

**Public Comment to County Commissioners at the July 9, 2024 County Commission Meeting**

My name is Tom Perez and I am a resident of Titusville. I am attending this meeting after seeing numerous posts on social media about issues occurring here at the commission. I would like the commissioners to know that it's not "just the same 10 people" that are concerned about the county commissioner's meeting behavior. There are residents throughout Brevard County who do not attend every meeting, but who do care that our County Commissioners are treating members of the public, including firefighters, with the respect we deserve.

A post was recently shared on social media about the county manager and the county attorney's annual pay that has received over 10,000 views. The excessively high annual raises and large salaries are concerning to myself, who is a Titusville taxpayer that is also funding the exceedingly high salary of my own city manager and city attorney. How can residents trust anything that the county presents about compensating Brevard County firefighters when we learn that our local officials are busy garnering hefty salary increases and conducting no annual performance evaluations?

The recent changes to the public participation policy BCC-97 also raise concern after policy amendment language was inserted after the vote occurred to deny a candidate from identifying themselves during their public comment introductions. The final policy language changes have not been voted on by the commissioners. Is that how controlling the commission has become, that it is willing to prohibit members of the public from even identifying as candidates? Commissioners should re-think this oppressive policy change that was inserted after the May 7<sup>th</sup> commission meeting without public comment on Commissioner Pritchett's ambiguous anti-campaign-language amendment. This language was specifically not endorsed by Commissioner Goodson who supported the proposal that commenters should not give a stump speech. He did not endorse the self-identification language that was added after the meeting by the county attorney.

In a county with numerous issues that require attention from our leaders, it's very disturbing to see that our elected and appointed officials are not doing right by we the people. The commissioners should re-think their current treatment of the people of Brevard County and find ways to represent all of us.

I ask that my comment be included in the meeting minutes for this meeting and am providing a copy to the Clerk of Courts.

Tom Perez, Titusville Resident

Presented at the July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 County Commission Meeting