Exhibit B

Testimony Before Lake Park, FL Town Commission 10/07/2026
Public Comment - Respecting the Purpose of Public Comment
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Private Resident / Lake Park Society for the Advancement of Civic Engagement

Good evening.
What is the purpose and intent of our public comment rights?

On Sept 16 a *Commissioner* used the three minutes allotted to the public, to celebrate her son's return home from military service. A public comment card was completed on his behalf, yet he offered maybe 10 words. The Commissioner then used the entire allotted time to express her pride for him. Breaking with the rules of public comment, almost all but one engaged in dialog with the son. It was the second time during that same meeting that you engaged in dialog. At long last are we now anticipating dialog from the dais? Is this a new policy?

To be clear, we should recognize those who serve our country, and I respect the pride a parent feels in a child's accomplishments. The issue is not the sentiment. It's the setting.

Public comment is an opportunity for *residents* to address elected officials about all matters of municipal concern. It is a very limited but valuable opportunity to be heard and that time is ours.

It *may be* opportune under Commissioner Comments to share personal family events, albeit again that would have nothing to do with the business of government. Stick to the reason why we are here.

If a Commissioner can use public comment for a personal family tribute, what prevents the next speaker from using that moment to talk about baseball, TV shows, or colorful socks? It wastes our time.

Most speakers prepare carefully researched remarks, and struggle to fit their concerns into three minutes. They deserve to know that the same standards of relevance and purpose apply to everyone.

Your conduct communicates how seriously you regard the residents engagement. You fail when no dialog is allowed but you easily tolerate personal expressions.

I respectfully ask this Commission to clarify the policy of public comment, and establish written, expectations for its use. Once before you allowed a Commissioner to use the podium for his own rant. It was inappropriate then and it is now. It's not a personal speaking platform.

The presiding officer must control these moments. Failure is poor meeting management.

Our residents' time is valuable. Establish a formal resolution or ordinance regarding the rules of the public comment period as were proposed previously. Agendize this topic! Thank you.