

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.



BREVARD COUNTY - PUBLIC COMMENT

WEDNESDAY, JAN 23, 2008 5 EET



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 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



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.



Public Works
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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.