

# EXHIBIT B

Testimony Before Lake Park, FL Commission 5/06/2026

## Public Comment on Commissioner O'Rourke's Concerning Comments of Distrust

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Good evening Mayor and Commissioners,

I'm here tonight not to address an agenda item, but something just as important to the health of our town—trust.

In a community as small and interconnected as ours, information and rumors travel quickly. Recently, there has been growing speculation that a member of this Commission, Commissioner O'Rourke may be considering calling for the termination of our Town Manager. That is his absolute right. I can appreciate the possibility, after several previous public comments made over the past few months during these meetings.

Commissioner O'Rourke's remarks certainly appear made with passion, but also feel like attacks, so they erode confidence, create unnecessary anxiety among town staff and residents, and distract from the real work of governing. Residents do not feel well served when opinions appear to be spontaneous, emotional, harsh, and without evidence. That's not how a well-functioning town operates.

If there are concerns about the performance or veracity of any town staff, those concerns deserve to be addressed—but they should be addressed professionally, respectfully, and publicly as allowed by law, within the processes designed for that purpose. Anything less undermines not just an individual, but the integrity of this body.

For example, our Town Manager has earned the respect and appreciation of many in this community. We know that from public testimony. If there is a conversation to be had about leadership, then let it be a conversation grounded in fact, not fueled by unsubstantiated tirades.

I respectfully ask this Commission to reaffirm its commitment to transparency and to responsible leadership, *especially as it relates to the aspect of meaningful dialog with residents on all aspects of town business*. Many still feel left out of the process, as when emails go forever unanswered. If decisions of this magnitude are considered, the public deserves thoughtful governance.

Let's model the kind of management and administration we expect: objective, reasoned, evidence-based, and with civility and decorum.

Thank you.