

From: Cheryll Grover <cheryll_grover@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Jami Morritt <Jami.Morritt@cob.cccounty.us>; County Supervisor Diane Burgis <burgiscampaignkickoff@earpevents.com>; John_Gioia <John_Gioia@bos.cccounty.us>; Supervisor Mitchoff <SupervisorMitchoff@bos.cccounty.us>; District 5 Supervisor Federal Glover <federal@federalglover.com>; Candace Andersen <Candace.Andersen@bos.cccounty.us>
Cc: Cheryll Grover <cheryll_grover@yahoo.com>
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY -Public Comment for Mtg. 10-19-21

A few weeks ago I mentioned the irregularity that is taking place in Public Comment.

And then weeks go by without change. Every meeting that is held continues to deny the public a reasonable process, is discriminatory and restrictive. And it is further compounded with every public meeting where this access is denied.

Some recommendations were made and should be set in place as soon as humanly possible to prevent further damage to the communities you serve, and can be graduated in, not all done at one time in order to quickly attend to this intolerable error.

1. Allow a speaker to finish the last sentence regardless of the 2-minute term. (It only takes an extra second or two.)
2. A time clock on the screen so the speaker has a better awareness of the time as it ticks.

Ringling a bell mid a speech that is being rattled off at lightning speed is not helpful and is rather useless since it is not associated with any clock anyone can see.

Another thing: The Public Comment should return to the BEGINING of the meetings. The policy (which changed) of waiting until the eND of a meeting is impossible for people with jobs, families, people they care for, to manage. This late in the day, end of meeting time is worthless for community participation. Your meetings are now severely shortened because there is virtually no one on the phones or waiting all day to speak. While that may expedite your day, and agenda, it hinders and obstructs the purpose of having public comment at all.

I am absolutely certain this is not only my opinion. I have talked to many people who actually only had a phone at their disposal and were prohibited from participation by call drops or not getting the #2 to let them in. The image is one of extreme purposeful exclusion. I know that isn't an image you are trying to create.

During this crisis of the pandemic, we should have already had the tools in place to handle all of these issues and yet we didn't. The County failed us and continues to fail us at an exceedingly horrific level in this.

I hope that, with THIS meeting some, and NEXT the remainder of the suggestions, the County team can **1. Move the public comment to the beginning of the meetings again, 2. Not cut anyone off until they finish that last few words, 3. Get a clock up in the zoom** (as I expect that would take slightly longer for IT to get done but not by much since other committees are already doing it).

Please add this letter under Public Comment for Tuesday 10-19-21

As always, I thank you for your hard work and attention!

Cheryll Grover
(925) 383-4743