quality, fish, wildlife, and marine habitat, remove muck and reduce pollution. This tax was approved for a period of ten years exclusively to fund these lagoon related projects.

Section 212.055(11)(a)-(c), Florida Statutes, describes the performance audit requirements and procedure required for a new local government infrastructure surtax. However, pursuant to Section 212.055(11)(d), Florida Statutes, this procedure "does not apply to a referendum held to adopt the same discretionary surtax that was in place during the month of December immediately before the date of the referendum." Thus, the existing SOIRL half-cent surtax may be renewed by majority vote of the electors at referendum, without resort to the lengthy OPPAGA audit process.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026052 as it is inconsistent with prior Board direction, and it is impossible to enact a new local government infrastructure surtax within the statutory timeline for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026053

Recommendation # 2026053

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026053 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026053
Recommendation Title	Parks & Rec
Areas Affected	
Department Affected	Parks And Recreation Department
Current problem	Brevard is experiencing rapid growth and parks are crowded, i.e. Viera due to growth. This is a burden to fund new park facilities as Parks and Rec is underfunded. The funds raised by the ad-valorem tax is insufficient even for our existing parks hence why Brevard keeps giving away our parks. Fort Lauderdale has an impact fee for Parks as do other counties.
Recommendation	Brevard needs to add an impact fee for parks so that developers are paying their share for this added rapid growth.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

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Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager, Development and Environmental Services Group

FROM: Billy Prasad, Director, Planning and Development Department

SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026053

CEER #2026053 was received by the County from Sandra Sullivan of WAVESaction.

Citizen Statement:

"Brevard is experiencing rapid growth and parks are crowded, i.e. Viera due to growth. This is a burden to fund new park facilities as Parks and Rec is underfunded. The funds raised by the ad-valorem tax is insufficient even for our existing parks hence why Brevard keeps giving away our parks. Fort Lauderdale has an impact fee for Parks as do other counties."

Citizen Recommendation:

"Brevard needs to add an impact fee for parks so that developers are paying their share for this added rapid growth."

Staff Analysis:

This request is essentially a duplicate of a request submitted in 2024 under CEER #2024037, and the following staff analysis was provided:

"As the problem statement associated with this request mentions Viera, it should be noted that the infrastructure requirements associated with the need for parks as the DRI develops is addressed through Development Order. As of the 2022 status report, the developer had donated 161.7 acres for parks west of 1-95. An additional 208 acres may be donated under the Order as development benchmarks are met.

The County's Policy as it relates to the acceptable level of service for total developed acreage of County owned or managed parks is governed by Chapter 3, Policy 1.3 of the Comprehensive Plan. It states that there should be 3 acres per 1,000 people living in unincorporated Brevard County. The County currently exceeds this target.

Additionally, the imposition of an impact fee is governed by statutory requirements. See e.g. Fla. Stat. Sec. 163.31801. In order to impose an impact fee related to Parks, the County would



Planning & Development Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 114
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

need to demonstrate a need. Any impact fee imposed as a result of a study demonstrating a need would need to be "proportional and reasonably connected to, or has a rational nexus with, the expenditures of the funds collected and the benefits accruing to the new residential or nonresidential construction."

The Parks and Recreation Department continues to improve annually with increasing maintenance and capital expenditures, included in each year's budget since 2017 /2018, the County has invested \$90.8 million in over 150 Capital Improvement Projects across the County Park system, including playgrounds, field renovations, field lighting, pavilions and crossovers, docks, and boardwalk replacements."

Staff Recommended Action:

The Board of County Commissioners rejected this recommendation on April 9, 2024.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:22 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026054

Recommendation # 2026054

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026054 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026054
Recommendation Title	Tourism Beaches Funding
Areas Affected	County Tourist Parks
Department Affected	Parks And Recreation Department
Current problem	Certain parks in Brevard are Tourism Parks with Premium Amenities, such as Lifeguards, showers, bathrooms, playgrounds etc. These parks are more expensive to maintain and are a burden to Brevard County residents as well on the local cities (like Cocoa Beach, Lori Wilson) to provide Fire/Police services. These beaches are important to generating tourism revenue - to attract visitors - including those watching launches from the beach parks. The issue is Brevard County is giving away the Taxpayer paid parks Paid to Cities who then charge for parking - this is not a good solution. This creates double taxation because we pay for parks and recreation in our tax bill. Then as more cities have acquired over the years, former County parks, we have multiple taxation at each park. The Tourism Tax is now paying for lifeguards :) but the Beach Fund is being misused for Natural Resources expenses! instead of beach parks per state statute.
Recommendation	TDC Beach Fund should be appropriately funding our county owned "Tourism Beaches" Capital Projects and maintenance - as defined by the county own beaches with lifeguard services. This would give these beaches dedicated funding and ease

the burden on Parks budget. Of course, the Beach Fund also helps fund sand renourishment.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



Tourism Development Department

150 Cocoa Isles Blvd.
St. 401
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Peter Cranis, Director, Tourism Development

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026054

CEER #2026054, titled Tourism Beaches Funding, was received by the County from Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

Certain parks in Brevard are Tourism Parks with Premium Amenities, such as Lifeguards, showers, bathrooms, playgrounds etc. These parks are more expensive to maintain and are a burden to Brevard County residents as well on the local cities (like Cocoa Beach, Lori Wilson) to provide Fire/Police services. These beaches are important to generating tourism revenue - to attract visitors - including those watching launches from the beach parks. The issue is Brevard County is giving away the Tax-payer paid parks Paid to Cities who then charge for parking - this is not a good solution. This creates double taxation because we pay for parks and recreation in our tax bill. Then as more cities have acquired over the years, former County parks, we have multiple taxation at each park. The Tourism Tax is now paying for lifeguards :) but the Beach Fund is being misused for Natural Resources expenses! instead of beach parks per state statute.

Citizen Recommendation:

TDC Beach Fund should be appropriately funding our county owned "Tourism Beaches" Capital Projects and maintenance - as defined by the county own beaches with lifeguard services. This would give these beaches dedicated funding and ease the burden on Parks budget. Of course, the Beach Fund also helps fund sand renourishment.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER is recommending that Tourism Development pay for some parks that have lifeguards. This topic has come up several times in the last few years, but never gained any traction with the Board of County Commissioners. Most parks do not have a very high percentage of tourists in them, even beach parks. The highest by far is Lori Wilson Park which is at 45% out-of-county visitors and the maintenance for this park is already paid for by the Tourism Development Office.



Tourism Development Department

150 Cocoa Isles Blvd.
St. 401
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

We have compiled a list of all County-owned parks with lifeguard services as stated in the citizen recommendation (below) and show the expenses and revenues related to those parks. If the Tourism Office were to pay the portion allowed by state statute, based on the percentage of out-of-county visitors, it would only amount to \$82,340.47 out of \$408,683.52 in net expenses.

Name of Park	% of Out of County Visitors	District	Total Expense	Total Revenue	Delta	Potential TDT Contribution
Cherie Down Park	34%	2	\$76,235.87	\$563.68	\$75,672.19	\$25,728.54
Howard E. Futch Memorial Park	17%	5	\$226,047.43	\$30,260.62	\$195,786.81	\$33,283.76
Spessard Holland North & South	17%	3	\$143,375.12	\$6,150.60	\$137,224.52	\$23,328.17
		Total	\$445,658.42	\$36,974.90	\$408,683.52	\$82,340.47

*Data is from Datafy which looks at domestic cellular devices where people are using GPS enabled apps. Fiscal Year 2025 Actuals.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026054 as it does not provide for the enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of County government and would have a significant impact on Beach Fund projects like beach renourishment, which has been established as a priority for the County.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:27 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026055



Recommendation # 2026055

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026055 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026055
Recommendation Title	Public Records Requests Transparency
Areas Affected	Transparency and Efficiency
Department Affected	COUNTY ATTORNEY

Current problem

Tranparency is indicative of good governance. All Public Record Records (PRRs) ALREADY fulfilled under Sunshine are free to anyone that asks. Unfortunately, we do not know if someone has already done a records request for the information we want. It would save on staff time (for duplicating work), if all records requests fulfilled were online and searchable like Miami/Dade. Look at Miami/Dade with all their Public Records Requests online. Simply download the file for record.
[https://miamidadecounty.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/\(S\(ickxi44dtsqosvrp4a1xdoev\)\)/OpenRecordsSummary.aspx?view=1&sSessionID=](https://miamidadecounty.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(ickxi44dtsqosvrp4a1xdoev))/OpenRecordsSummary.aspx?view=1&sSessionID=)

Recommendation

Subscribe to <https://granicus.com/product/govqa/> for public records requests online for Transparency and efficiency.

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026055

CEER #2026055, titled *Public Records Requests Transparency*, was received by the County from Ms. Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

Transparency is indicative of good governance. All Public Record Records (PRRs) ALREADY fulfilled under Sunshine are free to anyone that asks. Unfortunately, we do not know if someone has already done a records request for the information we want. It would save on staff time (for duplicating work), if all records requests fulfilled were online and searchable like Miami/Dade. Look at Miami/Dade with all their Public Records Requests online. Simply download the file for record. [https://miamidadecounty.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/\(S\(ickxi44dtsqosvrp4a1xdoev\)\)/OpenRecordsSummary.aspx?view=1&sSessionID=](https://miamidadecounty.govqa.us/WEBAPP/_rs/(S(ickxi44dtsqosvrp4a1xdoev))/OpenRecordsSummary.aspx?view=1&sSessionID=)

Citizen Recommendation:

Subscribe to <https://granicus.com/product/govqa/> for public records requests online for Transparency and efficiency.

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that Brevard County subscribe to the Granicus GovQA software (now known as Granicus Records Request Management). The recommendation does not identify a funding source or cite any increased efficiencies sufficient to offset the significant subscription costs. According to currently available information, for a jurisdiction the size of Brevard County, first-year costs generally range from \$450,000 to \$1,300,000, which includes implementation, while subsequent annual renewals typically settle between \$350,000 and \$800,000, with automatic annual price increases and data allotments that can result in additional fees if records exceed the allotted amount.

The CEER asserts that someone requesting public records from Brevard County “do not know if someone has already done a records request for the information we want.” That is not accurate, as a requestor may always inquire whether a previous request has been submitted for the same records. Moreover, as explained in more detail in the response to CEER #2026060, the County receives relatively few repeat records requests, with most requests being “unique” in nature (specific to a particular property, person, matter, occurrence, or transaction).

Making responses to previous records requests available online would require ensuring that all documents comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, which can be a time-consuming and costly endeavor. Further, extra consideration would need to be given to review and redaction of documents if all fulfilled public records requests were made available to the public online. For example, the County routinely receives property-related records requests from property owners whose home address is exempt from public disclosure. An unredacted copy of the record may be given to the property owner, but it would need to be redacted before being made available to the public on the County’s website to prevent inadvertent disclosure of exempt records.

Moreover, statutory exemptions and provisions of confidentiality are extensive and change frequently. On one day a public record placed on the internet would meet the requirements of the law; however, on a later day, information contained in the same public record might be deemed confidential or exempt. This means that County staff would need to constantly review all the past public records responses placed on the internet for continued compliance with then-current law.

Finally, it should be noted that the County received the virtually identical CEER #2024038 from the same citizen in 2024 (less this year’s specific recommendation to purchase the Granicus GovQA software). The Board voted unanimously to reject the CEER.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026055 as it is inconsistent with the Board’s prior rejection of a virtually identical CEER submitted in 2024, and because it would not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County

Government as contemplated by Section 2.9.10 of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026056

Recommendation # 2026056

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026056 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026056
Recommendation Title	Moratorium on Glyphosate
Areas Affected	Several depts
Department Affected	
Current problem	The problem is the economic impact to Brevard on the loss of seagrass in the Lagoon. In 2024, Brevard stopped spraying glyphosate where it drains to the lagoon following my 2023 Speak up Brevard submission and the scientific evidence on this issue. This moratorium should be formalized and studied scientifically since following this stopping spraying seagrass recovery in 2025 is encouraging from this change. HB981 (Nov 2010) is what killed the seagrass in the lagoon. The seagrass looked as good as 1943 aerals in 2010. The sewage didn't change. The muck didn't change. The septic didn't change. What changed in 2011 was spraying herbicides. This SJRWMD timeline shows you the impact. https://www.facebook.com/groups/wavesaction/posts/4127612310902622/
Recommendation	The recommendation is for a Moratorium for 2 years on the spraying of glyphosate or herbicide in any area near the IRL or that drains to the IRL to evaluate the impact. Unfortunately, currently Florida Statute 487.051(2) preempts cities and counties from enacting any regulations restricting the use of pesticides including herbicide. This recommendation will save the county billions in restoration to the lagoon :)



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) # 2026056

CEER # 2026056, titled Moratorium on Glyphosate, was received by the County from Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

The problem is the economic impact to Brevard on the loss of seagrass in the Lagoon. In 2024, Brevard stopped spraying glyphosate where it drains to the lagoon following my 2023 Speak up Brevard submission and the scientific evidence on this issue. This moratorium should be formalized and studied scientifically since following this stopping spraying seagrass recovery in 2025 is encouraging from this change. HB981 (Nov 2010) is what killed the seagrass in the lagoon. The seagrass looked as good as 1943 aerials in 2010. The sewage didn't change. The muck didn't change. The septic didn't change. What changed in 2011 was spraying herbicides. This SJRWMD timeline shows you the impact.

Citizen Recommendation:

The recommendation is for a Moratorium for 2 years on the spraying of glyphosate or herbicide in any area near the IRL or that drains to the IRL to evaluate the impact. Unfortunately, currently Florida Statute 487.051(2) preempts cities and counties from enacting any regulations restricting the use of pesticides including herbicide.

Staff Analysis:

According to Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Sr Environmental Scientist at St Johns River Water Management District, who presented to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) in March 2022, it would take 6.2 million pounds of glyphosate to reach the lowest recommended dose for killing plants (0.01 pounds per gallon) in the Banana River Lagoon. That would equate to 18% of all glyphosate used in the United States over the past 30 years. The Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon would require even more glyphosate to cause an impact to seagrass. That portion of Dr.

Main Line: (321) 633-2016

Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

Jacoby's presentation can be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QwjmV188nII&t=4600s>.

According to the U.S. State Department, glyphosate has an effective life expectancy of 7-10 weeks in water due to microbial degradation. Thus, based on Dr Jacoby's calculations, glyphosate levels wouldn't accumulate to concentrations in the lagoon capable of killing seagrass.

To further support this, Dr. Austin Fox reported to the SOIRL COC in July 2023 that controlled experiments on seagrass showed no changes in seagrass at glyphosate concentrations that were 1,000 times what is found in the Indian River Lagoon. That portion of Dr. Fox's presentation can be found at
<https://www.youtube.com/live/2MUcbtsK93w?t=2467s>.

Florida Statute 487.051(2) states, "Except as provided in chapters 373, 376, 388, 403, and 482, or as otherwise provided by law, no agency, commission, department, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state may adopt laws, regulations, rules, or policies pertaining to pesticides, including their registration, packaging, labeling, distribution, sale, or use, except that local jurisdictions may adopt or enforce an ordinance pertaining to pesticides if that ordinance is in the area of occupational license taxes, building and zoning regulations, disposal or spillage of pesticides within a water well zone, or pesticide safety regulations relating to containment at the storage site.

Therefore, Brevard County cannot impose a moratorium on herbicide use; however, it has chosen to regulate itself to reduce glyphosate use. The SOIRL program has provided funding to Brevard County, Melbourne Tillman Water Control District and municipalities to implement vegetation harvesting programs. Brevard County Natural Resources has switched almost all of its control of invasive aquatic weeds in over 400 acres of stormwater ponds and wetlands from herbicides to vegetation harvesting. The county has looked into the 6 alternative herbicides permitted for emergent and floating vegetation, many of which have other concerns to human and wildlife health. Raleigh Berry, Senior Environmental Scientist with Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department, covered some of this during the July 2023 COC meeting, viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/live/2MUcbtsK93w?t=6158s>. While plants continue to build up resistance to herbicides, glyphosate performs relatively consistently.

Brevard County Public Works stopped using glyphosate in ditches within a half-mile of the lagoon more than 5 years ago. At the same time, Natural Resources and Mosquito Control reduced their use of glyphosate county-wide to about 5-10 gallons/year, which is used only for sites posing human health or safety concerns with no feasible alternative for weed control. Municipalities in Brevard have also been reducing their use of glyphosate. A multi-jurisdictional discussion of lessons learned from experience

using alternatives to glyphosate was conducted during the July 2023 COC meeting to help inform future management decisions by all local jurisdictions.

Mosquito Control employs an integrated mosquito management program which utilizes various habitat management (impounded wetland management), biological control (native fish hatchery/ stocking) and cultural control (public education) techniques to protect public health, but US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved pesticides ultimately are necessary to support the public health mission, and invasive aquatic vegetation control is one of those important tools. Local mosquitoes are known to utilize the shelter of aquatic vegetation during their immature (i.e., larval and pupal) life stages; and invasive aquatic plant species have the capacity to provide significant mosquito breeding habitat when given the opportunity to clog waterways and grow out of control. Glyphosate is known to be effective at controlling such aquatic vegetation, so completely removing it from the rotation could negatively impact public health due to potential increases in mosquitoes and associated disease risk. Nevertheless, Mosquito Control has taken steps to reduce glyphosate usage, particularly in areas adjacent to the Lagoon.

Alternative herbicide products and methods are limited. Invasive aquatic vegetation and associated mosquitoes have become more difficult to manage when glyphosate usage has been reduced. Alternative products have not been more cost-effective thus far.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026056 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026056

Recommendation # 2026056

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026056 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026056
Recommendation Title	Moratorium on Glyphosate
Areas Affected	Several depts
Department Affected	
Current problem	The problem is the economic impact to Brevard on the loss of seagrass in the Lagoon. In 2024, Brevard stopped spraying glyphosate where it drains to the lagoon following my 2023 Speak up Brevard submission and the scientific evidence on this issue. This moratorium should be formalized and studied scientifically since following this stopping spraying seagrass recovery in 2025 is encouraging from this change. HB981 (Nov 2010) is what killed the seagrass in the lagoon. The seagrass looked as good as 1943 aerals in 2010. The sewage didn't change. The muck didn't change. The septic didn't change. What changed in 2011 was spraying herbicides. This SJRWMD timeline shows you the impact. https://www.facebook.com/groups/wavesaction/posts/4127612310902622/
Recommendation	The recommendation is for a Moratorium for 2 years on the spraying of glyphosate or herbicide in any area near the IRL or that drains to the IRL to evaluate the impact. Unfortunately, currently Florida Statute 487.051(2) preempts cities and counties from enacting any regulations restricting the use of pesticides including herbicide. This recommendation will save the county billions in restoration to the lagoon :)



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Virginia Barker, Director, Natural Resources Management Dept.

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) # 2026056

CEER # 2026056, titled Moratorium on Glyphosate, was received by the County from Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

The problem is the economic impact to Brevard on the loss of seagrass in the Lagoon. In 2024, Brevard stopped spraying glyphosate where it drains to the lagoon following my 2023 Speak up Brevard submission and the scientific evidence on this issue. This moratorium should be formalized and studied scientifically since following this stopping spraying seagrass recovery in 2025 is encouraging from this change. HB981 (Nov 2010) is what killed the seagrass in the lagoon. The seagrass looked as good as 1943 aerials in 2010. The sewage didn't change. The muck didn't change. The septic didn't change. What changed in 2011 was spraying herbicides. This SJRWMD timeline shows you the impact.

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Staff Analysis:

According to Dr. Chuck Jacoby, Sr Environmental Scientist at St Johns River Water Management District, who presented to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen Oversight Committee (COC) in March 2022, it would take 6.2 million pounds of glyphosate to reach the lowest recommended dose for killing plants (0.01 pounds per gallon) in the Banana River Lagoon. That would equate to 18% of all glyphosate used in the United States over the past 30 years. The Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon would require even more glyphosate to cause an impact to seagrass. That portion of Dr.

Main Line: (321) 633-2016

Website: Brevardfl.gov/NaturalResources

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According to the U.S. State Department, glyphosate has an effective life expectancy of 7-10 weeks in water due to microbial degradation. Thus, based on Dr Jacoby's calculations, glyphosate levels wouldn't accumulate to concentrations in the lagoon capable of killing seagrass.

To further support this, Dr. Austin Fox reported to the SOIRL COC in July 2023 that controlled experiments on seagrass showed no changes in seagrass at glyphosate concentrations that were 1,000 times what is found in the Indian River Lagoon. That portion of Dr. Fox's presentation can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/live/2MUcbtsK93w?t=2467s>.

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Therefore, Brevard County cannot impose a moratorium on herbicide use; however, it has chosen to regulate itself to reduce glyphosate use. The SOIRL program has provided funding to Brevard County, Melbourne Tillman Water Control District and municipalities to implement vegetation harvesting programs. Brevard County Natural Resources has switched almost all of its control of invasive aquatic weeds in over 400 acres of stormwater ponds and wetlands from herbicides to vegetation harvesting. The county has looked into the 6 alternative herbicides permitted for emergent and floating vegetation, many of which have other concerns to human and wildlife health. Raleigh Berry, Senior Environmental Scientist with Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department, covered some of this during the July 2023 COC meeting, viewable at <https://www.youtube.com/live/2MUcbtsK93w?t=6158s>. While plants continue to build up resistance to herbicides, glyphosate performs relatively consistently.

Brevard County Public Works stopped using glyphosate in ditches within a half-mile of the lagoon more than 5 years ago. At the same time, Natural Resources and Mosquito Control reduced their use of glyphosate county-wide to about 5-10 gallons/year, which is used only for sites posing human health or safety concerns with no feasible alternative for weed control. Municipalities in Brevard have also been reducing their use of glyphosate. A multi-jurisdictional discussion of lessons learned from experience

using alternatives to glyphosate was conducted during the July 2023 COC meeting to help inform future management decisions by all local jurisdictions.

Mosquito Control employs an integrated mosquito management program which utilizes various habitat management (impounded wetland management), biological control (native fish hatchery/ stocking) and cultural control (public education) techniques to protect public health, but US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved pesticides ultimately are necessary to support the public health mission, and invasive aquatic vegetation control is one of those important tools. Local mosquitoes are known to utilize the shelter of aquatic vegetation during their immature (i.e., larval and pupal) life stages; and invasive aquatic plant species have the capacity to provide significant mosquito breeding habitat when given the opportunity to clog waterways and grow out of control. Glyphosate is known to be effective at controlling such aquatic vegetation, so completely removing it from the rotation could negatively impact public health due to potential increases in mosquitoes and associated disease risk. Nevertheless, Mosquito Control has taken steps to reduce glyphosate usage, particularly in areas adjacent to the Lagoon.

Alternative herbicide products and methods are limited. Invasive aquatic vegetation and associated mosquitoes have become more difficult to manage when glyphosate usage has been reduced. Alternative products have not been more cost-effective thus far.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026056 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government required by Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 3:49 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026057

Recommendation # 2026057

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026057 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	WAVESaction
Name	Sandra Sullivan
Address	165 Dorset Lane, South Patrick Shores FL 32937
Phone	(954) 224-8624
Email	s2sully@gmail.com
Alternate Email	s2sully@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026057

Recommendation Title Parks Boards Better Efficiency

Areas Affected Parks Dept

Department Affected Parks And Recreation Department

Current problem I am requesting efficiency with the Parks and Rec Boards. We have north, south and central boards - and then we have a bunch more - a real hodgepodge. They need to be cleaned up as wasteful staff time. Here are the referendum for the parks tax and debt:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wavesaction/posts/3971035803226941/>

Recommendation There should only be north, south and central boards reflecting the organization of the Tax money. There should be a chance for "alternative members" to make it easier for these boards to make quorum. Further, the ordinance for these referendum taxes does NOT include these boards as is customary - so requesting the ordinance be updated. These referendum parks debt is now paid off and the county is in maintenance only. There should be citizen board representation on recommendations for prioritization of funding in each parks area with the commissioners with the final vote Here are the ordinances and referendums :
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13b_U10262rwKD7NQteG5pDajFUoAjDEk?usp=drive_link

Attachments

No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Ian Golden, Director
Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026057

CEER #2026057, titled Parks Boards Better Efficiency, was received by the County from Sandra Sullivan.

Citizen Statement:

"I am requesting efficiency with the Parks and Rec Boards. We have north, south and central boards - and then we have a bunch more - a real hodgepodge. They need to be cleaned up as wasteful staff time. Here are the referendum for the parks tax and debt:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wavesaction/posts/3971035803226941/>"

Citizen Recommendation:

"There should only be north, south and central boards reflecting the organization of the Tax money. There should be a chance for "alternative members" to make it easier for these boards to make quorum. Further, the ordinance for these referendum taxes does NOT include these boards as is customary - so requesting the ordinance be updated. These referendum parks debt is now paid off and the county is in maintenance only. There should be citizen board representation on recommendations for prioritization of funding in each parks area with the commissioners with the final vote Here are the ordinances and referendums :

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13b_U10262rwKD7NQteG5pDajFUoAjDEk?usp=drive_link"

Staff Analysis:

The Parks and Recreation Department has five advisory boards: the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation, the Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the South Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Brevard County Recreation District IV Recreation Board, and the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee.

The North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation was created by Resolution and Ordinance by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Titusville City Council, and the Brevard County School Board in order to include the incorporated residents of Titusville within the North Brevard Metropolitan Service Taxing Unit (MSTU). There are currently nine members (four representing the County, four representing the City, and one representing the School Board). Making any changes to this Board would require all three

agencies to agree to change their existing resolutions and/or ordinances, negotiate and agree on new language, and then ratify those changes in new ordinances and/or resolutions. This Board has had no issues with quorum.

The Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the South Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board were created by County Resolution 2025-016. This resolution eliminated a single South/Central Advisory Board with 15 members, which had quorum issues, created two new Boards (South and Central) with seven members each, and aligned both new advisory boards with Chapter 2, Article VI, Division 4 (Uniform Advisory Board) of the Brevard County Code of Ordinances (Code), which governs all advisory boards established by the Board of County Commissioners. Since the establishment of the new advisory boards there have been no quorum issues.

The Brevard County Recreation District IV Recreation Board was created by an act of the Florida Legislature, which also identified that it “...*shall be administered by a recreation board consisting of the acting administrative director of Brevard County and the acting city managers of all municipalities located within the recreation district.*” Changes to the composition, per the associated law, would require “...*agreement by the board of county commissioners of Brevard County and the governing bodies of all municipalities located within the recreation district...*”. This Board has had no issues with quorum.

The Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL) Selection and Management Committee (SMS) was established in 1990 as an expert scientific advisory committee to the Board of County Commissioners and to EEL staff on all issues involving the acquisition and management of environmentally endangered lands within the EEL Program protected area network. The SMC was created in coordination with the original referendum for EEL funding and has alternate members. This Board has had no issues with quorum.

These Advisory Boards allow for citizen oversight and participation (including prioritization of funding) for every Special District and Municipal Services Taxing District associated with the Parks and Recreation Department. Their input is gathered and each area’s final budget is approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026057.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 7:06 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026058

Recommendation # 2026058

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026058 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name SARAH K HODGE
Address 390 SANDERS LN, MERRITT ISLAND FL 32953
Phone (321) 452-3340
Email sarahkiserhodge@gmail.com
Alternate Email billhodge@juno.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026058

Recommendation Title Expand Transparency for Public Records

Areas Affected Public Records - Ordinances, Resolutions and AO's

Department Affected COUNTY ATTORNEY

Current problem Residents do not have easy access to review Brevard County's administrative orders, ordinances, and resolutions. Currently, residents seeking this information must either submit a public records request to county staff or search the County's Municode, which is organized primarily by subject matter and does not provide straightforward access to individual administrative orders or resolutions by number or adoption date. While Municode serves an important role for codified law, it does not provide document-level access to the County's administrative orders, ordinances or standalone resolutions as adopted. As a result, residents face unnecessary barriers when attempting to understand County policy or administrative actions, and County staff time is expended responding to avoidable public records requests for documents that already exist in organized, numbered form internally and available only to county staff. The attached slide illustrates this gap by showing that County employees have access to a structured internal webpage listing Board of County Commissioners (BCC) actions and Administrative Orders (AOs), while no comparable public-facing access exists for residents.

Recommendation Brevard County should make its administrative orders, ordinances, and resolutions available on the County's public-facing website in a searchable and indexed format, consistent with how this information is already maintained internally for employee access. This could be accomplished by providing a read-only public version of existing document listings, including document numbers, titles, adoption dates, and associated attachments. Comparable practices already exist elsewhere in Florida. For example, the City of Panama City maintains separate public webpages allowing residents to directly access administrative orders, resolutions, and ordinances as individual documents: Administrative Orders: <https://www.pcbfl.gov/government/city-council/administrative-orders> Resolutions: <https://www.pcbfl.gov/government/city-council/resolutions> Ordinances: <https://www.pcbfl.gov/government/city-council/ordinances> Similarly, Miami-Dade County provides a public document repository that allows residents to browse and download ordinances and resolutions directly through its administrative records system: <https://documents.miamigov.com/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=715952&dbid=0&repo=Administration> Additionally, the Brevard Public Schools School Board makes its governing policies publicly available online in a searchable, indexed format, allowing residents to independently review adopted policies without submitting public records requests: <https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/brevco/Board.nsf/Public> This recommendation reflects Brevard County's stated Mission, Vision, and Core Values, which emphasize openness, accountability, innovation, and maximizing performance and communications to provide excellent service to residents. Brevard County Mission: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/CountyCommission/CountyMission> Providing easier public access to foundational County documents supports these values by improving transparency while adding efficiency through reducing staff time spent responding to routine public records requests, enabling residents to independently locate and review County actions without specialized knowledge or staff assistance. Making these materials publicly available aligns Brevard County's public records practices with its internal operations, strengthens public trust, and furthers the County's mission to enhance quality of life through effective communication and accountable governance.

Attachments No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026058

CEER #2026058, titled *Public Records – Ordinances, Resolutions and AO's*, was received by the County from Ms. Sarah K. Hodge.

Citizen Statement:

Residents do not have easy access to review Brevard County's administrative orders, ordinances, and resolutions. Currently, residents seeking this information must either submit a public records request to county staff or search the County's Municode, which is organized primarily by subject matter and does not provide straightforward access to individual administrative orders or resolutions by number or adoption date. While Municode serves an important role for codified law, it does not provide document-level access to the County's administrative orders, ordinances or standalone resolutions as adopted. As a result, residents face unnecessary barriers when attempting to understand County policy or administrative actions, and County staff time is expended responding to avoidable public records requests for documents that already exist in organized, numbered form internally and available only to county staff. The attached slide illustrates this gap by showing that County employees have access to a structured internal webpage listing Board of County Commissioners (BCC) actions and Administrative Orders (AOs), while no comparable public-facing access exists for residents. [No slide or other documents were attached to the CEER submittal].

Citizen Recommendation:

Brevard County should make its administrative orders, ordinances, and resolutions available on the County's public-facing website in a searchable and indexed format, consistent with how this information is already maintained internally for employee access. This could be accomplished by providing a read-only public version of existing document listings, including document numbers, titles, adoption dates, and associated attachments. Comparable practices already exist elsewhere in Florida. For example, the City of Panama City maintains separate public webpages allowing residents to directly access administrative orders, resolutions, and ordinances as

*individual documents: Administrative Orders: <https://www.pcbfl.gov/government/city-council/administrative-orders>
Resolutions: <https://www.pcbfl.gov/government/city-council/resolutions>
Ordinances: <https://www.pcbfl.gov/government/city-council/ordinances>
Similarly, Miami-Dade County provides a public document repository that allows residents to browse and download ordinances and resolutions directly through its administrative records system: <https://documents.miamigov.com/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=715952&dbid=0&repo=Administration> Additionally, the Brevard Public Schools School Board makes its governing policies publicly available online in a searchable, indexed format, allowing residents to independently review adopted policies without submitting public records requests: <https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/brevco/Board.nsf/Public> This recommendation reflects Brevard County's stated Mission, Vision, and Core Values, which emphasize openness, accountability, innovation, and maximizing performance and communications to provide excellent service to residents. Brevard County Mission: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/CountyCommission/CountyMission> Providing easier public access to foundational County documents supports these values by improving transparency while adding efficiency through reducing staff time spent responding to routine public records requests, enabling residents to independently locate and review County actions without specialized knowledge or staff assistance. Making these materials publicly available aligns Brevard County's public records practices with its internal operations, strengthens public trust, and furthers the County's mission to enhance quality of life through effective communication and accountable governance.*

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that Brevard County make its administrative orders, ordinances, and resolutions available on the County's public-facing website in a searchable and indexed format, consistent with how this information is already maintained internally for employee access.

In placing records online, the County prioritizes records that will be of wide applicability or interest to many people. While the County Attorney recommends that ordinances, resolutions, and administrative orders be made accessible online in due course, the records are readily available upon requests already, and the County receives very few requests for these records. The public is not exactly clamoring for uncodified ordinances, resolutions, and administrative orders. Brevard County receives about a dozen requests for records in these categories annually.

The CEER suggests that placing these records online will be a simple matter of making documents that are currently accessible to internal users public facing on the internet. This ignores the fact that these documents, numbering in the thousands, have not been maintained in a format that is compliant with current requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Among other things, the records would need to be made compliant and searchable. This comes with significant opportunity costs and would benefit very few people, rendering the recommendation neither efficient nor effective.

Ordinances

On average, the County receives about eight (8) public records requests per year for ordinances. Brevard County maintains an internal searchable database of over 2,400 ordinances dating back to 1969, with annual indexes beginning in 1990. As a result, public records requests for a specific ordinance can be provided at no charge to the requestor.

County ordinances of general applicability are codified and available online through Municode. Municode is organized by subject, but it is also searchable by word, phrase, and ordinance number. Not all ordinances are codified – for example, ordinances affecting the future land use map or zoning for a specific property are not incorporated into the Brevard County Code of Ordinances. However, changes to the land use and zoning of properties are updated on interactive maps available on the County's website.

Moreover, ordinance indexes dating back to 1998 are available to the public through the Clerk of Court's website here: www.brevardclerk.us/ordinance-resolution-list. If a person wants an uncoded ordinance, they can locate it using these indexes and then request the ordinance through a public records request.

While the County Attorney recommends that all ordinances eventually be made available online, making the existing PDF documents fully ADA compliant and developing a public-facing search utility is a high effort endeavor that will only marginally benefit a very small number of people, and thus is neither efficient nor effective.

Resolutions

On average, the County receives about three (3) public records requests per year for resolutions. Unlike ordinances, Brevard County does not maintain resolutions in an indexed, searchable database. Resolution indexes dating back to 1999, but not the resolutions themselves, are available to the public through the Clerk to the Board here: www.brevardclerk.us/ordinance-resolution-list.

While the County Attorney recommends that resolutions eventually be made available online, compiling resolutions that are not currently maintained in one location, making the existing documents fully ADA compliant, and developing a public-facing search utility will require even more effort than doing so for ordinances, will benefit even fewer people, and thus is neither efficient nor effective.

Administrative Orders

In Brevard County government, administrative orders are directives issued by the County Manager to staff to establish a specified system within a function, provide a systematic method of accomplishing a task, implement a Board policy, or define responsibilities, interfaces, and actions within and between County departments and groups. Unsurprisingly, Brevard County administrative orders are not of great interest to the general public. On average, the County receives less than two (2) public records requests per year for administrative orders (a total of 14 requests over the last eight years). Administrative orders should require significantly less effort to make public-facing online than ordinances and resolutions, because there are far fewer of them than ordinances, and unlike resolutions they are maintained in one location. Still, it is difficult to recommend prioritizing even this lesser effort given the lack of interest.

Making internal administrative orders available online will benefit virtually no one and thus is neither efficient nor effective.

Conclusion

Because of the very small number of people who would benefit from this CEER as demonstrated by the minimal public records requests for ordinances, resolutions, and

administrative orders, the recommendation is akin to a service request and is not an appropriate subject for a CEER. County staff will continue making records accessible online in a manner and at such time that the monetary and opportunity costs will be proportional to the public benefit.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026058 because it would not enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of County Government as contemplated by Section 2.9.10 of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 8:35 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026059

Recommendation # 2026059

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026059 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	T. Alexandra Mott
Address	4899 Wexford Dr., Rockledge FL 32955
Phone	(321) 223-6951
Email	terrymott93@gmail.com
Alternate Email	terrymott93@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026059
Recommendation Title	Speak Up Brevard Workshop 2026
Areas Affected	An educational program
Department Affected	
Current problem	Civic engagement
Recommendation	As a former manager for the federal government and a former long-term Board member for my HOA in Brevard, it's been my experience that a lot of time and money can be saved when citizens understand how their government works and are encouraged to be civically engaged in the process. And when this happens, the value of the connections made and the long-term benefits to a community's overall health and welfare and quality of life are almost immeasurable. For these reasons, I'm writing to ask that the County Commission conduct another Speak Up Brevard Workshop in 2026. For Susan.
Attachments	No Documents were attached.

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.



County Manager's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Director of Communications

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026059

CEER #2026059, titled Speak Up Brevard Workshop 2026, was received by the County from T. Alexandra Mott.

Citizen Statement:

Civic engagement

Citizen Recommendation:

As a former manager for the federal government and a former long-term Board member for my HOA in Brevard, it's been my experience that a lot of time and money can be saved when citizens understand how their government works and are encouraged to be civically engaged in the process. And when this happens, the value of the connections made and the long-term benefits to a community's overall health and welfare and quality of life are almost immeasurable. For these reasons, I'm writing to ask that the County Commission conduct another Speak Up Brevard Workshop in 2026. For Susan.

Staff Analysis:

An educated and informed public is a valuable resource. To help our citizens better understand their local government, the UF/IFAS Extension Services offers an annual Citizens Academy in the spring, with presentation from many departments and Charter offices to encourage our community to be engaged in our County government.

There were 61 Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness recommendations received during this year's Speak Up Brevard Campaign. This program was initiated by County Charter in 2008 during a recession and was intended to generate recommendations from citizens on ways the County could operate more efficiently and effectively. As indicated under County Charter Section 2.9.10., the Board of County Commissioners shall develop procedures that will provide a mechanism for an individual, or an organized group of individuals to submit a formal written recommendation for the enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of County



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

government to the County Commission on an annual basis. The County Commission's procedures shall include the following provisions:

- (a) **An Annual filing date;**
- (b) **The written recommendations shall be reviewed by the County Commission, and following the review, the County Commission shall vote to either accept the recommendation, accept the recommendation with revisions, or reject the recommendation, and**
- (c) **The County Commissioners' final vote and consideration of the recommendation shall occur no later than 120 days after the receipt of the written recommendation.**

On Feb. 10, 2026, The Board of County Commissioners considered Item J.2. 2026 Susan B. Connolly Speak Up Brevard Workshop for commissioners to hear citizen effectiveness and efficiency recommendations: Following discussion, the Board voted 4-1 (D2 against) to allow citizens who provided CEER recommendations to address the Board at an upcoming meeting (April/May timeframe); to make the Speak Up Brevard agenda item time certain (so that participants won't have to sit through other agenda items if desired); and to extend speaker time to 5 minutes, instead of the typical three minute public comment period.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026059 based on the Feb. 10 action taken by the Board. On Feb. 10, 2026, the Board voted 4-1 to implement a time certain CEER presentation period for those who made recommendations to address the Board at its May 5, 2026 meeting.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 9:42 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026060

Recommendation # 2026060

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026060 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name SARAH K HODGE
Address 390 SANDERS LN, MERRITT ISLAND FL 32953
Phone (321) 452-3340
Email sarahkiserhodge@gmail.com
Alternate Email billhodge@juno.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026060
Recommendation Title Review Frequently Requested Public Records to Improve Online Access
Areas Affected Public Records - Repeatedly Requested Documents
Department Affected COUNTY ATTORNEY
Current problem County staff regularly respond to public records requests for a wide range of documents. Over time, staff gain practical insight into which types of records residents ask for most often. However, there is currently no regular process for reviewing these requests to determine whether some information could be made easier for residents to find on the County's website. Without a routine efficiency review, residents will continue submitting requests for information that could potentially be accessed online, and staff will continue spending time responding to repeat requests that could be reduced through improved public access. The County's public records webpage primarily provides email addresses for multiple agencies public records, a list of county departments and an online form for submitting records requests (<https://www.brevardfl.gov/PublicRecordsRequest>). However, the webpage does not currently provide tools or guidance that allow residents to independently locate commonly requested public records without submitting a special request.
Recommendation The County should establish a routine review of public records requests to identify opportunities to improve online access to commonly requested information and to

streamline the overall user experience for residents seeking public records. This review would not require a herculean effort, could occur on a quarterly or biannual basis and would focus on evaluating whether certain types of records - beyond those already posted or under review - could be made available on the County's website. An example of 3 categories of records that could be made available - resolutions, administrative orders and ordinances - is referenced in CEER #2026058. In addition, a significant amount of County records are currently stored on the County's Legistar website meeting calendar. Clear guidance on the County's public records webpage directing residents to reference Legistar as a searchable resource for County records and agenda materials would help inform residents of publicly available materials. A brief, high-level summary of any access improvements resulting from these reviews could be included annually in the County's budget book as part of the County Attorney's annual performance updates. The most recent FY2025-26 budget book states that records request improvements have been initiated but did not list the improvements. If the number of annual records requests is reduced (the number of requests was 1,988 in 2024), the County Attorney could credit efficiencies gained through optimizing the county website access and user interface. This CEER recommendation aligns with Brevard County's Mission and Core Values - particularly openness, accountability, innovation, and maximizing performance and communications to provide excellent service to residents.
<https://www.brevardfl.gov/CountyCommission/CountyMission>

Attachments

Brevard County Mission, Vision and Values.pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Brevard County Mission, Vision, Values

Our Mission: Contribute to enhancing and ensuring Brevard's quality of life today and always.

Our Vision: A community which excels and is recognized for

- Providing for the health, safety, education and social needs of our community
- Building a diverse, strong economic base with the needed infrastructure to support a quality lifestyle
- Protecting the environment and conserving our valuable natural resources
- Creating cooperative partnerships between government, businesses, community organizations and our residents
- Maximizing performance and communications to provide excellent service to our customers

Our Core Values:

- Honesty
- Openness
- Leadership
- Quality
- Accountability and
- Innovation

County Charter 
District 1 
District 2 
District 3 
District 4 
District 5 
County Government Organizational Chart
County Mission
County Commissioners FAQ
Internal Audit Reports
Redistricting Committee

Links of Interest

Board Meetings 
District Map 
Legal Ads and Public Notices 
Lobbyist Search and Registration 
Ordinances 



County Attorney's Office
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 308
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
FROM: Morris Richardson, County Attorney 
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026060

CEER #2026060, titled *Public Records – Repeatedly Requested Documents*, was received by the County from Ms. Sarah K. Hodge.

Citizen Statement:

County staff regularly respond to public records requests for a wide range of documents. Over time, staff gain practical insight into which types of records residents ask for most often. However, there is currently no regular process for reviewing these requests to determine whether some information could be made easier for residents to find on the County's website. Without a routine efficiency review, residents will continue submitting requests for information that could potentially be accessed online, and staff will continue spending time responding to repeat requests that could be reduced through improved public access. The County's public records webpage primarily provides email addresses for multiple agencies public records, a list of county departments and an online form for submitting records requests (<https://www.brevardfl.gov/PublicRecordsRequest>). However, the webpage does not currently provide tools or guidance that allow residents to independently locate commonly requested public records without submitting a special request.

Citizen Recommendation:

The County should establish a routine review of public records requests to identify opportunities to improve online access to commonly requested information and to streamline the overall user experience for residents seeking public records. This review would not require a herculean effort, could occur on a quarterly or biannual basis and would focus on evaluating whether certain types of records - beyond those already posted or under review - could be made available on the County's website. An example of 3 categories of records that could be made available - resolutions, administrative orders and ordinances - is referenced in CEER #2026058. In addition, a significant amount of County records are currently stored on the County's Legistar website meeting calendar. Clear guidance on the County's public records webpage directing residents to reference Legistar as a searchable resource for County records and agenda materials would

help inform residents of publicly available materials. A brief, high-level summary of any access improvements resulting from these reviews could be included annually in the County's budget book as part of the County Attorney's annual performance updates. The most recent FY2025-26 budget book states that records request improvements have been initiated but did not list the improvements. If the number of annual records requests is reduced (the number of requests was 1,988 in 2024), the County Attorney could credit efficiencies gained through optimizing the county website access and user interface. This CEER recommendation aligns with Brevard County's Mission and Core Values - particularly openness, accountability, innovation, and maximizing performance and communications to provide excellent service to residents.

<https://www.brevardfl.gov/CountyCommission/CountyMission>

Staff Analysis:

This CEER recommends that Brevard County conduct a "routine efficiency review" to identify frequently requested public records, and make those commonly requested public records available online. It further recommends that the County's public records webpage be revised to direct residents to Legistar as a searchable resource for County records and agenda materials that are already available online.

As an initial matter, Brevard County presently makes a veritable treasure trove of records available to the public on the internet. For example, detailed agendas, minutes, and videos of Board of County Commissioners' meetings are readily available online. The Brevard County Code of Ordinances, County budgets, the Comprehensive Plan and various land use studies, interactive maps providing data on future land use and zoning classifications, flood zones, coastal setback and erosion control lines, the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan, and many more records are all easily accessed from Brevard County Government's official website. Brevard's Advance Service Site (BASS) provides immediate access to records related to building permits and Code Enforcement cases. The public may request records online at brevardfl.gov/PublicRecordsRequest, by email at PublicRecordsRequest@BrevardFL.gov, by calling the Public Records Request Coordinator at (321) 633-2071, or in person at the County Attorney's Office located at 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Bldg. C-308, Viera, Florida 32940 or any other Brevard County office.

The main premise of this CEER is flawed because Brevard County does not receive many repetitive requests seeking identical records that readily lend themselves to posting on the internet. If the County received hundreds of requests annually for the same document, it would have been reviewed, redacted as necessary, and made available online already. As noted above, most such “low hanging fruit” (records of interest to many people that can be made available and accessible without undue burden) is already available online.

The County Attorney’s Office regularly reviews public records requests, identifies trends and issues in fulfilling requests, and reviews processes to ensure efficient and effective responses. Our Public Records Request Coordinator routinely communicates with the records custodians for the various departments, and our office provides guidance and training related to records management and public records requests.

Recently, the County Attorney’s Office conducted a study of more than 2,000 public records requests made over a roughly 11-month period. This study, along with polling of department records custodians shows that the most frequent requests are “unique” requests – that is, they relate to a specific property, person, project, occurrence, or transaction. The table below lists in order the seven departments that received the most public records requests, with the most common requests received by each department.

Department	#1 Request	#2 Request	#3 Request	#4 Request
<i>Planning & Development</i>	Code Enforcement Cases	Surveys and Building Permits	Liens	Environmental Site Assessments
<i>Fire Rescue</i>	Environmental Site Assessments	Fire Inspections / Code Violations	Fire Reports	Personnel Records
<i>Public Works</i>	Traffic Signal Timing / Phasing	Right of Way Permits	Intersection Camera Video	Plans (roadway, drainage, etc.)
<i>Natural Resources</i>	SOIRL	Code Enforcement Cases	Environmental Site Assessments	
<i>Utilities</i>	Liens	Utility Maps / As-Builts	Permits / Development	Water shut off / Disconnect
<i>County Attorney</i>	Email Searches	Commissioner Related Requests	County Finance	County Codes
<i>Central Services</i>	Purchase Orders	Vendor Submittals	Contracts from Awarded Vendors	

Some of the common request types sought records that are already available online. For example, Planning and Development and Natural Resources receive large numbers of requests for records related to code enforcement cases. Many of these records may be

searched and retrieved through the online BASS system. Similarly, the Brevard County Code of Ordinances is published online through an agreement with Municode, but the County Attorney's Office still receives public records requests for codified ordinances.

However, most of the common request types listed in the table above require staff research, review, and redaction. Requests for personnel records require review for confidential information that must be redacted pursuant to law, including social security numbers, banking information, and certain addresses. Email searches require formulation of appropriate search criteria, review of the emails returned in response to the search for responsiveness, and redaction of confidential and exempt information. Some building plans and blueprints are exempt from public records requests pursuant to Section 119.071(3)(d), Florida Statutes. Under Section 119.071(1)(b)(2), Florida Statutes, vendor bid submittals are exempt from public records disclosure for a period after the bid opening.

Finally, the CEER recommends that County's public records webpage include information regarding the availability of agenda materials and other records online through Legistar. Legistar is already prominently linked on the main page of the County's website, and agenda materials are not the subject of frequent public records requests. Nonetheless, the County Attorney's Office is reviewing whether information concerning Legistar may be added to the public records webpage without causing confusion or adding unnecessary visual clutter.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026060 with revisions. Specifically, the County Attorney's Office already reviews records requests and responses for efficiency, including identifying frequently requested public records, and will continue to do so. Brevard County already makes commonly requested public records available online when practicable. The County Attorney will consider revising the County's public records webpage to provide directions to Legistar as a searchable resource for certain online County records and agenda materials.

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 11:55 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026061

Recommendation # 2026061

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026061 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Anne Hicks
Address 1870 Long Iron Drive Apt 1205, Viera FL 32955
Phone (919) 928-1690
Email annehicks12@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026061
Recommendation Title Recycling at Cocoa Landfill
Areas Affected
Department Affected Solid Waste Department
Current problem I live at the Greens in Viera. We pay for recycling, and sometimes the containers are full. WM has the Government Center listed as a drop off and is well used by the public. Kevin Smith and I have spoken frequently. He is a great employee. So having an errand in Cocoa, I thought I would swing into the landfill with my 3 grocery bags full. Note: empty gallon jugs take up lots of space. The landfill was farther than I thought, and the recycling bin is at least a mile in, at slow speed, and a mile out.
Recommendation The recycling container should be just inside the gate. As a resident from Viera, with a small vehicle, the time spent was frustrating. For a heavy WM truck to pick up one container once or more per week is not cost effective. The driver's hourly pay and gas is in the fees we all pay to WM. Another benefit would be the surrounding neighborhoods, and maybe some business might recycle more, therefore reducing landfill space. A separate container marked for cardboard only should also be added. Thank you for the Speak Up Brevard program and naming it after Susan.
Attachments No Documents were attached.



Solid Waste Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way

A118

Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Thomas Mulligan, Solid Waste Management Department Director

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026061

CEER #2026061, titled *Recycling at Cocoa Landfill*, was received by the County from Anne Hicks.

Citizen Statement:

I live at the Greens in Viera. We pay for recycling, and sometimes the containers are full. WM has the Government Center listed as a drop off and is well used by the public. Kevin Smith and I have spoken frequently. He is a great employee. So having an errand in Cocoa, I thought I would swing into the landfill with my 3 grocery bags full. Note: empty gallon jugs take up lots of space. The landfill was farther than I thought, and the recycling bin is at least a mile in, at slow speed, and a mile out.

Citizen Recommendation:

The recycling container should be just inside the gate. As a resident from Viera, with a small vehicle, the time spent was frustrating. For a heavy WM truck to pick up one container once or more per week is not cost effective. The driver's hourly pay and gas is in the fees we all pay to WM. Another benefit would be the surrounding neighborhoods, and maybe some business might recycle more, therefore reducing landfill space. A separate container marked for cardboard only should also be added. Thank you for the Speak Up Brevard program and naming it after Susan.

Staff Analysis:

Waste Management is under contractual obligation to provide and maintain the single-stream recycling dumpster at the Central Disposal Facility in Cocoa, located at the Citizen's Drop-Off area. The dumpster has been placed out of main traffic flow, ensuring safe parking and user access, and is monitored by Solid Waste staff to make sure that prohibited, non-recyclable items are not disposed of in the dumpster.

Moving the dumpster to just inside the main entrance of the Central Disposal Facility would place the dumpster in an unmonitored location, which would create the potential for



Solid Waste Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way

A118

Viera, FL 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

prohibited dumping. Placement of non-recyclable items or contamination of the dumpster contents would lead to either an increase in costs to the County or the removal of the dumpster. Locating the dumpster just inside the facility entrance also creates a potential traffic hazard, as there is not a safe place for the dumpster to be sited or for a citizen to safely park their vehicle to use the dumpster.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject CEER #2026061 because it does not enhance the effectiveness or efficiency of County government as required by Home Rule Charter.

I am here to speak about Law Enforcement and FD Encryption

I have 6 items To explain:

1. The Law Enforcement Agencies excuse for encryption and why I think they are wrong.
2. what open & closed transmission does
3. what encryption does to the listeners
4. what I wonder
5. Recommendations
6. Conclusion

1. EXCUSE:

I know what Law Enforcement are saying because Sheriff Ivey told me. Criminals could monitor radios to evade capture or ambush.

I say they are wrong because: I've listened to scanners at least 45 years. Have not found anything of the sort.

2. OPEN AND CLOSED TRANSMISSION:

Closed Transmission:

Full encryption undermines public trust, hinders accountability, and reduces situational awareness for residents. Encryptions creates an information vacuum, eroding the sense of community connection to local law enforcement.

Open Transmissions:

Law enforcement and Fire Department has been accessible to the public for decades, fostering a sense of shared information in communities. Open radio channels allows citizens to hear firsthand about emergencies, enabling us to avoid dangerous areas, prepare for disruption or even assist in a crisis. Open transmission promotes accountability. Real-time public oversight discourages misconduct and ensures police actions align with community (our) expectations.

Listeners help catch suspects, spot wildfires and even save first responder's lives. When agencies flip the switch to encryption that two-way accountability goes dark.

3. What Encryption does for listeners and me

Listening is VERY PERSONAL: We use the scanners to stay informed about neighborhood incidents - burglaries, fires or accident - that which affects our daily life.

Being a single female I need to know WHY 10 police cars are running AROUND my neighborhood which has happened a few times since encryption.

Smoke was so thick in my neighborhood really frightened me because it's VERT DRY. Had I been listening to scanner I would know from the fire traffic on scanner. I called police and they didn't know!

Back when there was open transmission, police were looking by helicopter for a person on a bike (description given). He was 2 doors down hiding under a large tree on his bike. I called it to the police.

On a trip to a store, I avoided a wreck and backed up traffic (6 lanes two ways 4 another) that closed down a whole intersection at Babcock and US1/.

4. What I wonder

Why the secrecy, is it to cover up misconduct - I suspect that's a lot of it.

Recommendation (I SAY NO) as I believe it will be MISUSED after 45 years of listening, I've never seen it necessary):

Viable alternatives exist to address legitimate concerns without complete secrecy. IF THEY MUST OCCASSIONALLY One simple way, a delay in the communication just like the tv broadcasts do.

CONCLUSION

I am telling you we citizens need ^{+ deserve} unencrypted traffic and I have thoroughly explained that above.

I am here to speak about Law Enforcement and FD Encryption

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1. The Law Enforcement Agencies excuse for encryption and why I think they are wrong.
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Smoke was so thick in my neighborhood really frightened me because it's VERT DRY. Had I been listening to scanner I would know from the fire traffic on scanner. I called police and they didn't know!

Back when there was open transmission, police were looking by helicopter for a person on a bike (description given). He was 2 doors down hiding under a large tree on his bike. I called it to the police.

On a trip to a store, I avoided a wreck and backed up traffic (6 lanes two ways 4 another) that closed down a whole intersection at Babcock and US1/.

4. What I wonder

Why the secrecy, is it to cover up misconduct - I suspect that's a lot of it.

Recommendation (I SAY NO) as I believe it will be MISUSED after 45 years of listening, I've never seen it necessary):

Viable alternatives exist to address legitimate concerns without complete secrecy. IF THEY MUST OCCASSIONALLY One simple way, a delay in the communication just like the tv broadcasts do.

CONCLUSION

I am telling you we citizens need ^{to deserve} unencrypted traffic and I have thoroughly explained that above.

Good Evening

I am Bob Pickert, a resident of Brevard County, lover of the Indian River Lagoon, and a lifelong environmental professional & sustainability consultant. I proposed a Soil Health Moonshot to transform Brevard's sandy landscaped soils into a sustainable living filter for the Lagoon.

I would like to leave you with 3 thoughts:

- Embrace the muck – there are many beneficial uses,
- Embrace biochar – it absorbs water, adsorbs nutrients, and provides a home for beneficial soil microbes, making nutrients bioavailable to plants without leaching to groundwater and the Lagoon, and degrading organic chemicals, and
- Embrace the Lagoon as a living system, where more effort needs to be focused on enhancing sustainable natural stabilization and filtration systems.

Biochar is a natural material, with extremely high surface area, similar to activated carbon. It occurs naturally as a byproduct of forest fires, and is a big part of why we see green shoots and such productive growth after forest fires. It can also be made from clean sources of waste wood through a process or conditions known as pyrolysis.

I have watched from the sidelines as Team SOIRL has been busy with the Herculean task of restoring the Lagoon. 2 years ago, I was shocked to learn the County had not analyzed **any** of the dewatered muck after removing nearly 800,000 cubic yards of muck. Since then SOIRL staff has arranged to analyze four samples of dewatered muck from the Grand Canal muck dewatering site. Much more analysis is needed from all the muck processing sites, but the muck is much lower in nitrogen (< 1%) and phosphorous (<0.1%) than I expected. The samples contained 7% organic carbon (muck can reportedly range from 10-30% organic carbon) and contained minerals such as sulfur, calcium, and magnesium. I have heard SOIRL staff and COC refer to the muck in public as “toxic” and “nothing grows in the muck”. The muck samples did contain arsenic, chromium, and copper at low concentrations consistent with background soil levels and government risk-based standards, and well below fertilizer guidelines. SOIRL staff arranged for me to take samples of partially-dewatered muck from the Grand Canal / Pineda muck dewatering site.
(place photo 1)

I collaborated with Rodney Eaton of Eaton Worms and mixed 55% muck, 40% biochar, and 5% compost (by weight); and Rodney added worm castings and observed explosive growth

B Pickert Comments Brevard County Commission – Speak Up Brevard – Soil Health
Moonshot to Transform Brevard Soils to a Sustainable Living Filter (CEER #026045)
May 5, 2026

less than 1 week after adding rye grass seed to the mix. The muck would likely serve as a good binder to produce fertilizer pellets, but more importantly, it would serve as a galvanizing force for soil health around the IRL. I have proposed a nutrient loading and leaching study to demonstrate and quantify the expected nutrient prevention benefits of a muck-biochar-based soil amendment.

I have proposed a variety of beneficial uses for the muck, including an example of how a biochar-muck-worm casting-seaweed extract fertilizer and soil amendment could not only help transform the fill dirt placed around our homes into a living filter for the IRL, but could provide a sustainable source of SOIRL funding.

We should be able to rely on Team SOIRL to follow the science. Unfortunately, the SOIRL COC did not follow the science when it produced a so-called White Paper on the use of muck and biochar as soil amendment. The paper was full of incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading statements that was more of a White Wash to dismiss the idea, including the notion that beneficial use of muck would not be permitted, the concept would be ineligible for SOIRL funding. I have provided detailed comments to set the record straight. The County's commitment as a partner and some SOILR investment would be required. The original SOIRL ordinance (2016-15) states: the purpose of SOIRL funds is "to finance infrastructure ...for capital projects to reduce primary sources of pollution (including excess fertilizer)... and natural stabilization and filtration systems". The SOIRL Oversight Committee specifically has a responsibility to "not only allow, but foster development and implementation of ... tools and techniques for restoration of the Lagoon". The IRL Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan provides a goal "to identify and develop long term funding sources ... to preserve, protect, and restore and enhance the IRL system". I am not familiar with any single other idea proposed by anyone else to provide a non-tax source of SOIRL funding.

Brevard County could produce all of the biochar it needs by solving its woody storm debris and yard waste surplus. Funds could be provided by reducing garbage pick-up to 1 day per week, since we have long since separated yard waste and recyclables. Brevard could become a soil health leader by nurturing a sustainable soil health industry by leveraging the county's natural resources such as biomass, seaweed, and worm castings.

A biochar-based slow release fertilizer and soil amendment could help address 77% of IRL pollution sources, including the 26% of sources not well-addressed by the current program, such as lawn maintenance, "miscellaneous base flow", and atmospheric

B Pickert Comments Brevard County Commission – Speak Up Brevard – Soil Health Moonshot to Transform Brevard Soils to a Sustainable Living Filter (CEER #026045)
May 5, 2026

deposition. The estimates for nutrients from lawn maintenance are far too low. Data for the use of fertilizer in the County is not readily available from the Department of Agriculture. The Department reports that it does not have data for residential and commercial sales and use of fertilizers for each county.

I have a sailboat at my neighbor's house across the street. That canal was dredged 20 years ago and has since been re-fertilized and silted in. In order to protect our investment in canal dredging, I have proposed a Soil Health Pilot for the Indian Harbour / Satellite Beach dredging project. The project includes:

- Remote sensing and precision nutrient mapping to identify nutrient-rich sources,
- Materials processing, distribution, and application to 120 acres,
- Monitoring, including baseline, and post-application years 2, 5, and 10.

The project is expected to prevent 430 pounds of nitrogen and 40 pounds of phosphorus per year (4,300 pounds N, and 400 pounds P, respectively over 10 years) for an average 4,300 pounds N and 400 pounds P and a removal efficiency of \$279 pounds of N.

The project could also help quantify the benefits of making our soils more resilient to impacts from increasing impacts from salt and ubiquitous emerging contaminants.

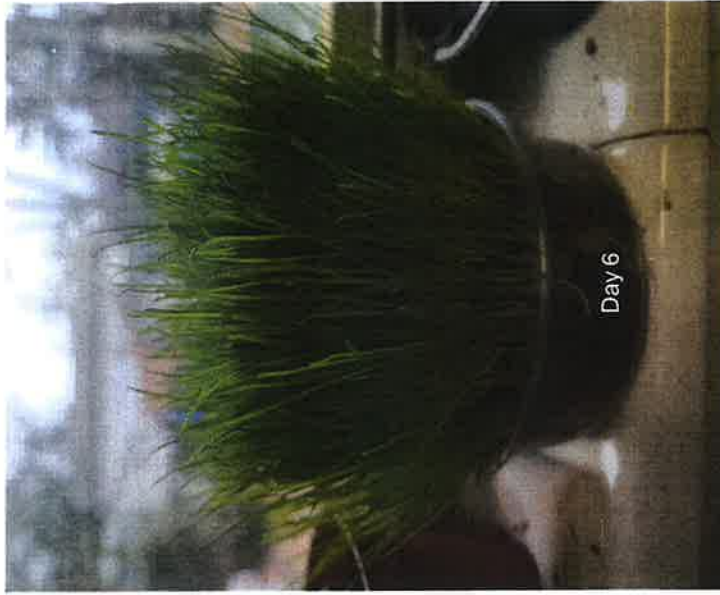
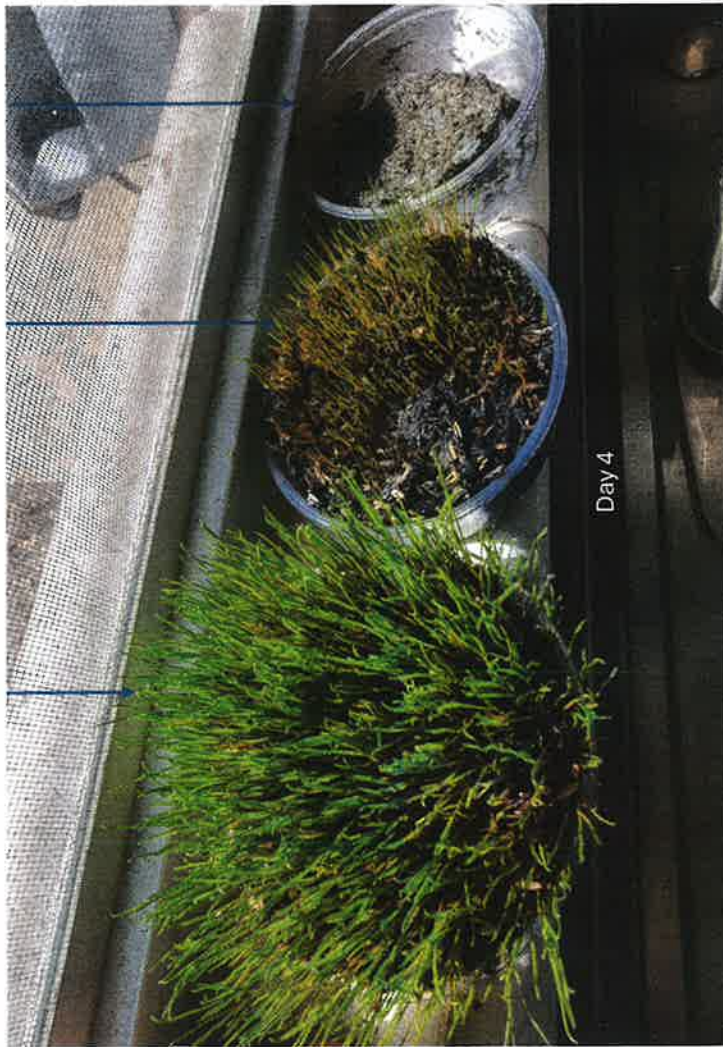
The stone the builders have rejected will become the cornerstone. I encourage the County Commission to embrace the muck, biochar, and the Lagoon as a living system for a sustainable approach to a resilient Lagoon and to implement the roadmap provided in the Soil Health Moonshot Recommendation and the Soil Health Pilot Project proposed for the Indian Harbour / Satellite Beach Muck Dredging Project.

Thank you



**EATON
WORMS**

Muck – Biochar – Compost – Worm Castings Muck – Biochar – Compost IRL Muck (allowed to dry)



Recent quotes from SOIRL staff and Citizen's Oversight Committee

"The muck is toxic"

"Nothing grows in the muck"

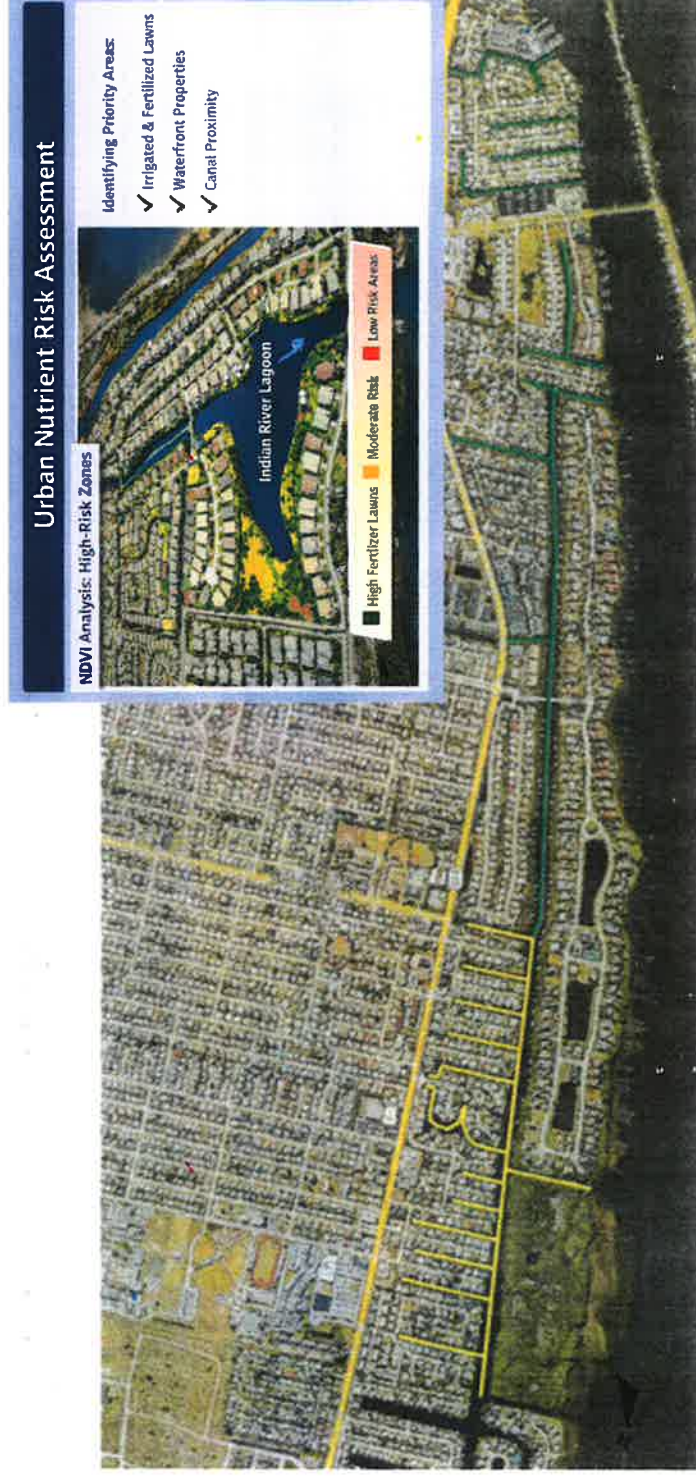
"A recent study at FIT using IRL muck to germinate lettuce seeds was unsuccessful"

IRL Slow Release Fertilizer and Soil Amendment v1
7.5 quarts biochar / 3 quarts muck / 1 quart compost
(40% biochar / 55% muck / 5 % compost (dry weight)
(65% biochar / 25 % muck / 10 % compost (volume)
Worm castings added for beneficial microbes



Urban Nutrient Risk Targeting | SOIRL Soil Health Pilot

Indian Harbour Beach and Satellite Beach | Precision Nutrient Mapping



Mathers Bridge Area Muck Removal Project Indian Harbour Beach and Satellite Beach Canals



25 JANUARY 2022 – Indian Harbour Beach City Council Project Status Presentation

- Mathers Bridge Soil Health – Muck Prevention Pilot**
- Demonstrate baseline and reduced nitrogen & phosphorus flux to canals / IRL by biochar-based fertilizer & soil amendment:
- Identify subject parcels with high impact for study (120 acres total)
 - Remote sensing (\$125K)
 - Baseline monitoring (\$200K)
 - Materials (Biochar, muck, worm castings, seaweed extract); Pelletize; & Transport (\$350K)
 - Local dist. & apply (\$200K)
 - Post treat monitor yr 2/5/10 (\$250K)
 - Data analysis / report (\$140K)
 - \$1.3 M (to be funded by savings from biochar treatment of interstitial water and/or reduced garbage collection to 1x/week.
- Muck dewatered to 50% solids**
- 430 lb N/year (4,300 10 yrs)
 - 40 lbs P/year (400 lbs 10 yrs)
 - \$279/lb N

PROPOSED PROJECT CONCEPT

Precision Upland Nutrient Interception to Complement Canal Muck Dredging Indian Harbour Beach & Satellite Beach Pilot Project

04072026

1. Executive Summary

The Cities of Indian Harbour Beach and Satellite Beach are advancing canal muck dredging projects to remove accumulated organic sediments contributing to nutrient release and water quality impairment in the Indian River Lagoon (IRL).

While dredging will reduce internal nutrient loading from sediments in deeper canal centers, significant muck will remain within 5–10 feet of canal banks due to docks, seawalls, and vessel constraints. Additionally, upland nutrient flux from residential landscapes and shallow groundwater will continue delivering nitrogen and phosphorus to canals, gradually re-accumulating nutrient-rich muck.

This project proposes a complementary upland strategy:

Identify and treat nutrient source and transport hotspots in canal-adjacent residential areas using precision mapping and engineered biochar soil amendments to reduce ongoing nutrient flux.

The pilot will target canal-front neighborhoods in IHB and Satellite Beach and quantify nutrient load reduction attributable to soil-based interception.

2. Problem Statement

2.1 Canal Sediment Legacy

IRL canal systems in IHB and Satellite Beach:

- Have accumulated decades of muck.
- Experience limited flushing.
- Exhibit elevated sediment nitrogen and phosphorus.
- Act as both nutrient sources and sinks.

Dredging reduces internal loading from deeper sediments but:

- Cannot remove sediments near seawalls and docks.
- Does not prevent new nutrient inputs.
- Does not increase upland soil nutrient retention.

2.2 Ongoing Upland Nutrient Flux

Primary pathways:

- Fertilized turf nitrate leaching.
- Shallow groundwater discharge into canals.
- Storm-driven runoff pulses.
- Septic legacy plumes (where applicable).

In barrier island settings:

- Water table often 1–3 feet below surface.
- Sandy soils have low nutrient retention capacity.
- Vertical transport to canals is rapid.

Therefore:

Without upland interception, canals will continue receiving nutrient inputs after dredging.

3. Project Purpose

To reduce ongoing nitrogen and phosphorus flux from canal-front residential landscapes into IHB and Satellite Beach canal systems by:

1. Identifying high nutrient storage and high transport risk zones.
2. Increasing soil nutrient retention capacity using engineered biochar pellets.
3. Quantifying reduction in groundwater and stormwater nutrient export.
4. Supporting long-term canal water quality improvements.

4. Study Area

Target Area:

Canal-front residential neighborhoods in:

- Indian Harbour Beach
- Satellite Beach

Estimated pilot scale:

300–500 acres of canal-connected parcels.

Typical characteristics:

- 60–75% turf coverage
- Sandy soils
- Shallow groundwater
- Direct canal hydraulic connectivity
- Moderate to high fertilizer use

5. Nutrient Load Model (Basin-Specific Estimate)

5.1 Assumptions

Residential canal-front area: 400 acres

Average turf coverage: 65%

Effective turf area: 260 acres

Literature-based nitrogen leaching for Florida sandy turf:

15–25 lbs N/acre/year

Use midpoint: 20 lbs N/acre/year

Annual N leaching:

260 acres × 20 lbs = 5,200 lbs N/year

Assume:

50–70% of leached nitrate reaches canals in shallow groundwater.

Use 60%:

$5,200 \times 0.60 = 3,120$ lbs N/year delivered to canals

5.2 Phosphorus Estimate

Typical mobile P export from sandy residential landscapes:

1–3 lbs P/acre/year

Use midpoint: 2 lbs

$260 \text{ acres} \times 2 = 520$ lbs P/year

Assume 50% reaches canals:

$520 \times 0.50 = 260$ lbs P/year

5.3 Total Estimated Upland Contribution

To targeted canal neighborhoods:

~3,100 lbs N/year

~260 lbs P/year

These are order-of-magnitude estimates but consistent with Florida coastal literature.

6. Proposed Intervention

6.1 Precision Mapping

Develop a “Nutrient Storage + Transport Risk Index” using:

- NDVI / red-edge imagery
- LiDAR microtopography
- Soil maps
- Groundwater depth data
- Parcel-level fertilizer risk factors
- Canal proximity gradient

Rank parcels for intervention priority.

6.2 Engineered Biochar Pellet Application

Pellet Composition:

- High-CEC biochar
- Iron-enhanced fraction for P adsorption
- IRL muck (processed, screened, tested) as mineral binder
- Worm castings (microbial enhancement)
- Seaweed extract (root stimulation)

Application:

- Broadcast surface application
- Irrigation incorporation
- Optional core aeration pairing

Targeted treatment:

100–150 acres of highest-risk parcels in pilot phase.

7. Expected Nutrient Reduction

Assume treatment of 120 acres.

Nitrogen

Baseline leaching:

$120 \text{ acres} \times 20 \text{ lbs} = 2,400 \text{ lbs N/year}$

Assume 30% reduction via increased retention:

$2,400 \times 0.30 = 720 \text{ lbs N/year reduced}$

Assume 60% transport to canals:

$720 \times 0.60 = 432 \text{ lbs N/year prevented from entering canals}$

Phosphorus

$120 \text{ acres} \times 2 \text{ lbs} = 240 \text{ lbs P/year}$

Assume 35% increased retention:

$240 \times 0.35 = 84 \text{ lbs P/year retained}$

Assume 50% canal transport:

$84 \times 0.50 = 42 \text{ lbs P/year prevented}$

Annual Load Reduction (Pilot Scale)

~430 lbs N/year

~40 lbs P/year

10-year effective life (conservative):

4,300 lbs N

400 lbs P

Without upland intervention, canals gradually re-accumulate organic nutrient-rich sediments.

8. Monitoring Plan

Pre- and post-treatment:

- Shallow groundwater sampling wells.
- Canal water quality monitoring at neighborhood scale.
- Lysimeters in treated turf.
- Soil Mehlich-3 P and nitrate tests.

- Seasonal comparison with untreated control block.

Primary metrics:

- Groundwater nitrate concentration reduction.
- Canal dissolved inorganic nitrogen reduction.
- Reduced storm event nutrient spikes.

9. Budget (Pilot Estimate)

GIS & remote sensing: \$125,000

Baseline monitoring: \$200,000

Biochar production & pelletization: \$350,000

Application: \$200,000

Post-treatment monitoring (year 2/5/10): \$250,000

Data analysis & reporting: \$140,000

Estimated total: \$1.3M

Cost per pound N (10-year horizon):

$\$1,200,000 / 4,300 \text{ lbs} \approx \$279/\text{lb}$

Competitive with other SOIRL investments.

10. Strategic Alignment with SOIRL

- Reduces nitrogen and phosphorus loads.
- Protects canal dredging investments.
- Distributed and scalable.
- Addresses legacy nutrient storage.
- Provides measurable load reduction.
- Supports BMAP compliance goals.

A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026045

From CEER@brevardfl.gov <CEER@brevardfl.gov>

Date Fri 1/30/2026 2:21 PM

To EHS Roundtable <rpickert@ehsroundtable.org>; EHS Roundtable <rpickert@ehsroundtable.org>

Recommendation # 2026045

Dear Robert Pickert,

Thank you for submitting a Speak Up Brevard Recommendation. Your Recommendation ID is #2026045.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization	Brevard Resident (employed by Wakefield Biochar)
Name	Robert Pickert
Address	121 Windward Way, INDN HBR BCH FL 32937
Phone	(321) 543-4414
Email	rpickert@ehsroundtable.org
Alternate Email	rpickert@ehsroundtable.org

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026045
Recommendation Title	Soil Health Moonshot - Transform Brevard Soils into a Sustainable Living Filter
Areas Affected	Natural Resources - SOIRL, Solid Waste
Department Affected	Natural Resources Management
Current problem	I have proposed how the use of biochar (and other local natural ingredients) as a slow-release fertilizer (SRF) and soil amendment (SA) to enhance the beneficial reuse of some of the IRL muck, and possibly provide a sustainable non-tax revenue for the IRL restoration)comments attached). I have suggested this as one example of how biochar could be a keystone for soil health in the IRL watershed – a surprisingly critical missing link in the current SOIRL program. Biochar could be an effective tool to help address 77% of the identified IRL pollutant sources. Brevard County could provide all of the biochar it needs from the Solid Waste yard waste curbside pick-up program and accumulated storm debris. The SOIRL Citizen's Advisory Committee is looking into the value biochar could provide to the IRL restoration. It is my hope the SOIRL COC will follow the science on biochar, and apply the original SOIRL ordinance and Comprehensive Management Plan, which requires the SOIRL COC to: • "not only allow, but foster tools and techniques for restoration of the lagoon", and • "To identify and develop long-term funding sources to preserve, protect, restore and enhance the IRL system". Kudos to the County Commission, the NEP Team, SOIRL staff and COC, and countless engaged citizens for their tremendous progress in the Herculean task of addressing sources of pollutants to the Lagoon. Even if the County continues to make progress through the SOIRL programs (dependent on public funding) and implements new programs (e.g., encourage low impact design), it seems unlikely we will be able to declare victory in restoring the Lagoon from the relentless onslaught of nutrients and ubiquitous chemicals like PFAS/PFOS and tire stabilizer 6PPD-quinone as an expanding population loves the Lagoon to death. Biochar is produced by pyrolysis of clean wood sources to create a natural and stable material with incredible surface area similar to activated carbon that absorbs water and adsorbs nutrients in a way that makes them bio-available plants and less leachable to groundwater and the Lagoon. Biochar occurs naturally from forest fires and is a primary contributing factor to how we see green shoots and lush vegetative growth from fire-impacted

forests. The incredible surface area of biochar provides the ideal habitat for the beneficial soil microbes critical to soil health. IFAS has done a lot of research demonstrating the benefits of biochar for soil health and is generally an advocate for biochar's role in soil health. The widespread addition of biochar (and other local ingredients such as worm castings for microbes and seaweed extract for nutrients) to landscaped soils in Brevard would transform our soils into a permanent living filter for the IRL where soil microbes do the work and no maintenance is required. A review of sales for commercial fertilizers in Brevard County could be used to establish a nutrient loading baseline. The list of uses for biochar to help restore the Lagoon is long. Biochar could be added to geotubes with raw muck to eliminate costly interstitial water treatment and render the resulting dewatered muck more useful for other beneficial uses. The current SOIRL Program chooses to exclude private companies from speaking to the COC and receiving SOIRL grants. The SOIRL mission belongs to everyone and is an "all hands" mission. The SOIRL Program should welcome private sector involvement and partnerships, especially a moonshot effort like improving soil health across the watershed. In fact, there may be a variety of public-private partnerships that could support SOIRL objectives in a way that is fair and open, makes best use of public funds, and avoids conflicts of interest.

Recommendation

I recommend a moonshot effort to enhance soil health in Brevard County (together with the low-impact design recommendations provided by others) to transform Brevard soils into a sustainable living filter for the Lagoon. The result will be a Brevard-based industry, creating jobs and reducing taxes while restoring the IRL. I recommend the following path forward:

- Additional testing and inventory of dewatered muck from various dredge dewatering sites & management areas to determine appropriate beneficial uses, and/or disposal requirements,
- Convene an adhoc group of soil health experts and stakeholders to establish a consensus on appropriate soil health objective(s), and desirable product formulation specifications for a broadly-applicable lawn & garden slow-release fertilizer & soil amendment, including the beneficial use of IRL muck and biochar;
- Conduct nutrient loading and leaching performance testing of biochar, biochar-amended muck, and popular commercial fertilizers to demonstrate nutrient removal / prevention potential for the IRL;
- Sales & Marketing and/or distribution ground game (big box & other retail, nurseries & distributors) – this would require a County commitment, and would be good use of college environmental and marketing students if well managed,
- Limited blending, mixing, pelletizing for pilot production, and quality confirmation testing,
- Qualifications-based selection for limited production & distribution of the SRF & SA by the truckload (include bag label design),
- Competitive bid for expanded biochar supply and SRF & SA fertilizer production and distribution (especially if the SOIRL V2 tax referendum fails), and
- Brevard County installation and operation of pyrolysis equipment to produce our own biochar.

I propose the following potential sources of funding:

- SOIRL tax money to invest in as much of the above as possible while we have the funding,
- Savings from eliminating the need for current interstitial water treatment practices and costs.
- Sale of amended IRL muck as a SRF & SA (either at a profit for surplus proceeds to fund the program (especially if the referendum fails), or at a lower (breakeven) price to inspire greater distribution),
- Reduce solid waste garbage pick-up from twice per week to once per week (we have long since segregated yard waste and recyclables from the garbage stream, yet we still collect twice per week),
- Sale of carbon credits – Verified carbon credits for biochar production can be sold (through Puro Earth to various parties) on the private market for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – in this case the methane and carbon dioxide that is not emitted from decomposing yard waste and storm debris.
- Pursue matching funds from federal or state grants such as US Department of Agriculture (Conservation Innovation Grants), USEPA (e.g., South Florida Program), FDEP Water Quality or HAB grants through non-profit partners).

Attachments

Circularity of IRL Muck - Comments Bob Pickert (Resident - Wakefield Biochar) 111825.pdf
Comments by Bob Pickert (Biochar-Soil Health) - Brevard County SOIRL Tax Extension Workshop (Jan 12,
Comments by Bob Pickert - Brevard County SOIRL Tax Extension Workshop (Jan 5, 2026).pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Table 1 - Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Muck Sludge Circularity (Biochar Enhancement) – Sampling & Analysis Summary (091225)

Phase	Media	Jar Tests						Sample Phase		Parameters				# of Samples	Lab Cost
		2 Weeks		1 Month		3 Months		Solid	Liquid	Nutrients	Metals	General	Other		
Materials Baseline	Muck Sludge							X	NA	X	X	X	X	1	\$1,000
	Raw Muck							X	S	X	X	X	X	2	\$2,000
	Biochar							X	NA	X	X	X	X	1	\$1,000
Nutrient Loading	Amended Muck 35% Biochar							X	NA	X	X	X	X	3	\$3,000
	Amended Raw Muck 35% Biochar							X	NA	X	X	X	X	3	\$3,000
Nutrient Release (Leaching)	Muck Sludge + 35% Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	18	\$14,400
	Raw Muck + 35% Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	18	\$14,400
	Muck Sludge + 25% Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
	Muck Sludge + 45% Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
	Raw Muck + 25% Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
	Raw Muck + 45% Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
Materials Control	Muck Sludge							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
	Raw Muck							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
	Biochar							X	L	X	X	X	X	6	\$4,800
														88	\$72,000

Note (5/5/2026): This Sampling and Analysis Summary should be revised to 1.) substitute a biochar-based slow release fertilizer and soil amendment recommended by a group of soil health experts and stakeholders, and 2.) add a comparison to commonly-used fertilizers readily available at garden centers.

Notes

NA = Not Applicable

X = Indicates sample to be collected and analyzed

Liquid Sample Phase: S = Supernatant; L = Leachate

Nutrient Release values represent leaching by equivalent inches of water. Average rainfall is 54 inches per year. 27" = 6 mo.; 54" = 12 mo; 80" = 18 mo.

Analyses include:

Nutrients include Kjeldahl nitrogen, ammonia, nitrate/nitrite, and urea; and phosphorus.

Metals include arsenic and chromium based on preliminary review of available data which indicates arsenic and chromium may serve as primary metals of concern and will be sufficient for this proof of concept demonstration. Additional consideration may also be given to analysis of barium, cadmium, lead, mercury, selenium, and zinc if warranted in data review, although these constituents have not been priced into the project budget.

General soil and water quality constituents includes pH, electrical conductivity, moisture, organic matter/carbon, potassium, calcium, magnesium, particle size distribution, and cation exchange capacity.

Other constituents of interest, if applicable may include polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS/PFOS). These analytes are not included in current budget projections.

Note (5/5/2026): This Sampling and Analysis Summary should be revised to 1.) substitute a biochar-based slow release fertilizer and soil amendment recommended by a group of soil health experts and stakeholders, and 2.) add a comparison to commonly-used fertilizers readily available at garden centers.