



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## Resolution/Award/Presentation

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E.1.

8/4/2020

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### **Subject:**

Presentation, Re: ACT! for America's inaccurate classification as a "hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Center

### **Fiscal Impact:**

### **Dept/Office:**

Citizen Agenda Request / Roger Gangitano (Approved for Inclusion on Agenda by Commission Chair)

### **Requested Action:**

No action requested. This is a presentation, by Roger Gangitano (President of ACT Space Coast, a former chapter of ACT for America, Inc.), of up to ten (10) minutes in length regarding ACT for America's inaccurate classification as a "hate group" by the Southern Poverty Law Center ("SPLC"). ACT Space Coast has also been publicly singled out as a group that should be denied any CARES funding, although not eligible for such funding.

### **Summary Explanation and Background:**

### **Clerk to the Board Instructions:**



August 5, 2023

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Frank Abbate, County Manager

**RE:** Item E.1., Presentation given by Roger Gangitano concerning ACT! For America's Inaccurate Classification by the Southern Poverty Law Center

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on August 4 2020, acknowledged the citizen Presentation given by Roger Gangitano concerning ACT! For America's inaccurate classification as a "hate group", by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK**

*for: Donna Scott*  
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/dt

**From:** [Roger Gangitano](#)  
**To:** [Lewis, Sally A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Citizen agenda request  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 4:54:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [BOCC Agenda Request - SPLC Listing.docx](#)

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sally,  
Attached is the corrected Agenda Request. Thank you.

Best Regards,  
Roger Gangitano  
ACT Space Coast President

On Jul 27, 2020, at 4:03 PM, Lewis, Sally A <[Sally.Lewis@brevardfl.gov](mailto:Sally.Lewis@brevardfl.gov)> wrote:

Mr. Gangitano,  
I have submitted the agenda that Commissioner Lober attached to his Email. Do you have more to add to this agenda? I will be posting the agenda tomorrow afternoon so if you would like to add a summary to your agenda please get it to me early tomorrow.  
Thank you,  
Sally

Sally Lewis  
[Sally.Lewis@brevardfl.gov](mailto:Sally.Lewis@brevardfl.gov)

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

Note: Florida has a very broad public records law. This agency is a public entity and is subject to Chapter 119 of the Florida Statute concerning public records. Email Communications are covered under such laws and may be subject to public disclosure

**From:** Lober, Bryan  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 3:27 PM  
**To:** [actspacecoast@gmail.com](mailto:actspacecoast@gmail.com); [thebojiwon@gmail.com](mailto:thebojiwon@gmail.com)

**Cc:** Lewis, Sally A <[Sally.Lewis@brevardfl.gov](mailto:Sally.Lewis@brevardfl.gov)>; Commissioner, D2  
<[D2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov](mailto:D2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov)>

**Subject:** Citizen agenda request

**Importance:** High

Roger,

Please find appended hereto the form we discussed by telephone earlier this afternoon.

Please complete the "summary explanation & background" field and return to both [d2.commissioner@brevardfl.gov](mailto:d2.commissioner@brevardfl.gov) and to [sally.lewis@brevardfl.gov](mailto:sally.lewis@brevardfl.gov) (copied on this message) for inclusion of this item on the 8/4 BoCC agenda. If you wish to include any exhibits, please label them (e.g., Exhibit A, etc.) and notate in the appropriate field on this form.

The attached form may be submitted as either a Word document or as a PDF - whichever is most convenient for you.

Your item will be addressed shortly after the start of the meeting along with any other resolutions, awards and presentations. I would estimate that you will be able to start your presentation between roughly 5:05 PM and 5:45 PM.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Bryan

El.



We DO NOT Disparage any Muslim's free exercise of his or her faith or imply a fear of, or animosity towards Muslims, or Islam, in general.

*(Please refrain from making comments to the contrary at our meetings.)*

However,

We do **NOT** accept the concept of Islamic Superiority or the Inclusion of Shariah into our laws or society.

**RE: Criteria for inclusion of a group on SPLC's list?**

Nancy Abudu <nancy.abudu@splcenter.org>

Wed 7/29/2020 7:49 AM

To: Commissioner, D2 <D2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>

Cc: Caren Short <Caren.Short@splcenter.org>; Keegan Hanks <Keegan.Hanks@splcenter.org>

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Hello Mr. Lober-

Thanks very much for contacting our office. I'm copying to this email my colleague Keegan Hanks who leads the SPLC's work to counter hate & extremism as he's the best one to answer your question.

Take care, and I appreciate your due diligence.

 **Nancy Abudu**  
Deputy Legal Director | Legal  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
T 786.376.5311  
nancy.abudu@splcenter.org | www.splcenter.org

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**From:** Commissioner, D2 <D2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:43 PM

**To:** Nancy Abudu <nancy.abudu@splcenter.org>

**Cc:** Caren Short <Caren.Short@splcenter.org>; Commissioner, D2 <D2.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov>

**Subject:** Criteria for inclusion of a group on SPLC's list?

**Importance:** High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Abudu:

I write to you today neither as a fellow member of the Florida Bar nor in my capacity as Chair of the Brevard County Commission, but rather in my capacity as an individual County Commissioner.

It has been suggested that the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners consider the SPLC's designation of a particular organization as a "hate group" in allocating, to local entities, the over \$105M of federal CARES Act dollars provided to the County.

In reviewing your organization's website, I have been unable to identify, with specificity, the particular criteria utilized in your organization's determination of whether a group is properly classed a hate group. Would you please advise me of the process by which a group is added to your list, including the criteria and relative weight afforded to each variable?

Are the organizations added to your list contacted and provided an opportunity to rebut any allegations leading to their inclusion prior to their being added to your list of hate groups?

Your reply will certainly help tremendously in knowing how much consideration to afford to an organization being listed, by the SPLC, as a hate group.

I am confident that neither I nor any of my colleagues wish to allocate money to groups promoting violence or lawlessness. Assuming your criteria are sound and groups are afforded a reasonable degree of due process to challenge their inclusion, it would be tremendously helpful to have an existing resource upon which to rely.

I thank you in advance both for your reply as well as your help in exposing hateful ideology.

Kind regards,

/s/ Bryan

Bryan A. Lober, Esq.

District 2 Commissioner & Chair

Brevard Commission

Merritt Island Service Complex

2575 North Courtenay Parkway, Suite 200

Merritt Island, Florida 32953

Ph: (321) 454-6601

Fax: (321) 454-6602

E-Mail: [D2.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov](mailto:D2.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov)

cc: CS, D2

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