

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2026 2:06 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026047

Recommendation # 2026047

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026047 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name	Elizabeth Baker
Address	1805 Augustine Drive, Titusville FL 32796 3210
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Alternate Email	ebaker2313@gmail.com

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID	2026047
Recommendation Title	Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties
Areas Affected	County-Wide
Department Affected	
Current problem	Brevard County is home to the Indian River Lagoon and is also experiencing continued population, development, and tourism growth. New residential and commercial construction, combined with millions of annual visitors, places increasing pressure on solid waste systems, roadways, and stormwater infrastructure. Tourism contributes billions of dollars annually to the Space Coast economy, but visitors generate significantly more waste per person than residents. Much of that waste consists of single-use plastic food packaging, beverage containers, bags, and disposable service products. These materials have been consistently identified in international cleanup data studies as the most commonly littered items in coastal environments (besides cigarette butts). These lightweight plastics are easily transported by wind and rain from unsecured waste areas into storm drains and waterways, where they persist as microplastics. Roadside litter also presents public safety and infrastructure concerns. Debris contributes to traffic hazards, wildlife injury and mortality, clogged stormwater systems, localized flooding, and increased public maintenance costs, including damage to mowing equipment. These costly impacts are preventable and are ultimately borne by taxpayers. Brevard County Code already

establishes clear expectations regarding solid waste handling and property maintenance. Chapter 94 requires property owners and occupants to maintain properties free of litter and improperly stored waste, prohibits waste from escaping into public rights-of-way, and regulates solid waste collection within unincorporated areas. However, these requirements are most often addressed only after violations have been issued.

Recommendation

To address these issues proactively, I respectfully request that Brevard County adopt a proactive waste management planning provision for brick-and-mortar commercial properties and multifamily residential properties with shared waste systems, including apartments, condominiums, and HOA- or COA-managed communities. This proposal does not create new disposal requirements, hauling mandates, or enforcement authority. Instead, it supports early compliance with already existing County standards by confirming that adequate waste systems are in place before problems arise. A simple, one-page waste management plan could be incorporated into existing permit reviews, site plan approvals, or inspection processes. In most cases, solid waste and recycling services are already coordinated through County or municipal systems or franchised haulers. This plan would merely document those arrangements and ensure proper capacity and placement for the site. The plan could confirm: Property type and estimated occupancy or use Number, size, and placement of trash and recycling receptacles Confirmation of pickup schedules and waste streams Dumpster enclosure status and maintenance practices Litter-prevention measures for high-traffic areas Baseline guidance could include: Adequate trash and recycling capacity based on occupancy or usage Covered or enclosed dumpsters where appropriate Routine monitoring of shared waste areas Adjustment of service levels if overflow or repeated issues occur Placement of ashtrays at entrances or designated locations where smoking is permitted This approach is cost-neutral, requires no new staffing, and strengthens enforcement of existing County codes within Chapter 94 by addressing the most common causes of violations before they occur. It also provides an educational opportunity to ensure property owners and managers are aware of County requirements related to solid waste storage, recycling availability, and litter prevention. Jurisdictional Scope This proposal is intended to apply within unincorporated Brevard County. It is consistent with the County's land-use, permitting, and code enforcement authority. Municipalities would retain full authority within incorporated boundaries and may, at their discretion, adopt or align with similar standards if beneficial. Single-family residential properties generally operate under individual responsibility models that function effectively through existing code enforcement. The most persistent waste management challenges occur where trash is centralized and managed on behalf of many people. Commercial corridors and growing multifamily developments are unique in these aspects. As Brevard County continues to grow and welcome millions of visitors each year, preventing pollution at the source is the most fiscally responsible way to protect public safety, infrastructure, and the Indian River Lagoon while supporting economic vitality and tourism.

Attachments

SpeakUpBrevard2026.pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties

Elizabeth Baker - Brevard County Resident

Brevard County is home to the Indian River Lagoon and is also experiencing continued population, development, and tourism growth. New residential and commercial construction, combined with millions of annual visitors, places increasing pressure on solid waste systems, roadways, and stormwater infrastructure.

Tourism contributes billions of dollars annually to the Space Coast economy, but visitors generate significantly more waste per person than residents. Much of that waste consists of single-use plastic food packaging, beverage containers, bags, and disposable service products.

These materials have been consistently identified in international cleanup data studies as the most commonly littered items in coastal environments (besides cigarette butts). These lightweight plastics are easily transported by wind and rain from unsecured waste areas into storm drains and waterways, where they persist as microplastics.

Roadside litter also presents public safety and infrastructure concerns. Debris contributes to traffic hazards, wildlife injury and mortality, clogged stormwater systems, localized flooding, and increased public maintenance costs, including damage to mowing equipment. These costly impacts are preventable and are ultimately borne by taxpayers.

Brevard County Code already establishes clear expectations regarding solid waste handling and property maintenance. Chapter 94 requires property owners and occupants to maintain properties free of litter and improperly stored waste, prohibits waste from escaping into public rights-of-way, and regulates solid waste collection within unincorporated areas. However, these requirements are most often addressed only after violations have been issued.

To address these issues proactively, I respectfully request that Brevard County adopt a proactive waste management planning provision for brick-and-mortar commercial properties and multifamily residential properties with shared waste systems, including apartments, condominiums, and HOA- or COA-managed communities.

This proposal does not create new disposal requirements, hauling mandates, or enforcement authority. Instead, it supports early compliance with already existing County standards by confirming that adequate waste systems are in place before problems arise.

A simple, one-page waste management plan could be incorporated into existing permit reviews, site plan approvals, or inspection processes. In most cases, solid waste and recycling services are already coordinated through County or municipal systems or franchised haulers. This plan would merely document those arrangements and ensure proper capacity and placement for the site.

The plan could confirm:

Property type and estimated occupancy or use

Number, size, and placement of trash and recycling receptacles

Confirmation of pickup schedules and waste streams

Dumpster enclosure status and maintenance practices

Litter-prevention measures for high-traffic areas

Baseline guidance could include:

Adequate trash and recycling capacity based on occupancy or usage

Covered or enclosed dumpsters where appropriate

Routine monitoring of shared waste areas

Adjustment of service levels if overflow or repeated issues occur

Placement of ashtrays at entrances or designated locations where smoking is permitted

This approach is cost-neutral, requires no new staffing, and strengthens enforcement of existing County codes within Chapter 94 by addressing the most common causes of violations before they occur. It also provides an educational opportunity to ensure property owners and managers are aware of County requirements related to solid waste storage, recycling availability, and litter prevention.

Jurisdictional Scope

This proposal is intended to apply within unincorporated Brevard County. It is consistent with the County's land-use, permitting, and code enforcement authority. Municipalities would retain full authority within incorporated boundaries and may, at their discretion, adopt or align with similar standards if beneficial.

Single-family residential properties generally operate under individual responsibility models that function effectively through existing code enforcement. The most persistent waste management challenges occur where trash is centralized and managed on behalf of many people. Commercial corridors and growing multifamily developments are unique in these aspects.

As Brevard County continues to grow and welcome millions of visitors each year, preventing pollution at the source is the most fiscally responsible way to protect public safety, infrastructure, and the Indian River Lagoon while supporting economic vitality and tourism.

Sources & Data References

Florida's Space Coast Office of Tourism & Florida Today – visitor spending, tourism volume, and economic impact

Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup – most commonly littered items in coastal environments

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) & Geneva Environment Network – plastic persistence and microplastic pollution

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) – stormwater and litter impacts on waterways

Brevard County Property Appraiser & Space Coast MLS – growth, development, and housing trends

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – roadside litter and transportation safety impacts

Brevard County Budget Office - financial reports



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

TO: James P. Liesenfelt, County Manager

THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager

FROM: Billy Prasad, Director, Planning and Development Department

SUBJECT: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2026047

CEER #2026047, titled Preventive Solid Waste Management for Commercial and Multifamily Properties, was received by the County from Elizabeth Baker.

Citizen Statement:

Brevard County is home to the Indian River Lagoon and is also experiencing continued population, development, and tourism growth. New residential and commercial construction, combined with millions of annual visitors, places increasing pressure on solid waste systems, roadways, and stormwater infrastructure.

Tourism contributes billions of dollars annually to the Space Coast economy, but visitors generate significantly more waste per person than residents. Much of that waste consists of single-use plastic food packaging, beverage containers, bags, and disposable service products.

These materials have been consistently identified in international cleanup data studies as the most commonly littered items in coastal environments (besides cigarette butts). These lightweight plastics are easily transported by wind and rain from unsecured waste areas into storm drains and waterways, where they persist as microplastics.

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This proposal does not create new disposal requirements, hauling mandates, or enforcement authority. Instead, it supports early compliance with already existing County standards by confirming that adequate waste systems are in place before problems arise.

Citizen Recommendation:

A simple, one-page waste management plan could be incorporated into existing permit reviews, site plan approvals, or inspection processes. In most cases, solid waste and recycling services are already coordinated through County or municipal systems or franchised haulers. This plan would merely document those arrangements and ensure proper capacity and placement for the site.

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Placement of ashtrays at entrances or designated locations where smoking is permitted

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As Brevard County continues to grow and welcome millions of visitors each year, preventing pollution at the source is the most fiscally responsible way to protect public safety, infrastructure, and the Indian River Lagoon while supporting economic vitality and tourism.

Staff Analysis:

Brevard County currently regulates solid waste handling, storage, and property maintenance through Chapter 94 of the Brevard County Code, which requires property owners and occupants to properly contain solid waste and prevent litter or debris from escaping into public rights-of-way.

In addition, Chapter 62, Land Development Regulations, contains development review requirements applicable to commercial and multifamily projects. During the site plan review process, developments are required to demonstrate the location and design of solid waste disposal areas and dumpster enclosures, including screening and accessibility for collection vehicles. These requirements ensure that adequate space is reserved for waste collection and that facilities are properly integrated into site design.

Brevard County also administers Solid Waste Concurrency requirements, which ensure that adequate solid waste disposal capacity exists to serve new development prior to approval of development



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orders. These concurrency provisions are intended to confirm that the County's landfill and waste management systems have sufficient capacity to accommodate projected growth.

In addition to regulatory requirements, Brevard County provides significant public education and waste management resources through the Brevard County Solid Waste Management Department website, including information on recycling, proper disposal practices, litter prevention, and waste reduction.

The County also operates Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facilities where residents can safely dispose of materials that should not enter the regular waste stream. These facilities are located at:

Sarno Road Landfill – Melbourne

Central Disposal Facility – Cocoa

North Brevard Disposal Facility – Titusville

These facilities are available to residents to properly dispose of chemicals, electronics, batteries, and other materials that may otherwise pose environmental or safety concerns.

While the citizen's recommendation emphasizes proactive planning and early compliance, implementation of a proactive monitoring or review program beyond current development review procedures would likely require additional staffing resources, particularly within Solid Waste Management or Code Enforcement. Existing processes largely address issues through development review and complaint-based enforcement.

Currently, the Solid Waste Management Department, like many County departments, operates under existing budgetary constraints. Implementing a proactive inspection or monitoring program would likely require the addition of new staff and associated operational funding.

Funding such an expansion could require increased ad valorem tax revenues or other funding mechanisms to support additional personnel and program administration. Without additional resources, the County's ability to implement a proactive enforcement or monitoring program would be limited.

As such, staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners take no further action currently, as Brevard County already maintains regulatory provisions addressing solid waste storage, litter



Planning & Development Department

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prevention, and development review through Chapters 62 and 94 of the County Code, as well as Solid Waste Concurrency requirements.

The County also provides multiple public education resources and waste disposal programs, including household hazardous waste collection facilities located in Melbourne (Sarno Road), Cocoa, and Titusville.

Should the Board desire to pursue a more proactive program as suggested in the citizen recommendation, staff recommends that such direction include evaluation of staffing, operational costs, and potential funding mechanisms, as additional personnel and financial resources would likely be required to implement and sustain such an initiative.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026047 with revisions as Brevard County will continue to maintain regulatory provisions addressing solid waste storage, litter prevention, and development review through Chapters 62 and 94 of the County Code, as well as Solid Waste Concurrency requirements.