



Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Submittal

Item To Be Considered: **Samuel Swann Bland Outstanding Community Service Award
Revision Consideration**

Board Meeting Date: **August 14, 2023**

Prepared By: **Alissa Fender – Town Clerk**

Overview: The Samuel Swann Bland Outstanding Community Service Award will be discussed and reviewed for revisions.

Background: In February 2009, the Samuel Swann Bland Community Service Award was established in honor of Sam Bland, the former superintendent of Hammocks Beach State Park. Sam's outstanding dedication to the improvement of community services, diligence, hard work, and leadership exhibited during his career are the principles for the award.

This award is to be given annually to a public employee, civic leader, or community volunteer that has demonstrated the qualities outlined above. Traditionally, recipients are announced and recognized at a Board meeting and presented with a plaque.

In August and September of 2022, the Board expressed its desire to elevate the award by expanding the selection criteria, changing the name, and to make the recognition more formal. For FY 23-24, funds in the amount of \$1,400 were allocated to accomplish a more formal recognition of the award, even making the event more of an alumni reunion. In addition to the individual plaque, the names of all recipients will be placed in the lobby of Town Hall, and a more formal banquet will be held where the next year's recipient will be celebrated and/or announced.

Currently, nominations are solicited through our Facebook Page, Constant Contact, the Newsletter, and Tideland News. We can also send the nomination form out to churches, schools, and organizations. We do not recommend advertising on the radio or TV because the goal is to recognize someone in our community, not someone in Greenville or Wilmington where our local TV stations broadcast too. TV and radio ads will require additional funding as well.

The current nomination criteria describe the contributions Sam Bland made within the community and for which the award was established.

- **Nomination Criteria:** There are five principal criteria that will be considered in the evaluation of nominations for the award. *On a separate sheet or sheets*, the nominating person must explain the extent to which the nominee has demonstrated the following qualities:

Action: _____

1. *Impact.* Describe the extent to which the nominee has consistently and diligently pursued his or her public, civic, or volunteer responsibilities in a manner which clearly and visibly contributes to the improvement of the community.

2. *Effort.* How has the nominee exhibited dedicated and conscientious pursuit of public, civic, or volunteer responsibilities in a manner that significantly exceeds the normal requirements of time and attention to duty?

3. *Stewardship.* How has the nominee demonstrated the ability to marshal, acquire, and/or cost-effectively use necessary and available human, physical, and/or financial resources to accomplish projects or programs for the benefit of the Swansboro community?

4. *Initiative.* How has the nominee demonstrated willingness and ability to exercise personal vision and initiative to address community needs, accomplish community improvements, and/or improve the quality of life for Swansboro residents?

5. *Innovation.* How has the nominee demonstrated willingness and ability to use new or improved methods that accomplish, in a unique and/or expeditious manner, important tasks or projects that benefit the Swansboro community?

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends leaving the nomination criteria as originally created in honor of Sam Bland's outstanding dedication to the improvement of community services, diligence, hard work, and leadership. Elevate the recognition of the award by holding an Alumni Banquet where the new recipient is inducted into this elite group annually. Invite all past recipients to the banquet each year.

Background Attachment(s):

1. Samuel Swann Bland Outstanding Community Service Award Nomination form
2. Board of Commissioners Policy No.12 – Samuel Swann Bland Outstanding Community Service Award

Recommended Action: Determine when the recipient will be announced, at the December Board meeting, or at the banquet.