

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING  
October 24, 2023**

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida met in special session at 1:00 p.m. with Chair Nick Maddox presiding. Present were Vice-Chair Carolyn Cummings and Commissioners David T. O'Keefe, Christian Caban, Brian Welch, Bill Proctor, and Rick Minor. Also present were County Administrator Vincent Long, County Attorney Chasity O'Steen, and Clerk to the Board Beryl H. Wood.

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- None

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD ON CONSENT AND NON-AGENDAED ITEMS**

- None

**CONSENT**

- None

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. North Florida Community Development Corporation's Sponsorship Request  
*(County Administrator/ County Administration/ Office of Financial Stewardship)*

County Administrator Long introduced this item which sought Board consideration of a sponsorship request from the North Florida Community Development Corporation for a County sponsorship of the 50 Years of Hip Hop Celebration Concert to be held at Anita Favors Plaza at Lake Anita on November 10, 2023.

This item has a fiscal impact. The FY 2024 Budget did not include funding for this event. However, should the Board support the \$25,000 sponsorship request, funding is available in the general fund contingency account.

County Administrator Long noted that there were no speakers on this particular item.

Commissioner Proctor commented on his love for Hip Hop for the celebration.

Commissioner O'Keefe inquired if the funds for the item requested would come from the contingency balance and whether the County was already involved. County Administrator Long responded that the County was not already involved.

Vice-Chair Cummings recalled being impressed with the preventative measures outlined in the write-up, particularly in relation to discouraging young people from involvement in gun violence. She inquired about the status of the permit, and Ken Morris, Assistant

County Administrator, replied that it was approved late last week. Additionally, she asked about security measures and ticket sales, to which Mr. Morris clarified that the event is open to anyone, and there are to be no ticket sales.

Commissioner Proctor mentioned that he had spoken to Sheriff McNeal, and they were making efforts to have six officers for security. He acknowledged that the call for security is demanding, especially with two college teams playing at home, but they were actively working to secure the event.

Commissioner Caban inquired about the total funding needed for the event and asked if the County had ever sponsored an event of this nature before.

Laurie Thomas, Executive Director of North Florida Community Development Corporation, provided information about the event, stating that the projected cost is \$91,000. She discussed issues with policing related to the permitting process with the City. Ms. Thomas mentioned that they have raised \$45,000 so far and highlighted that one of the artists was the nationally renowned local artist from the Tallahassee area, T-Pain.

County Administrator Long clarified that the County has not sponsored an event like this before. He discussed the processes in place and mentioned that these are exceptions, indicating that the Board does have the latitude to decide if the event is worthy of the Board's sponsorship.

Commissioner Caban expressed concerns regarding the item requested, specifically mentioning Frenchtown Rising. He pointed out that this event conflicts with Frenchtown Rising, which has occurred six times, and noted the competition for attention, especially since it is a home game for FAMU.

Ms. Thomas clarified that their event is not in direct competition with Frenchtown Rising. She emphasized that it is a national event, standing on its own, and is focused on supporting youth awareness about gun violence. Additionally, she highlighted the cultural significance of Hip Hop in the event.

Mr. Darius "Doc D" Baker, Executive Director of Tallahassee Nights Live, commented on the event and expressed his positive support for it.

Greg James, a local pastor, commented on the event, emphasizing the size and significance of the audience. He requested support for the event, highlighting that it goes beyond being just a concert.

Commissioner Proctor, expressing his connection to Ridge Road, gave his support for the event. He responded to Commissioner Caban's concerns. The County Administrator commented on the established process and the specific circumstances that led to this

request, mentioning the Word of South event. He discussed the importance of the upcoming event.

Vice-Chair Cummings brought up a past request related to Women and Girls, inquiring if it was part of the budget process. She then addressed Commissioner Caban's concerns, expressing support for Frenchtown Rising and highlighting the contrast with the Hip Hop 50-year Celebration, emphasizing that it is a one-time event. She felt that there would be no competition between the two and appreciated the event's focus on supporting youth.

Commissioner Caban stated that he would support the motion.

Chair Maddox inquired about City funding, and Ms. Thompson mentioned that they haven't received it yet but expect it to come from the City soon. Chair Maddox expressed his support for the project and spoke about the significance of having a role model from Tallahassee, T-Pain, involved in the event.

*Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Cummings, to approve Option #1: Approve the request from North Florida Community Development Corporation for a County sponsorship in the amount of \$25,000 from general fund contingency to support the 50 Years of Hip Hop Celebration Concert. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Welch was out of Chambers).*

*Commissioner Proctor moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to approve a proclamation recognizing the career and accomplishments of T-Pain, to be presented by Commissioner Proctor at the 50 Years of Hip Hop Celebration Concert. The motion passed 6-0 (Commissioner Welch out of Chambers).*

### **State Attorney**

Jack Campbell, State Attorney, spoke in opposition to an ongoing state review exploring the consolidation of Florida's judicial circuits. He asked that it be added to the lobbyist priorities list.

Commissioner Proctor shared with the Board and State Attorney a letter from the Public Safety Coordinating Council to Judge Johnathan Gerber, Chairperson of the Judicial Circuit Assessment Committee, in opposition to the consolidation. He reflected on the potential financial impact of consolidation on Leon County.

*Vice-Chair Cummings moved, seconded by Commissioner Minor, to add the State Attorney initiative opposing circuit consolidation to the current lobbyist priorities for Leon County. The motion carried 6-0. (Commissioner Welch out of Chambers).*

### **RECEIPT AND FILE**

- none

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:



*Carolyn D. Cummings*

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn D. Cummings, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

*Gwendolyn Marshall Knight*

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gwendolyn Marshall Knight, Clerk of Court  
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida