



BARNSTABLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS
02630
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HOME RULED CHARTERED
IN 1989

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WILLIAM DOHERTY
Harwich

MARY PAT FLYNN
Falmouth

SHEILA R. LYONS
Wellfleet

POLICY ON PUBLIC COMMENT

Any member of the public may appear at a public meeting of the Barnstable County Commissioners and request to address a topic pertaining to matters within the jurisdiction granted by law to Barnstable County by the General Court at the Public Comment portion of the Meeting of the County Commissioners subject to the approval of the Chair. Barnstable County has two policies regarding public comment. These policies distinguish between comment relating to routine matters such as announcement of events or administrative comments that do not include discussion by the County Commissioners and comment that relates to a "topic" that invites participation by the County Commissioners that requires a posting on an agenda to comply with the Open Meeting Law.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT ON ROUTINE MATTERS

Public comment on routine matters such as announcement of scheduled events or recognition of an individual who has contributed to the community shall be limited to 3 minutes unless otherwise approved by the Chair. Since the matter has not been included on the posted Agenda of the Meeting, the County Commissioners may not participate in discussion of the topic.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON TOPICS THAT INVITE PARTICIPATION BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Any member of the public may submit a request to address a topic relating to matters within the jurisdiction granted by law to Barnstable County that invites participation and discussion by the Commissioners by communicating by written or electronic transmission to the County Administrator.

The County Administrator shall contact the Chair about the request. The Chair shall designate a date and time to the person submitting a request of make public comment at a meeting of the County Commissioners and the Office of the County Administrator shall notify the individual of the time and date designated for the

discussion topic. The Agenda will include the name of the individual and the topic about which the discussion will be made and the date and time of the public meeting of the County Commissioners when the topic will be discussed.

The Chair shall determine in consultation with the requestor the amount of time necessary for discussion. The individual or group requesting time are encouraged to provide materials or documents to the Commissioners in advance so as to foster the discussion.

Adopted on June 15, 2011