



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Communications/SCGTV Office

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C, Room 301
Viera, Florida 32940

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Frank B. Abbate, County Manager

FROM: Don Walker, Communications/SCGTV Director 

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation #2024049 –Premature Closing of Speak Up Brevard

DATE: 04/01/2024

CEER #2024049 was received by the County from Kristin Lortie on Dec. 31, 2023.

Citizen Statement:

I was alerted by another resident that wished to participate that the county has closed the Speak Up Brevard website on December 31st and prior to the policy deadline. Per policy BCC-95, the county is required to accept filings through January 1st.

The early closing of the website may mislead residents of the submission timeline, and preclude their suggestions from being included with the rest of the citizen suggestions. Keeping the website open allows the opportunity for efficiency saving suggestions to be received in the format provided by the Speak Up Brevard policy.

The close date and time is not posted on the website, and even after a resident specifically requested it be added earlier this month to assist and inform residents.

Citizen Recommendation:

Brevard County should leave the Speak Up Brevard submission website open through at least midnight on January 1st, to be in compliance with county policy BCC-95.

- Due to the early website closing this year, Brevard County should immediately open the website and extend the deadline to allow residents additional time to participate.
- The website open and close date and time should be clearly posted on the website for the benefit of Brevard residents that wish to participate.
- Submissions (including this one) that are emailed to the county during the current cycle should be added to the website so that they are available and searchable on the website with the other 2023 submissions.

Staff Analysis:

County Charter stipulates procedures shall include among its provisions, "An annual filing date" for Speak Up Brevard recommendations. County Policy stipulates "The annual filing for submission shall be July 15, 2011, for the initial year and January 1 of each year thereafter." Staff was notified by email on Dec. 31 by county residents Kristin Lortie and Terry Mott, and on Jan. 1 from county resident Sandra Sullivan, that Speak Up Brevard ended early. Upon review, it was determined that since 2017 the software used for Speak Up Brevard has shut the program down at 5 a.m. on Dec. 31. We notified residents who emailed the County Manager's Office that any CEER recommendation submitted through 5 a.m. Jan. 1 would be included, and they have been. Due to the Jan. 1 timeframe mentioned in the Board Policy, staff adjusted the software to continue through Jan. 1, 2024.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that CEER# 2024049 be accepted with revisions as outlined in the staff analysis.

Recommendation Details

Contact Information

Full Name: Kristin Lortie **Email Address:** kristin.lortie@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 5524 BRILLIANCE CIR
COCOA fl 32926 **Alt Email Address:**

Phone Number 720-935-8780

Group/Organization N/A

Recommendation Information

Recommendation Title: Premature Closing of Speak Up Brevard Website for Citizen Suggestions

Areas Affected: Speak Up Brevard

Department: COUNTY MANAGERS OFFICE

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Problem Description:

- Brevard County should leave the Speak Up Brevard submission website open through at least midnight on January 1st, to be in compliance with county policy BCC-95.
- Due to the early website closing this year, Brevard County should immediately open the website and extend the deadline to allow residents additional time to participate.
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Recommendation Description

Attachments

No.	Type	Name
1		Lortie1-Screenshot_20231231-181508-522.png
2		Lortie2-Screenshot_20231231-180812-066~2.png

Administrative Action

Evaluation

Recommendation Timeline

User	Status	Date	Remarks
RACHEL HORST	Citizen Submitted	Jan 3, 2024	
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 3, 2024	SCGTV/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE Assigned

Awaiting action from department director



POLICY

TITLE:	Citizens Process For Advising The County Commission	NUMBER:	BCC-95
		APPROVED:	May 24, 2011
		ORIGINATOR:	County Manager's Office
		REVIEW:	May 24, 2014

I. OBJECTIVE:

To provide a process for Citizens as individuals or as an organized group of individuals to submit formal written recommendations for the enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of Brevard County Government.

II. REFERENCE:

A. Brevard County Home Rule Charter Section 2.9.10.

III. DIRECTIVES

- A. The County Manager, within this policy document, shall establish and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a process and procedures whereby the Board can review and formally vote to accept, accept with revisions, or reject recommendations on the enhancement of the effectiveness and efficiency of County Government.
- B. An annual filing date with a review period shall be established for receipt of submission and final vote of the Board of County Commissioners.
- C. The County Manager will solicit, under this policy and process, recommendations that promote the efficiency and effectiveness of County government as the intent of the Charter amendment was not to address citizen grievances or specific citizen service requests.
- D. Any individual or organized group may submit recommendations intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of County Government by submitting to the County Manager an electronic or hardcopy of the "Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness" form attached to this policy. Upon submittal, the form will be reviewed and acted upon according to the following procedure.

1. The annual filing date for submission shall be July 15, 2011 for the initial year and January 1 of each year thereafter.

2. The form will be available for download and submission on the County Internet Homepage. Hardcopies of the form will be available by request from the County Manager's Office.

3. Within forty five (45) days of receipt of the recommendation the County Manager's Office shall evaluate and comment upon the recommendation with a recommendation for the consideration of the Board of County Commissioners. If necessary the County Manager's Office will also forward the recommendation to the County Attorney for a review of the legality of the recommendation.

4. The County Manager after completion of the above referenced reviews will forward the recommendation and review package to the Board of County Commissioners for their review.



Speak Up Brevard Recommendations

About Speak Up Brevard. (Click To CLOSE)

To provide a formal process for citizens to submit recommendations to Brevard County government, and as a result of charter amendment, Brevard County has implemented a web-based application called "Speak Up Brevard."

Speak Up Brevard allows citizens to submit ideas which would assist county government in conserving energy, saving costs, eliminating duplication, generating revenue, increasing productivity, or preventing waste.

After submitting a recommendation, the [County Manager's Office](#) has 45 days to evaluate and comment on the recommendation, and then forward it to the [Board of County Commissioners](#) for their review. The Board of County Commissioners must take a final vote to either approve, reject, or revise and accept the recommendation within 120 days. The sponsor of the recommendation will be given at least a week's notice prior to it being heard/voted on by the Board.

[Click here to search recommendations](#) that have been submitted this year and previous years.

Website was closed on 12/31.

Information Notification

The Speak Up Brevard form is not available at this time. The next scheduled recommendation form open date is .