

POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

(Approved 2/19/13)

(Amended 5/27/14)

(Amended 1/12/16)

A public comment period will be allowed at the end of the meeting, the first and third Tuesday of each month

- 1) Speakers may only speak during the public comment period
- 2) Speakers must be recognized by the Chair
- 3) Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of 2 minutes per speaker, and once per meeting.
- 4) You may not relinquish your time slot on another individual in order to give that person more than their allotted 2 minutes.
- 5) Groups desiring to address the County Board should do so through a single spokesperson.
- 6) Any speaker not having the opportunity to be heard will be first to present at the next County Board meeting
- 7) Matters of individual concern will not be addressed until all administrative channels have been employed (i.e. department heads, elected officials or your district commissioner)
- 8) Matters currently under negotiation, litigation or related to personnel will not be discussed in this forum.
- 9) Personal attacks are not permitted
- 10) This section of the agenda may not be used as a forum to continue discussion on an agenda item which has already been held as a public hearing.
- 11) Public comment during the Public Comment session shall be comment only. The public and commissioners cannot engage in a debate. Questions from commissioners shall be limited to points of clarification. The Board Chair may limit the discussion if necessary to maintain order and adherence to these rules.
- 12) The press will be allowed to ask questions for clarification purposes.

(Continued on back)

- 13) The County Attorney has indicated that complaints about Houston County employees should go through the Houston County Human Resources/Personnel Department and should not be allowed to go through the public comment period. Allegations are serious and we want to take them seriously. Unless a report is made and properly addressed, this is a disservice to those who are making the complaint, but it is also a way to ensure that an employee who is being complained against has the opportunity to properly respond, if need be. Finally, there could be concerns about where information may be coming from and we do not want to open up a dialogue that could possibly allow data practice violations.
- 14) As Houston County board meetings are now recorded entirely, personal video recording will only be allowed from behind the railing. Please do not move around during the meeting as this is distracting to all.