

Exhibit A

Comment

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Request Date: May 1, 2024

TO THE LAKE PARK, FLORIDA TOWN COMMISSION

A REQUEST TO PLACE AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 1, 2024
(OR SOON THEREAFTER)

Testimony by Michael Steinhauer, Resident, Town of Lake Park, Florida

435 Greenbriar Drive

Good evening. Truthfully, I was so moved by the reception I received at the last Commission meeting, providing feedback about the proposed "Civility and Decorum" language. It demonstrated to me the importance of resident feedback about the business of the town, and your willingness to listen and act accordingly. Thank you again.

But where is the amended language tonight?

Today I appear before you to ask for a simple approval. I wish you would consider adding an agenda item to your June 1st meeting or soon thereafter. I and several other residents seek to discuss the notion of an appointment of a non-voting, non-partisan, public member to the Town Commission. As you are well aware, most of the Boards and Commissions recognized by the Town Commission have resident representation and I believe it is time to expand that representation to the Town Commission.

As I note on the Town's organizational chart, the residents who reside here are at the top, followed underneath by the Town Commission and it's 'subsidiary' boards and 501c 3 "Friends", and then the Town Manager. Thus, it seems incongruent not to have a non-voting, appointed public member sitting with you on the Town Commission dais.

The values of the Town of Lake Park should include the essential elements of a representative democracy. Such representation would enhance resident civic knowledge, participatory flow of information, the perception of residents having a voice in town governance, and better simulates the democratic process.

I/we expect that an appointment to the Town Commission would follow the usual and customary processes for appointing residents to other town boards and commissions. We would expect that the Public Member would enjoy all the rights and privileges of access to information that elected Commissioners have, with no voting rights whatsoever. There are numerous models for such public member representation that I would like to share with you during an agenda item discussion.

Please consider tonight a simple motion to place this matter as an agenda item in June and open the floor to healthy, respectful, civil, and educational information to make an informed decision.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. Good evening again.