

**STONEGATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY**

- A. Prior to the District Board of Supervisors (the “Board”) taking official action on a proposition or matter, members of the public shall be provided with a reasonable opportunity to be heard on such proposition or matter. The opportunity to be heard need not occur at the same meeting at which the District Board takes official action on a proposition or matter if the opportunity to be heard occurs at a meeting that is a part of the decision making process and is within a reasonable proximity in time before the Board takes the official action.
- B. This policy does not prohibit the Board from maintaining orderly conduct or proper decorum during any public meeting. The opportunity to be heard is subject to the policies adopted by the District Board, as provided herein.
- C. Members of the public shall each be limited to three (3) minutes in which to address the Board regarding a particular proposition or matter. In the discretion of the Board, a potential speaker may assign his or her three (3) minutes to extend another speaker’s time on any proposition or matter, provided that such time is not extended beyond fifteen (15) minutes. The public comment period on a particular proposition or matter shall be limited to a total of one (1) hour. Provided that the requirements of Section 286.0114, Florida Statutes, are satisfied, the presiding officer of the Board may extend or reduce the time periods set forth herein to facilitate the conduct of District business in an orderly and efficient manner while effectuating the intent and purpose of this policy.
- D. For meetings in which more than ten (10) members of the public (non-Board members and non-District staff) are in attendance or upon the determination of the presiding officer of the Board, individuals desiring to address the District Board on a particular proposition or matter shall sign in on a public comment sheet to be provided by the district manager of the District on which the individual shall include his or her name, address, the proposition or matter in which they wish to be heard, the individual’s position on the proposition or matter (for, against, or neutral), and if applicable, in the discretion of the Board, shall identify the representative designated to speak on his or her behalf.
- E. Additional policies governing the reasonable opportunity to be heard at a Board meeting:
 - 1. Any person desiring to address the Board by oral communication shall first secure permission of the presiding officer of the Board,

and prior to proceeding with any comment shall state his or her name and address for the public record.

2. All remarks or comments shall be addressed to the Board as a body and not to any particular member thereof or to any member of District staff.
3. No person, other than members of the Board, District staff and the individual having the floor and addressing the Board during public comment, shall be permitted to enter into any discussion, either directly or indirectly through members of the District Board of Supervisors.
4. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to prohibit the presiding officer of the Board from maintaining decorum and orderly conduct during a public meeting.

F. The requirements of this policy above do not apply to:

1. An official act that must be taken to deal with an emergency situation affecting the public health, welfare or safety, if compliance with the requirements of this policy would cause and unreasonable delay in the ability of the Board to act.
2. An official act involving no more than a ministerial act, including, but not limited to, the approval of minutes and ceremonial proclamations.
3. A meeting that is exempt from the requirements of Section 286.011, Florida Statutes.
4. A meeting during which the Board is acting in a quasi-judicial capacity. However, this exemption does not affect the right of any person to be heard as otherwise provided by law.
5. Any other exception provided for in Section 286.0114(3), Florida Statutes, or as specifically provided by law.