



**AGENDA REPORT**  
**July 9, 2019**

**Citizen Request, Mel Martin Re: Protecting the Integrity of Brevard County  
Government**

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**SUBJECT:**

Clarifying, Enforcing Acceptable Conduct of Public Officials, Employees

**DEPT/OFFICE:**

County Manager

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

It is requested the Board of County Commissioners develop and enforce a policy of basic expectations in the conduct of County Officials and employees.

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

Based on months of community discussions and press coverage (locally, regionally, and nationally), it appears necessary to clarify community standards and expectations of those who represent our residents and work in our best interests.

As the actual or perceived chilling of free speech (to include critical political speech) is a nonpartisan / cross-partisan concern, we must address this issue quickly and resolutely. Whether this manifests as an ethics ordinance, an ethics board, or other measure(s), we request to provide assurance to Brevard residents that sufficient process will be implemented to maintain the integrity of our County Government.

Mel Martin  
meilang76@gmail.com

**CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:**

Attached - list of community discussions, press coverage

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**Description**

No Attachments Available

J.7

July 9, 2019

From: Melissa Martin, Cocoa

To: Members, Board of County Commission, Brevard County

Subj: RECOMMENDATION FOR ORDINANCE ON ETHICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ref: (Proposed) Brevard County Ordinances, Chapter 4 - Ethical Communications

Ladies and Gentlemen, please find below a draft proposal for your consideration and, if acceptable, inclusion into Brevard County Code in accordance with pertinent rules, requirements and processes.

4-1 Findings & Intent; In accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 112.311(3), it is "essential that the people be free to seek redress of their grievances and express their opinions to all government officials on current issues and past or pending legislative and executive actions at every level of government." The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as "the board," finds compelling need in maintaining the public's trust and confidence in county governance and assuring Brevard residents of their full rights to speak, protest, and petition to seek redress for grievances. Such assurance may be established by identifying clear standards and expectations of official conduct, and confidence may be maintained by implementing sufficient procedural measures to reasonably assure and enforce these community standards.

4-2 Construction; This chapter shall be broadly construed to affect its purpose of maintaining the public trust, confidence, and ability to speak freely and openly without fear of government retaliation.

4-3; Authority; Pursuant to Fla. Stat. Sect. 112.326 and chapters 112 and 125, the board is authorized to establish clear standards in order to foster open government and preserve and protect governmental integrity.

4-4; Definitions; As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires: [As needed.]

4-5; Community Standard of Ethical Communications:

**"In order to preserve and protect the integrity of Brevard County government, public officials and their agents shall strive to be honest, civil and respectful in their interactions with others, avoiding disparaging personal remarks, threats or acrimony in any oral or written communication, to include social media. Intentionally engaging in such conduct that unreasonably chills or violates the constitutional rights of others may be regarded as a form of malfeasance."**

4-6; Enforcement Measures: [Recommend drawing down from procedural guidance provided in Florida law; perhaps providing additional corrective measures amenable at the local level, such as public apologies or statements of reassurance; proof of investigation, findings, and accountability.]

Thank you for your attention and action on this matter. I stand ready to assist as you desire.



r/Melissa Martin



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July 10, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Frank Abbate, County Manager


RE: Item J.7., Citizen Request by Mel Martin for Protecting the Integrity of Brevard County Government

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on July 9, 2019, acknowledged citizen request by Mel Martin asking to develop and enforce a policy of basic expectations in the conduct of County Officials and employees, but took no formal action.

Your continued cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

*for*   
Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/ds