



Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda Item Submittal

Item To Be Considered: **Board of Commissioners Policy No. 12 – Samuel Bland Community Service Award**

Board Meeting Date: **August 25, 2026**

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

Overview: The Board requested to review the Samuel Swann Bland Outstanding Community Service Award, and the associated nomination process.

Background

The Swansboro Board of Commissioners established the Samuel Swann Bland Outstanding Community Service Award in February 2009 to honor the diligence, hard work, leadership, and dedication demonstrated by Samuel Swann Bland, former Superintendent of Hammocks Beach State Park, whose contributions had a lasting impact on both the public and the Swansboro community. The award is intended to recognize a civic leader or community volunteer who exemplifies those same qualities through outstanding dedication to the improvement of community services.

The policy provides that recipients should demonstrate:

- Impact through consistent and diligent service that visibly improves the community;
- Effort that significantly exceeds normal expectations of time and commitment;
- Stewardship through effective use of human, physical, and financial resources for the benefit of the community; and
- Initiative by employing innovative or improved methods to successfully accomplish projects that benefit Swansboro.

In August 2022, the Board amended the policy and nomination process to further enhance community awareness and recipient recognition. Those revisions included:

- Removing public employees from eligibility consideration;
- Establishing a permanent plaque in the Town Hall lobby recognizing all recipients;
- Expanding outreach efforts by announcing the acceptance of nominations throughout the year through community organizations, schools, churches, libraries, media outlets, and other communication channels; and
- Establishing an annual banquet/reception honoring recipients and their families.

Costs associated with award recognition, public outreach, commemorative plaques, and the annual reception will continue to be considered through the Town's annual budget process.

Background Attachment(s): Board of Commissioners Policy 12 & Application

Recommended Action: Review and provide directions to staff for any amendments

Action: _____
