

RESOLUTION R-03-055

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING USE OF MANATEE COUNTY FACILITIES AND STAFF TO ASSIST SPECIFIC CHARITABLE EVENTS WHICH ACCOMPLISH A PUBLIC PURPOSE; DIRECTING THAT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OVERSEE THE COUNTY'S INTERACTION WITH THE SPECIFIC AGENCIES; MAKING RELATED FINDINGS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Manatee County government assets are to be used for the official business of Manatee County; and

WHEREAS, the official business of Manatee County government includes those activities which are found to be accomplishing a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission of Manatee County has adopted Resolution 01-125 to ensure that County computers, networks, and related facilities will not be used for charitable activities which have not been found by the Board of County Commissioners to accomplish a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County government has historically supported the charitable efforts of certain specific organizations by permitting County staff and facilities to aid the charitable efforts of said organizations; and

WHEREAS, the United Way of Manatee County, Inc., is affiliated with a nationally recognized organization whose fundraising efforts are keyed to annual campaigns directed at employers, and whose charitable activities within Manatee County provide social, health and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton, Inc., sponsors Better Manatee Day which is directly tied to the utilization of County employees to protect our environment, and whose charitable activities within Manatee County provide social, health and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., is affiliated with a nationally-recognized organization whose fundraising efforts the Race for the Cure and Lee Denim Day are keyed to working with employers, and whose charitable activities within Manatee County provide social, health and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, the American Heart Association, Inc., is a nationally recognized organization whose fundraising efforts are keyed in part to annual campaigns directed at employers, and whose charitable activities within Manatee County provide social, health and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, the Manatee Community Blood Center, Inc., sponsors periodic blood drives among County employees to ensure an adequate supply of blood for medical reasons, and whose non-profit activities within Manatee County provide social, health and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, Greater Manatee Chapter of Florida Women in Government, Inc., is a non-discriminatory organization open to men and women and providing leadership skills and educational scholarships to women in or interested in government, and volunteer services to residents and other charities in Manatee County, and whose non-profit activities within Manatee County provide social, health and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity of Manatee County, Inc., is a non-profit organization which seeks to provide home ownership to persons who may otherwise not be able to afford a home in Manatee County, and whose non-profit activities within Manatee County provide social, health, economic and welfare services which may otherwise fall to government to perform; and

WHEREAS, the County Administration has requested that the Board of County Commissioners recognize the County's historical support of these organizations and authorize the limited use of County staff, computers and related facilities to assist these specific organizations to communicate their efforts to Manatee County employees, as such efforts may relate to Manatee County employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that:

1. The County Administrator, and his designees, are authorized to make limited use of County staff, computers and related facilities to assist the United Way, the Kiwanis Club of Bradenton, Susan Komen Foundation, Community Blood Center, Women in Government, American Heart Association, and Habitat for Humanity of Manatee County, Inc., with communicating their charitable fundraising efforts reviewed above to Manatee County employees.
2. Such support may include permitting staff persons to coordinate fundraising efforts targeted toward Manatee County employees, permitting pre-authorized e mail messages regarding fundraising efforts to be sent to employees, permitting posting of pre-reviewed informational notices in common areas, and permitting minor exceptions to dress codes, etc., to facilitate fundraising contests.

3. The County Administrator will be directly responsible to ensure that the activities contemplated herein do not endanger employee safety or welfare, burden County equipment or resources, deprive citizens of quality service, or create a coercive environment wherein an employees feel contribution or participation is required.
4. The County Administrator or designee shall ensure, by reviewing all electronic or paper notices or communications prior to publication, that no County employee is named individually (other than as the event contact) and that the notice not include medical or other personal information regarding any individual County employee.
5. Each notice or communication made under this policy, by whatever means transmitted, must have in its text the words: "This communication has been reviewed and approved pursuant to Board of County Commission Resolution 02-295." To effectuate this provision, the Administrator or designee may have an ink stamp or similar device made which may be affixed to the notice or communication.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing herein is intended to create a general right or privilege of access to other charitable organizations for the use or access of County assets or staff. The Manatee County Commission, in authorizing the Administration to work with the organizations herein, expressly does not intend to convert any of its computers, networks, or other electronic or physical facilities into a public forum of any sort. The Board of County Commissioners reserves to itself the absolute right to alter or cancel any access or interaction with any of the organizations noted herein if, in its sole discretion, the best interests of the County so warrant, or if the organization ceases to perform a public service, as described herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing herein shall be deemed as permission to publish or advertise or solicit participation in any raffle, drawing, game of chance or any other similar event which would be considered illegal under Florida Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, with a quorum present and voting, this 11th day of February, 2003.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

R.B. SHORE
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By: *R.B. Shore*

By: *Jonathan Bruce*

Jonathan Bruce, Chairman

