

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: February 16, 2010

Date Submitted: January 29, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Commissioner Kessler

Subject: Consideration of "Citizens To Be Heard" on Agenda Outline

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests the Board to vote to approve a generally fixed period of time on the agenda of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of County Commission for the agenda item: CITIZENS TO BE HEARD.

Background:

The agenda for Board meetings varies widely from one meeting to the next in both content and duration. Depending on the time taken to address items that are set on the agenda that precede the item, "Citizens to be Heard", the item may come as early as 6:00p.m. and as late as 9:30p.m. or later. This requires citizens to arrive at the meetings early and sometimes wait hours in order to have their 3 minutes to speak. This is a situation that is unduly burdensome to the citizen.

Analysis:

It is suggested that as best as can be provided, the item: "Citizens to be Heard" start between 7:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. This would require that this item "float" within the agenda and although its spot on the agenda would not be fixed, its time would be more predictable. If this system were implemented, this would allow our citizens to know within a general time period when "Citizens to be Heard" would appear and would alleviate the gross uncertainty that presently exists for the citizen. If all items on the agenda were completed before 7:00p.m., then the item, "Citizens to be Heard" would be the last item on the agenda for that meeting.

Options:

1. Vote to start the item "Citizens to be Heard" as near as possible to a time period between 7:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. during regularly scheduled Board meetings.
2. Do not vote to start the item "Citizens to be Heard" as near as possible to a time period between 7:00p.m. and 7:30p.m. during regularly scheduled Board meetings.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1