



# HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

## TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP

**JANUARY 3, 2023 AT 06:30 PM**

### **Cover Sheet**

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**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Please do not change the formatting of this document (font style, size, paragraph spacing etc.)

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**ITEM TITLE:** Discussion of Maintaining Proper Communication Inside Public Meetings (**Randolph**)

**TOWN COUNCIL ACTION:**

<b>PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS</b>		<b>Department:</b> LEGISLATIVE  <b>Exhibits:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>N/A</li></ul>
<b>INTRODUCTIONS</b>		
<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>		
<b>COUNCIL DISCUSSION</b>	YES	
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>		

**REQUEST:** For Town Council to discuss Maintaining Proper Communication Inside Public Meetings

**SUMMARY:** According to a recent report from the National League of Cities, more than 80% of local government officials have experienced some form of harassment, abuse, or violence while in office. That same report states that 87% of public officials have observed an increase in such behavior, with many noting a dramatic increase since the beginning of the pandemic. Negative comments can derail and prolong council meetings, impacting the council's ability to conduct the public's business. There are growing fears that continued negative discourse could discourage broad community engagement with local governments. The general public may be less inclined to participate in meetings that frequently turn negative or violent. This could result in councils only hearing from a very vocal minority of their community, who may not represent the thoughts, feelings, or preferences of the community as a whole.

(January 1, 2022 News from the Institute for Local Government By Melissa Kuehne)

**RECOMMENDATION:** To discuss Ways To Maintain Proper Communication Inside Public Meetings

**FISCAL & EFFICIENCY DATA:** N/A