

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

The Board of County Commissioners, in order to allow more public input and establish procedures, adopted Resolution No. 2017-111 on July 24, 2017.

1. General Rules to ensure that every citizens has the ability to address the board are:
 - a. All electronic devices, including cell phones and pagers, shall be turned off or silenced.
 - b. No disruptive behavior will be permitted (i.e. clapping, whistling, heckling, yelling, unrecognized responses, or other disruptive behavior).
 - c. No prolonged communication in the audience as that disrupts the speaker and the ability to hear a speaker and those communications should occur outside the chambers.
 - d. No personal attacks on speakers or other members of the audience, individual Board members or staff.
 - e. Any violation of the General Rules or specific rules set forth herein, shall cause a speaker to relinquish their time to speak and/or removal including removal from the audience by the Bailiff. The Chairman will inform an individual that they are in violation of the rules and must relinquish their time. The Chairman will also inform any member of the audience that they are in violation of the rules and to cease the disruption. If the speaker does not relinquish their time or the members of the audience do not cease the violation, the Chairman will inform the individual they must leave the chambers. Failure to leave the chambers may cause the Chairman to request that the Bailiff or any Deputy Sheriff to remove the individual from the chambers or building.
2. Public Comments and Inquiries for Items Not on the Agenda. The comments or inquiries shall be related to matters that are within the authority of the Board of County Commissioners. Persons may address the Commission on items not on the agenda during this period. The Commission shall not take final action on public comment

items presented at the same meeting and may refer them to the County Manager and/or County Attorney to follow up or schedule the matter at another County Commission meeting. When inquiries and comments are brought before the Commission, other than for items already on an agenda, the Chairman, with the assistance of the County Attorney, may first determine whether the issue is a matter that is within the authority of the Board of County Commissioners and then:

- a. If the inquiry or comment is about suggestions for changes of ordinances, the Commission may refer the matter to the County Manager and the County Attorney for review and recommendation.
- b. If the inquiry or comment is regarding the performance of administrative staff, administrative interpretation of legislative policy, or administrative policy within the authority of the County Manager, the Chairman shall refer the matter directly to the County Manager for his/her review and action. The Commission may direct that the County Manager report to the Commission when his/her review is completed. Where the Nassau County Code provides a specific procedure for administrative review or appeal, that procedure shall govern.
- c. If the inquiry is regarding County projects or requests for work to be done, the matter shall be referred to the County Manager who shall meet with the individual or refer the matter to a designated department head or Assistant County Manager. The Chairman will have the County Attorney read the procedures for non-agendaed items. Each speaker appearing during the Audience Input portion of the agenda, after being recognized shall: Come up to the speakers' rostrum and give his/her name and address;

➤ Limit comments to three (3) minutes;

- Address all remarks to the Commission as a body, and not a member thereof or to the audience;
- The public comment portion is for items not on the agenda. The public can address the Board as to any matter that is within the Board's authority.
- Speakers should make comments concise and to the point, and present any data they wish the Commission to consider. No person may speak more than once on the same subject.
- Personal attacks are not relevant and will not be allowed. Topics that are not within the authority of the Board of County Commissioners will not be allowed. Anyone who presents information that is not within the authority of the Board of County Commissioners, as determined by the Chairman and County Attorney, will be directed to stop their presentation and their time will be relinquished.

3. Public comment shall also be heard on any item on the agenda or expansion item which the Board is to take action on. As each item is considered, the Chairman will ask if anyone wishes to address the Board as to the item, including Consent Items, and they will be afforded three (3) minutes for their presentations. Again, the presentation must be relevant to the item and personal attacks are not relevant and will not be permitted. Any person whose presentation is not relevant, as determined by the Chairman and County Attorney, will relinquish their time. Each person addressing an agenda item will after being recognized:

- Come up to the speakers' rostrum and give his/her name and address;
- Limit comments to three (3) minutes;

- Address all remarks to the Commission as a body, and not a member thereof, nor the audience;
- Speakers should make comments concise and to the point, and present any data or evidence they wish the Commission to consider. No person may speak more than once on the same subject.
- Personal attacks are not relevant and will not be allowed. Anyone who presents irrelevant information, as determined by the Chairman and County Attorney, will be directed to stop their presentation and their time will be relinquished.

A copy of Resolution No. 2017-111 is attached.