

Hodge, Wes

From: Martinez Semrad, Kelly (Commissioner)
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 12:52 PM
To: Hodge, Wes
Cc: Perry, Lee-Alyse B; Bonilla Veliz, Victoria; Cornell, Jarred M; robert.whatley@att.net
Subject: FW: Christmas Civic Association sign

Hi Wes,

I have Rob Whatley, President of the Christmas Civic Center (CCC) copied on this email. Please see his email below regarding the variance request and fee waiver for the CCC sign permit. Could you please forward on to the appropriate parties as well as ask the Supervisor of Elections to support our effort to ensure that we can keep CCC as a polling site in East Orange County? Thank you so much, Kelly

Dr. Kelly Martinez Semrad
Orange County Commissioner
District 5
Office: 407-836-7304
Fax: 407-836-5879



From: robert whatley <robert.whatley@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2025 7:35 AM
To: Martinez Semrad, Kelly (Commissioner) <Kelly.MartinezSemrad@ocfl.net>
Subject: Christmas Civic Association sign

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Commissioner Semrad,

My name is Robert Whatley and I am writing this letter as President of the Christmas Civic Association.

The Christmas Civic Center (CCC) is located at 23760 East Colonial Drive, Christmas, FL 32709. We are a 501 (c)4 that functions as a community meeting hall used by local groups such as 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, the Christmas Women's Club and as an Election Poll.

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 we 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 requested by the county, 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 Christmas Civic Center provides voter access to the residents East of the Econ.

Therefore, the Christmas Civic Center is seeking a wavier for the variance application fee.

Thank you,

Robert Whatley
President
Christmas Civic Association

321-863-6129 cell
407-568-4703 office

Karen Castor Dentel
Supervisor of Elections
Orange County, Florida



OUR MISSION IS TO:
*Ensure the integrity of the electoral process.
Enhance public confidence.
Encourage citizen participation.*

Supervisor of Elections
119 West Kaley Street
Orlando, FL, 32806

March 28, 2025

Board of County Commissioners
201 South Rosalind Avenue
Orlando, FL, 32801

Dear Honorable Mayor Demings and County Commissioners,

The Christmas Civic Association is requesting an application fee waiver for a variance request regarding a new sign to be placed at one of our often-used polling locations, the Christmas Civic Center, located at 23760 East Colonial Drive, Christmas, FL 32709.

We fully support any consideration given to help this polling place continue to function, as we are aware of the low budget the association normally has for operations.

There may be other locations that could be utilized as polling locations in East Orange County, but there is a cost to our office of scouting and acquiring those locations to be utilized. Additionally, we need to make sure that locations are ADA compliant, which are additional costs for our office.

Please consider the added benefits of allowing this location to continue to be an option for a polling location when you consider granting a variance request and an application fee waiver.

Sincerely,

Karen Castor Dentel
Supervisor of Elections
Orange County, Florida
KCD/DH

