



**To: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
and
Board of County Commissioners**

FROM: Commissioner Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad, District 5

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KMS", located to the right of the "FROM" line.

DATE: March 31, 2025

SUBJECT: Open Discussion Request for April 8, 2025 – Variance Application Fee Waiver

I would like to discuss a request from one of my constituents, Robert Whatley, President of the Christmas Civic Association, to waive an application fee for a Variance request. The Christmas Civic Center (CCC) is located at 23760 East Colonial Drive, Christmas, FL 32709. They are a 501 (c)4 that functions as a community meeting hall used by local groups such as 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Boy Scouts, the Christmas Women's Club, the Christmas Historical Society, and serve as a polling location for the Supervisor of Elections.

The CCC is wanting to replace the existing sign that was placed by Orange County when the building was renovated for use by the Orange County Supervisor of Elections as the polling location for east Orange County. The proposed sign is the same size as the existing sign, and they are requesting the new sign be placed in the same location as the old sign. For the sign to be visible from Highway 50, it needs to be in the same location as the existing sign.

Moving the sign 10 feet to the south, as required by the updated county code, would place the sign too close to the designated disabled parking space, making the space unusable. Without a designated disabled parking space, the CCC would no longer be usable as a polling location. East Orange County has very limited voting sites and the CCC provides voter access to the residents East of the Econ.

The CCC is a nonprofit organization and offers convenient meeting space at little to no cost for community groups. As a result, they have very limited financial resources. Therefore, the CCC is seeking a waiver for the variance application fee. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request. The applicant is aware that approval of this waiver request does not constitute approval of the variance request.

Cc: Byron Brooks, County Administrator, Cheryl Gillespie, Supervisor, Agenda Development Office, Jennifer Moreau, Assistant Zoning Division Manager