



**AGENDA REPORT**  
**May 8, 2018**

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**SUBJECT:**

Approval RE: BCC-55 Public Meetings at the Brevard County Government Center

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

Public Works

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners approve modifications to Policy BCC-55 ensuring orderly, safe and informative proceedings for all members of the public who attend public meetings in the meeting rooms at the Brevard County Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida 32940.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Policy BCC-55 ensures orderly, safe and informative proceedings for all members of the public who attend public meetings in the meeting rooms at the Brevard County Government Center in Viera.

Changes are as follows:

III. Directives (c) It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a sworn police officer or deputy sheriff with jurisdiction in Brevard County, to have in his or her possession a firearm or other weapon as defined in Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, **which includes any meeting of a governing body of a County, public school district, municipality or special district.**

**CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:**

Return one signed copy of the approved BCC-55.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

- **BCC-55 Redline**
- **BCC-55 Clean**



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May 9, 2018

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

**TO:** Frank Abbate, County Manager

**RE:** Item II.A.9., Approval of Board Policy BCC-55, Public Meetings at the Brevard County Government Center

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on May 8, 2018, approved modifications to Board Policy BCC-55, Public Meetings at the Brevard County Government Center, ensuring orderly, safe and informative proceedings for all members of the public who attend public meetings in the meeting rooms at the Brevard County Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida 32940. Enclosed is a fully-executed copy of the Policy.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

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

*Tammy Rowe*

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/cmw

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner  
County Attorney



## POLICY

**Title: Public Meetings at Brevard County  
Government Buildings/Facilities**

**Number: BCC-55  
Cancels: 04/14/2015  
Approved: 05/08/2018  
Originator: Public  
Works/Facilities  
Review: 05/08/2021**

### **I. Objective**

To ensure orderly, safe and informative proceedings for all members of the public who attend public meetings in the meeting rooms at the Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida 32940.

### **II. Definitions and References**

- a. Weapons and Firearms, Florida State Statute 790
- b. Resolution 97-62-A Board Operating Procedures.

### **III. Directives**

- a. Smoking shall be prohibited inside all buildings at the Government Center. Persons smoking tobacco or other products shall be in violation of State law and County ordinance.
- b. Possession, consuming, serving or imbibing or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages on any portion of the public property, either within or outside of the buildings constituting the Brevard County Government Center, shall be prohibited. Any exceptions to the serving, consuming, or possession of alcoholic beverages for a public event must be authorized by the County Manager.
- c. It shall be unlawful for any person, other than a sworn police officer or deputy sheriff with jurisdiction in Brevard County, to have in his or her possession a firearm or other weapon as defined in Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, which includes any meeting of a governing body of a County, public school district, municipality or special district.
- d. Suitable attire shall be required to be worn at all public meetings at the Brevard County Government Center.
- e. Any signs to be displayed at public meetings at the Brevard County Government Center shall be of a size that they can be easily held and controlled by one person, and are not mounted on posts, poles or other devices or extensions that could constitute a health or safety hazard to other attendees in the event that they were dropped, turned or fell. In the alternative, signs may be displayed on a tripod in an area established for

such display as part of a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners or other public meeting room. NO signs shall be mounted or adhered to any wall, window, door, pillar, support, post or part of any building or structures at the Government Center without the permission of the County Manager or his/her designee. Signs, boxes, attaché cases, etc. may not be left unattended on the site. Unattended packages may be treated as suspicious and removed.

- f. If seating in the public meeting rooms is available, meeting attendees should be encouraged to utilize available seating and not to stand and/or converse in rear areas or in aisles so as to avoid distracting from or disrupting the conducting of public business at public meetings.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

Public presentations to the Board of County Commissioners shall be in accordance with the following rules and guidelines which shall be enforced by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners or other presiding officer.

- a. Written communication shall be received by the presiding officer and entered into the record of the meeting.
- b. Speakers shall come to the podium and clearly state their name and address for the record.
- c. Groups are encouraged to select a representative to conserve time and avoid repetition. NO person will be denied the privilege of speaking, as long as they meet the requirements of this Policy.
- d. It shall be the prerogative of the Board to utilize a five-minute limit on all speakers to ensure that all speakers receive an equal opportunity to be heard. The Board reserves the right to lengthen or shorten a speaker's time.
- e. All speakers shall address the Board as a body, not an individual member of the Board or the audience.
- f. All questions directed to members of the Board shall be addressed through the presiding officer.
- g. Personal, obscene, or slanderous remarks shall not be permitted.
- h. All speakers are asked to secure and complete a speaker's card so that an orderly coordination of speakers can be assured.
- i. Public comment shall be limited to items NOT appearing on the printed Board meeting agenda.
- j. The Chairman is authorized to implement other rules of procedure to assure fair hearing to all who are present as speakers and members of the audience.
- k. Video presentations are to be limited to no longer than five (5) minutes and must be reviewed by Production Staff and the County Manager no

later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the meeting to ensure that the Board, live and broadcast audiences are not subjected to unsuitable videos which could contain material considered in conflict with accepted community standards regarding obscenity and pornography.

**V. Reservation of Authority**

The authority to issue and/or revise Policies is reserved to the Board of County Commissioners.

Attest:

  
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Scott Ellis, Clerk

  
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Rita Pritchett, Chair  
Brevard County Board of  
County Commissioners

As Approved by the Board 05/08/2018