



Public Comment

Submitted On:

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Manatee County Government

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| Full Name | First Name: GLEN Last Name: GIBELLINA |
| Email | Glengibellina@gmail.com |
| Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting) | April 08, 2026 |
| Topic/Agenda Item | POLICY WHY EVEN HAVE AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD |
| Comment | <p>This letter is a formal notice regarding a significant and recurring breakdown in the procedural requirements for communication between County Administration and the Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB). Specifically, I am addressing the failure to provide the AHAB with the opportunity to review and vet critical policy imports from Ms. Ali Ankudowich and Professor Thomas Hawkins.</p> <p>As an appointed body charged with providing recommendations on housing policy, it is essential that the AHAB is integrated into the decision-making process when expert testimony and planning data are introduced. Moving forward without AHAB input on these specific matters constitutes a bypass of the board's established mandate.</p> <p>Ms. Ali Ankudowich has provided essential insights regarding affordable housing policy and its alignment with the Comprehensive Plan. Furthermore, Professor Thomas Hawkins has offered expert guidance on the use of form-based codes to support community objectives and development patterns. These are not merely administrative updates; they are foundational shifts in how Manatee County addresses its housing crisis and development future. The exclusion of these experts from the AHAB's review process leads to several critical failures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion of Transparency: The public expects that an appointed advisory board will provide a specialized, public-facing layer of oversight. Bypassing the AHAB on these specific policy shifts prevents that transparency. • Procedural Gaps: The AHAB cannot offer sound recommendations to the BOCC if we are kept in the dark regarding the very data and expert opinions intended to shape housing policy and development patterns. • Administrative Oversight: These imports directly impact the alignment of housing policy with the Comprehensive Plan—a core function of the AHAB's advisory role. <p>The AHAB requires full access to all professional expertise and data sets used to inform housing policy. We do not accept a process where we are excluded from reviewing major planning and code-related contributions.</p> <p>I am formally requesting:</p> |

1. A written explanation from the County Attorney's office regarding the procedural decision to exclude these presentations from the AHAB agenda.
 2. The immediate scheduling of both Ms. Ankudowich and Professor Hawkins to present their findings and answer questions before the AHAB.
- The integrity of our advisory process depends on consistent, open communication. We look forward to your immediate attention to this matter and a commitment to restoring proper procedural protocols.
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