



## County Administration

1112 Manatee Ave West, Suite 902  
Bradenton, FL 34212  
Phone number: (941) 748-4501

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# MEMORANDUM

To: Lee Washington, Acting County Administrator

From: Quantana Acevedo, Agenda Coordinator

Date: February 13, 2023

Subject: **Agenda Update (2) for Meeting of February 14, 2023**

*This memo and the changes indicated below are reflected in the electronic agenda.*

## COMMISSIONER AGENDA/COMMENTS

### Commissioner Bearden

#### **Item 44, Gun Sanctuary County**

- This agenda item was updated to include Public Comment Correspondence

**From:** Nancy Hughes <[nancyfhughes@gmail.com](mailto:nancyfhughes@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 10:54 AM  
**To:** Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>  
**Cc:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jorge Arana <[jorge.arana@mymanatee.org](mailto:jorge.arana@mymanatee.org)>; Dana Summers <[dana.summers@mymanatee.org](mailto:dana.summers@mymanatee.org)>; Kelli OMalley <[kelli.omalley@mymanatee.org](mailto:kelli.omalley@mymanatee.org)>; Joshua Emerick <[joshua.emerick@mymanatee.org](mailto:joshua.emerick@mymanatee.org)>; Lee Washington <[lee.washington@mymanatee.org](mailto:lee.washington@mymanatee.org)>; William Clague <[william.clague@mymanatee.org](mailto:william.clague@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Feb 14 BOCC Mtg - Gun Sactuary

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Commissioner Bearden:

I assume the reference in your email below is to the Second Amendment Sanctuary website (<https://sanctuarycounties.com/2021/03/09/new-florida-second-amendment-sanctuary-state-map-update-01mar2021/>) Do you believe that the people of Manatee County think "all federal acts, laws, orders, rules, or regulations restricting firearms, firearms accessories, and ammunition to be violations of the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution" (as stated in other county resolutions)? I imagine if you did a scientific poll you would find that most people want reasonable, pragmatic laws and regulations about the sale and ownership of guns. Is the issue about "guns" or about the "Second Amendment"?

If it is about supporting the 2nd Amendment, then the Board would do more good for this community by passing a resolution supporting ALL of the Amendments to the Constitution, including the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments which are critical to providing African Americans with the rights and protections of citizenship. The resulting discussion would be appropriate as you honor Black History Month.

Nancy Hughes  
Manatee County

On Sat, Feb 11, 2023 at 8:21 PM Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)> wrote:  
Thank you for reaching out to me and voicing your concern regarding this matter.

However, I would disagree with you regarding this issue as I would like to join several other counties in the state who are already gun sanctuary counties.

We are a very conservative county and it only makes sense!

Thank you for putting your thoughts in writing.

Best,

Jason Bearden

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**From:** Nancy Hughes <[nancyfhughes@gmail.com](mailto:nancyfhughes@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 5:25:06 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Cc:** Jorge Arana <[jorge.arana@mymanatee.org](mailto:jorge.arana@mymanatee.org)>; Dana Summers <[dana.summers@mymanatee.org](mailto:dana.summers@mymanatee.org)>; Kelli OMalley <[kelli.omalley@mymanatee.org](mailto:kelli.omalley@mymanatee.org)>; Joshua Emerick <[joshua.emerick@mymanatee.org](mailto:joshua.emerick@mymanatee.org)>; Lee Washington <[lee.washington@mymanatee.org](mailto:lee.washington@mymanatee.org)>; William Clague <[william.clague@mymanatee.org](mailto:william.clague@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Feb 14 BOCC Mtg - Gun Sanctuary

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The list of high priorities you have identified for this county is a long one – infrastructure, housing, parks, a new landfill, a new garbage/recycling contract, Piney Point, veteran's services, etc. What's not on this list – making Manatee County a gun sanctuary (whatever the heck that means).

Stop the foolishness. Dismiss this action request and focus instead on the important needs of our county.

Stop wasting precious staff time, county resources, and taxpayers' money on this proposal which will not improve our roads, will not provide a clean and healthy environment, will not meet the housing needs of veterans who are homeless, will not advance Manatee County in any way. All this effort will do is bring our community more negative attention and ridicule. Haven't you generated more than enough already?

Instead of discussing this ill-thought-out idea, how about having yet another discussion about the county commission agenda process? Commissioner Bearden's item was added late on Friday, February 10, after the deadline for submission of public comments for the February 14 agenda. It's as if you didn't want people to know this was coming before the Board. Or maybe someone wants to make the first commissioner meeting for Acting Administrator Washington a provocation.

Nancy Hughes  
Manatee County

**From:** Laura Whitlock <[laurawhitlock06@gmail.com](mailto:laurawhitlock06@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 11:17 PM  
**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Second Amendment Sanctuary

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Commissioner Satcher

I am strongly opposed to making Manatee County a Second Amendment sanctuary.

The myriad reasons should be obvious, in light of the number of mass shootings, suicides and incidents of domestic violence.

The last thing we need is even better availability of deadly firearms.

I am sadly aware of the impact certain lobbyists have had on this state's political machine. I am urging you to use your input on this very dangerous proposal, to do the right thing. Try to protect the citizens of Manatee County, not further endanger them.

Sincerely,

Laura Whitlock

Precinct Captain 413

**From:** Ginger McCallum <[vmccallum14@gmail.com](mailto:vmccallum14@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 12:25 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Cc:** Lee Washington <[lee.washington@mymanatee.org](mailto:lee.washington@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Gun Sanctuary County Proposal

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Commissioners, I was disappointed to see a contentious issue such as this added to the agenda on Friday February 10 *after* the deadline for public comment for the Tuesday February 14 Regular Meeting. Adding non-emergency items less than a week in advance is not in keeping with good governance practices, and any vote on the matter should be postponed to another meeting, as per previously discussed guidelines for this commission.

With so many issues facing this county, why add a contentious issue to ignore the laws of the state of florida and the nation in regards to firearms? This proposal ignores the most recent Supreme Court ruling (Bruen) which allows for reasonable restrictions on gun ownership, and that most Americans and most Floridians, across party lines, support reasonable firearm restrictions.

Have you consulted the sheriff or the state's attorney on this proposal? The state attorney general? Have you considered that Sarasota and Manatee County has the highest rate of gun-suicide for comparable cities (Herald Tribune October 24, 2022)? Are you aware that red flag laws, like the one FL passed after Parkland, work. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who LAW ENFORCEMENT (and only law enforcement) consider to be a threat to themselves and others? Ignoring Florida's red flag law in Manatee County will result in more deaths, and that will be on you if you pass this proposal. <https://www.fighterlaw.com/how-do-floridas-red-flag-gun-laws-work/>

Please, stop bringing up issues that are not germane to the important issues facing Manatee county today, like roads, affordable housing, and the environment.

Sincerely,

Virginia McCallum

District 5

*Sometimes it's the people no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.*

**From:** John Granquist <[jvgranquist@gmail.com](mailto:jvgranquist@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 1:03 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** No To "Gun Sanctuary" Status

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Dear Commissioners:

I am sad that during a time of record mass shootings and gun violence in the United States that you are considering permitting the pre-empting any state or federal law gun safety law. Taking such action will undoubtedly help those citizens not responsible enough for gun ownership to possess one, this ensuring additional violence in our community.

Since the public comment period was circumvented on this matter, you owe it to the people you represent to, at a bare minimum, consult the Manatee County Sheriff, State's Attorney and State AG on this matter, and go public with their comments. In particular, I am interested in the thoughts of local police who will be further at-risk of violent encounters with guns due to the sheer fact that more guns will litter the county. The numbers don't lie.

Please focus on things that truly matter to residents, such as property insurance, quality of education and infrastructure, and not pet issues designed to flex some perceived bravado and/or "own the libs". We don't live on social media; please get off of it and talk to your constituents.

Sincerely,  
John Granquist  
Lakewood Ranch resident

From: Caitlyn Clyne <[cclyne.fl@gmail.com](mailto:cclyne.fl@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 2:13 PM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Gun sanctuary county

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Dear Manatee County Commissioners,

As a resident of Manatee County for the past 3 years, I'm concerned about the direction the county is moving in. It seems the commissioners are making decisions driven by political hot topics instead of what is proven to be best for the citizens they serve. Here are my concerns regarding the proposal to make Manatee County a gun sanctuary. I believe there are much more important issues to address. Manatee county is expanding rapidly and this shouldn't be a priority for the county.

- Has the Sheriff been consulted? State's Attorney? State Attorney General?
- Ignoring State and Federal firearm laws is dangerous and will make citizens less safe.
- Manatee County already has the highest suicide rate of comparable cities (Herald-Tribune, Oct 24, 2022); this could make it worse.
- Red flag laws, like the one FL passed after Parkland, work. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who LAW ENFORCEMENT (and only law enforcement) consider to be a threat to themselves and others. Ignoring them will make Manatee County less safe. And it will be your fault.
- Most Floridians support sensible firearm laws. This includes Republicans, Democrats and firearm owners.
- The Commissioners should focus on issues of immediate concern to MC residents - infrastructure, traffic, affordable housing, child welfare...

Thank you for your time.

Caitlyn Clyne

**From:** Lyle Landon <[lyleclandon@gmail.com](mailto:lyleclandon@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 2:32 PM

**To:** Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>

**Cc:** Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Gun Control

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I am against any gun control law or resolution that does not uphold Florida's *current laws and resolutions*.

Any county proposal must have weigh-in by the Sheriff, the State's Attorney and the State's Attorney General and input from the public before bringing it to a vote. Input should include statistics from towns that have passed their own resolutions/laws and ones that have not.

Governance by Results, not Opinions. The the top goals for county governance are public safety and citizen opportunities.

Sincerely,

Lyle C. R. Landon

M: 201-247-0288



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail



**From:** LWV Manatee County <[info+lwvmanatee.org@ccsend.com](mailto:info+lwvmanatee.org@ccsend.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:14 PM  
**To:** George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Action Alert - Manatee County May Not be Enforcing Gun Laws

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# ACTION ALERT

## County Commissioners to Vote Tues, Feb 14 on Directing County Attorney to Prepare Document to establish Manatee as a "Gun Sanctuary County"

Manatee County Commissioner Jason Beardon added item #44 to the [agenda for Tuesday's Regular Commission meeting](#), Manatee County as a Gun Sanctuary County. Your voice is need between now and the Tuesday meeting.

### What does that mean?

- Second Amendment sanctuary, also known as a gun sanctuary, refers to states, counties, or localities in the United States that have adopted laws or [resolutions](#) to **prohibit or impede the enforcement** of certain [gun control](#) measures which are perceived

by some to violate the [Second Amendment](#), such as [universal gun background checks](#), [high capacity magazine bans](#), [assault weapon bans](#), etc.

- In Florida, counties and cities are not permitted to regulate guns and there are stiff penalties if one attempts to do so.
- 45 of Florida's 67 counties have passed such resolutions.

Since the deadline for online public comment ended *before* the item was added, the only way to comment is to show up at the meeting, or [send all commissioners an email](#) with your opinion of this proposal.

If you plan to go to the meeting, this [link is to the agenda](#), with location and link to a public speaker sign-up form.

Submit comments in your own words. Some ideas for your email/statement from a League member include:

- Has the Sheriff been consulted? State's Attorney? State Attorney General?
- Ignoring State and Federal firearm laws is dangerous and will make citizens less safe.
- Manatee County already has the highest suicide rate of comparable cities (Herald-Tribune, Oct 24, 2022); this could make it worse.
- Red flag laws, like the one FL passed after Parkland, work. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who LAW ENFORCEMENT (and only law enforcement) consider to be a threat to themselves and others. Ignoring them will make Manatee County less safe. And it will be your fault.
- Most Floridians support sensible firearm laws. This includes R's, D's and firearm owners.
- The Commissioners should focus on issues of immediate concern to MC residents - infrastructure, traffic, affordable housing, child welfare...

<https://www.fighterlaw.com/how-do-floridas-red-flag-gun-laws-work/>

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**Since the deadline for online public comment ended before the item was added to the agenda, the only way to comment is to speak at the meeting or email the commissioners: how you feel in your own words:**

- **You can speak at the meeting** when the item comes up in the agenda, but you must physically go to the meeting to comment. Phone in comments are no longer available. You may [submit a speaker sign up form](#) and you will be called in order of the submissions. The form is not active until 24 hours before the meeting (8:30 am on Monday 2/13). You may still attend and speak without filling out a form.
- **You can email or call the commissioners:**

**James Satcher, District 1:**

[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3701](tel:941-745-3701)

**Amanda Ballard, District 2:**

[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3702](tel:941-745-3702)

**Kevin Van Ostenbridge, District 3/Chair:**

[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3705](tel:941-745-3705)

**Mike Rahn, District 4:**

[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3713](tel:941-745-3713)

**Vanessa Baugh, District 5:**

[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3703](tel:941-745-3703)

**Jason Bearden, District 6, At Large:**

[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3704](tel:941-745-3704)

**George Kruse, District 7, At Large:**

[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org) • [941-745-3714](tel:941-745-3714)

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## **Hot Topics: What You Need to Know About Gun Laws**

**Monday, Feb 13 • 12 - 1 PM**

**Live on Zoom**

Patti Brigham, cofounder of Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, will educate us on the current gun laws, discuss the impact of the Bruen Supreme Court case and give us insights into what may be proposed in the next legislative session and their implications.



**[Click here for more info and to register](#)**



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League of Women Voters of Manatee County | P.O. Box 545, Bradenton, FL 34206

[Unsubscribe george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)

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From: Dale Otterman <[daleotterman@comcast.net](mailto:daleotterman@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:36 PM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard  
<[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge  
<[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>;  
Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden  
<[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Gun sanctuary County

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REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

Dear Commissioners,

I just realized that you have added an agenda item concerning establishing Manatee County as a "Gun Sanctuary City". I really am shocked that you are considering this. We already have the highest suicide rate of comparable cities according to an article in the Herald Tribune on 10/24/22. What does the Sheriff or the State's Attorney General think about this suggestion? Most Floridians no matter what party want sensible gun laws. Look at our state legislature and the laws it passed after the Parkland H.S. shooting like the "red flag" law. This is certainly taking a step back and putting the residents of Manatee County in harms way. Please vote NO on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dale Otterman

7919 Warwick Gardens Gardens Lane  
University Park

**From:** Megan Tully Guenther <[guenther.meg@gmail.com](mailto:guenther.meg@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:36 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** My OPPOSITION TO efforts to prepare document to establish Manatee County as a "Gun Sanctuary County"

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Since the deadline for online public comment ended BEFORE the item was added, I am sending all commissioners an email expressing my OPPOSITION to this proposal.

1. In addition to RUSHING this item onto your agenda disallowing public comment it is also unclear to me if appropriate government officials have been consulted. I have seen or heard NOTHING to indicate to me that the Sheriff, State's Attorney or State Attorney General have been consulted or what their position is.
2. There are actually state and federal firearm laws that have been designed to protect us and this proposal seems to endorse just ignoring them.
3. Most Floridians are considerate and sensible people who support SENSIBLE firearm laws, no matter what their political persuasion is. Your efforts to sneak through a Gun Sanctuary status for our County, in my opinion, will make our county LESS safe, contribute to an even greater number of suicides than we currently have (and it is a number that is disproportionately high), and smacks of political gameplaying.

If you want to do your job and truly represent the NEEDS of the citizens of Manatee County your time will be better served in working on roads and routes that do not work with the numbers of people traveling in our county, affordable housing, child welfare, and the never ending drug addictions issues we see all across the county. Homeless people sleeping under bushes, in doorways and your focus is on reducing actions that have PROTECTED the citizens of Manatee County for decades? Why? For political gamesmanship? We elected you to focus upon the needs and protections ALL citizens of the county deserve from their elected officials.

**Megan Tully Guenther**

7012 Playa Bella Drive  
Bradenton, FL 34209

**From:** Cindy Watts <[cynlynwatts@gmail.com](mailto:cynlynwatts@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:43 PM  
**To:** Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Sanctuary county

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Ms. Baugh,

I am writing to ask you to vote against our county becoming a sanctuary for reckless gun ownership and handling. It is irresponsible for guns to run rampant here. Having no rules governing what gun owners can do and how no one can stop them from doing whatever comes to mind in an instant can only lead to disaster.

I have seen and heard the stories about guns and how they have been used in a lot of crime in the Brandon area. how does this sanctuary idea help the police do their job in trying to stop crime? Please , think hard and clearly about this idea.

Respectfully,  
Cindy Watts  
Manatee County resident



From: Joan Springer <[joanbspringer@gmail.com](mailto:joanbspringer@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:51 PM  
To: Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: proposed gun sanctuary

CAUTION: This email originated from an external source.  
Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the  
REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

Dear Ms Baugh,

I object in the strongest terms this proposal. At a time when guns are legally available with common sense rules of background checks and gun safety training requirements, this would make it legal for virtually anyone to obtain and carry a gun. Do we need to have a local tragedy to understand the insanity of this idea? Wasn't Parkland near enough? Please do not rubber stamp this dangerous and possibly illegal measure without a time for citizen input. It is not unnoticed that this was added to the agenda after speaker requests have closed.

Joan Springer  
4102 Murfield Dr E  
Bradenton

**From:** Theodore Medrek <[theodore.medrek@gmail.com](mailto:theodore.medrek@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:56 PM

**To:** Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; [james.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.bearden@mymanatee.org); Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Please: Do NOT vote to ignore state/federal gun laws

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Dear Commissioners,

Once again, you are wasting time, energy, and taxpayer money (that means mine) on irrelevant 'culture war' issues instead of the critical needs of Manatee County citizens, needs such as infrastructure, traffic, affordable housing, and child welfare.

If you vote in favor of moving forward with this bogus 'gun sanctuary' nonsense you will be supporting ignoring state and federal firearm laws. I would have thought you would be in favor of **following** the law. Isn't that what 'law & order' advocates do?

Red flag laws, such as the one Florida passed after Parkland, work. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who law enforcement (and ONLY law enforcement — such as the Manatee County Sheriff's Department) consider to be a threat to themselves and others. Ignoring such laws will make Manatee County less safe, perhaps even increase our already high suicide rate. Your attempt to flout these laws is also an insult to the integrity, jurisdiction, and safety of our dedicated law enforcement officers.

Most Floridians support sensible firearm laws. This includes Republicans, Democrats, and a majority of firearm owners. Why don't you?

Very truly yours,  
Theodore Medrek

435 30th Ave W Apt D410  
Bradenton, FL 34205  
[theodore.medrek@gmail.com](mailto:theodore.medrek@gmail.com)

From: Norris Elswick <[nelswick@icloud.com](mailto:nelswick@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:58 PM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard  
<[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge  
<[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>;  
Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden  
<[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Sanctuary gun laws

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REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

Commissioners

Is this necessary? Are you in favor of open carry, assault weapons, high capacity  
magazines, no background checks? Wait till we have a Parkland in Manatee county  
then see how your voters react. Maybe a family member of yours is seriously injured in  
a Walmart

from Norris  
941-730-8786

From: Denise Elswick <[delswick14@gmail.com](mailto:delswick14@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 4:16 PM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Upcoming county commissioner meeting agenda item "Gun Sanctuary County"

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Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

Are you people not paying attention the the uptick in gun violence in this country.? The majority of US citizens are in favor of increased gun regulation, like background checks, red flag laws, removing high capacity magazines and assault weapons from the streets. Are you not aware that the US has the highest number of gun related deaths per capita in the world.? I say "Hell no". Maybe some of your family members need to die in a Walmart or school before you get it. God help your souls if this dreadful county government passes something like this. What are you trying to do, get brownie points from. Desantis. Please, why can't you people do something about the traffic, roads, and issues that make the lives of Manatee county residents better. This gun sanctuary business will just cause more anxiety. Do the police officers like this idea, i bet not.

Sent from my iPad  
Denise Elswick

**From:** Sophia Ryan <[isophiafred2@gmail.com](mailto:isophiafred2@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 4:25 PM

**To:** Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** re: Commissioner Jason Beardon added item #44 to Feb 14th meeting agenda

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

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To all the commissioners -

Do you Mr. Beardon recall what happened HERE in Florida on this very day in the town of Parkland!? DO any of you realize the pain and heartache this anniversary of such a heinous crime and yet you as a body that represents the people collectively think this is a good decision to discuss gun laws? Mr. Beardon, regardless of whether or not you have school-age children or not, your timing is at the utmost disrespectful to the families and our state in its entirety! All of you continue to make poor choices and it falls on the Republican party that you represent yet none of you do not on many levels.

We still live in a Democratic society yet all of you continue to dictate! Put this item off the agenda and collectively and objectively listen to the people. Yes to 2nd Amendment Rights, but watch the fine print you are putting forward! There are too many people killing for the mercy of their family members in ill health, there is a high rate of suicide and mass shootings of every type. Think for once on this important topic and for the love of humanity do the right thing when you tweak the motion! You can not seriously consider not having background checks and a waiting period to legally obtain a gun in this state. Wise up for once and save innocent people at the hands of the

mentally ill and people down and out because of the economy of this country and how all of you are weeding out the poor!

~ A citizen who votes in hopes of the people being truly represented,

Irene Ryan full-time 20 yr resident homeowner Manatee County

**From:** Robert Fine <[bobfine@ameritech.net](mailto:bobfine@ameritech.net)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 4:29 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** February 14, 2023, Agenda item #44 – Gun Sanctuary

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Dear Commissioners:

Really? On February 14, the anniversary of the Parkland mass shooting? Do you really hold the memory of those lost there and the families and neighbors of those lost there, and all those lost in similar tragedies since, in such open contempt? How about declaring Manatee County a “people sanctuary” instead, valuing lives over deadly weapons? Oh, I forgot, you’re “pro-life.” Is this how you want Manatee County to be known around the nation – as a home for gun nuts and racists (see the Confederate monument discussion last month)? You probably do. Nor will changing the day you consider agenda item #44 eliminate your shame.

How about governing, helping to make Manatee County a better place to live! Instead, we get your theater!

Bob Fine  
District 5 resident

**From:** Deb Pierce <[debpierce720@gmail.com](mailto:debpierce720@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 4:40 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Agenda Item #44

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Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

I am appalled that the Board of County Commissioners has apparently deliberately chosen February 14, the fifth anniversary of the Parkland massacre, as the day to vote on a resolution asking the county attorney to prepare a document establishing Manatee County as a “Gun Sanctuary County”. Is this how you all mark the anniversary of the day when so many innocent lives were taken by an individual using an assault rifle he should never have had? It’s bad enough that you are moving forward with this resolution at all, continuing your incessant push to make Manatee County absolutely the worst place to live in Florida and in the nation. But to do it on February 14, which is the anniversary not only of Parkland but also of another school shooting ten years earlier (Northern Illinois University, where I was an administrator at the time), just makes it crystal clear that you are motivated by a strong desire to hurt all those seeking common sense gun laws, even those supported by most gun owners. If your goal here is to “own the libs”, well, fine. You’ve owned this lib. But remember, the statistics are clear: where there are more guns, there are also more dead people.



Deborah Pierce

District 5 resident

From: Ann Griffin <[griffinann81@gmail.com](mailto:griffinann81@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2023 5:13 PM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard  
<[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge  
<[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>;  
Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden  
<[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Manatee County as a Gun Sanctuary.

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Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the  
REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

As a Manatee County resident I want you to know I am 100% against Manatee County becoming a gun sanctuary. I believe it will lead to gun violence here in our own county, if there are no reasonable restrictions. We are a law abiding people, who want to live peaceably in our own homes. If we were a Sanctuary I am afraid we will be attracting people who think it ok to settle arguments with a gun, people who think it is ok to use their guns in an unlawful manner, or people hiding from law enforcement. I do not want to live in a county like that. Please vote NO on the upcoming amendment!

Thank You,

Ann Griffin  
7508 1st. Ave. W.  
Bradenton, FL 34209



# Public Comment

**Submitted On:**

Feb 12, 2023, 05:13PM EST

## Manatee County Government

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>First Name:</b> Nancy <b>Last Name:</b> Schneider
<b>Email</b>	nancy3645@gmail.com
<b>Topic/Agenda Item</b>	Gun laws and the need to keep all of us safe.
<b>Comment (max. 3,000 characters)</b>	<p>Has the Sheriff been consulted? State's Attorney? State Attorney General?</p> <p>Ignoring State and Federal firearm laws is dangerous and will make citizens less safe.</p> <p>Manatee County already has the highest suicide rate of comparable cities (Herald-Tribune, Oct 24, 2022); this could make it worse.</p> <p>Red flag laws, like the one FL passed after Parkland, work. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who LAW ENFORCEMENT (and only law enforcement) consider to be a threat to themselves and others. Ignoring them will make Manatee County less safe. And it will be your fault.</p> <p>Most Floridians support sensible firearm laws. This includes R's, D's and firearm owners.</p> <p>The Commissioners should focus on issues of immediate concern to MC residents - infrastructure, traffic, affordable housing, child welfare...</p> <p>Prayers aren't enough. If you don't enforce the laws so law enforcement can do their jobs, we have sheer chaos. If your loved one got shot, how would you feel?</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
<b>Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)</b>	February 14, 2023

**From:** Arlene Clarke <[spiceyar@yahoo.com](mailto:spiceyar@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 6:22 PM

**To:** Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Manatee County as a gun Sanctuary

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Dear Commissioner Van Ostenbridge,

Please do not vote to make Manatee County gun sanctuary. We should be limiting guns, especially assault rifles and doing background checks.

Thank you for serving and representing us.

Marian Clarke

**From:** Randall Miller <[rmillerhct@yahoo.com](mailto:rmillerhct@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 7:16 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; [jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org); George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Oppose Agenda Item #44 - Feb 14 BOCC Meeting

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Commissioners ... I write in objection to the addition of item #44 to the February 14 Manatee County Board of County Commissioners agenda. While I am not surprised that the item was added after the end of the online Public Comment period as this seems to have become somewhat of a norm for the BOCC in recent years, it does not make it any less appalling an insult to citizens of Manatee County.

"Sneaking" in controversial issues to the agenda, rather than airing them in the light of day is in contravention to democratic principles. Rather than Commissioners "preaching" about the Constitution, how about abiding by the principles of our cherished democracy.

Relative to the issue itself, I adamantly oppose making Manatee County a gun sanctuary. It is NOT a second amendment issue, no matter how much some people claim it to be. Go back and read case law and the intentions of the Founding Fathers rather than just repeating offbase and unfounded right wing talking points.

Save some lives instead!

Stand up for citizens of Manatee County.

Represent ALL your constituents!

Many others will present specific rationale against making Manatee County a gun sanctuary, I ask that you follow good governance processes rather than "gaming" the system to promote a proposal that you are afraid to put on the agenda far enough in advance to allow citizens to offer their perspectives. Stand up for democracy for a change!

And, oh, you have many important and critical issues to work on for the County ... please get on those rather than creating new issues where none need to exist.

- Randall Miller  
1719 85th Ct NW, Bradenton

**From:** v sica <[sicavon@gmail.com](mailto:sicavon@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 10:15 PM

**To:** Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Gun Sanctuary

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To : Commissioners of Manatee County

I am sending you this email to ask you not to pass the gun sanctuary proposal by Jason Beardon on Tuesday of this week. I think it's important to give the people a chance to voice their opinions before a vote.

Floridians support the Second Amendment, as do I. Safeguards should be in place though to protect the public. If a citizen wants to carry a gun, then they can go through a few steps it takes to do so. I think assault weapons are not necessary for anyone except the police and military. Has our county become so dangerous that people feel the need to carry an assault weapon? I am concerned that guns and rifles will fall into the wrong hands as we have seen so many times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Sica

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** e <[wwhitart@aol.com](mailto:wwhitart@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 11:41 PM

**To:** Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Second Amendment Sanctuary

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Commissioner Baugh:

Upon learning about the proposal to make Manatee County a Second Amendment sanctuary, I was appalled. In the wake of the reckless action in Tallahassee, it will be easier to purchase a semiautomatic weapon, than to obtain a fishing permit.

Certain lobbyists have owned Florida lawmakers for decades. The results have been increased mass shootings, suicides and domestic violence. I praise the creation of the Red Flag laws, as a step in the right direction.

I see nothing good of this new proposal for Manatee County. I urge you not to support it.

Sincerely,

Laura Whitlock

Precinct Captain 413

**From:** Graciela Greenberg <[gracielaagreenberg13@gmail.com](mailto:gracielaagreenberg13@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 12:09 AM  
**To:** Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Gun sanctuary

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Graciela R. Greenberg <[graciela2@aol.com](mailto:graciela2@aol.com)>  
**Date:** Sun, Feb 12, 2023 at 23:18  
**Subject:** Gun sanctuary  
**To:** [jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org) <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>  
**CC:** [kevin.vanosterbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanosterbridge@mymanatee.org) <[kevin.vanosterbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanosterbridge@mymanatee.org)>, [george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org), [james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org) <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>, Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>, [mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org) <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>, [amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org) <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

To Jason Bearden,

The idea of a "gun sanctuary" in Manatee County is as ridiculous as the sanctuary that commissioner Satcher tried and failed to set up in the county. Conservative, liberal, Democrat or Republican have NOTHING to do with the foolish idea that a gun is there to PROTECT. And to make it worse, you sneak it in right around the weekend before the meeting hoping that the citizens will not notice it. Well, you are wrong! This board has been known to try to do dirty work so we watch carefully!

I would like to know where do you get these ideas? Are you so devoid of caring and empathy to want to have everyone carry a gun without having to get a permit, so no accountability, and have the freedom to use it in a fender bender or a dispute with a neighbor? Once it is available, it will be used! Since you have all these crazy ideas that fall into YOUR definition of FREEDOM, I feel as though I climbed a time machine that took me back to the wild west, and that a posse of macho men took over the government of this county and this state.

Stick to being a county commissioner and tackle the work you were mandated to do. Below you will find the list of things that you need to do as a county commissioner. You will also find it in [mymanatee.org](http://mymanatee.org), under Government. In the drop down, click on Board of County Commissioner and you will see the 7 photos. Below, you will see Commissioner Topics, followed by the districts map. Below the map you will see what I copied and pasted below. YOUR JOB!!

## WHAT DO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DO?



The Board is the legislative branch and governing body of Manatee County Government. The Board legislates policy to protect the health, welfare, safety and quality of life of Manatee County residents.

The Board of County Commissioners is comprised of seven members. Five members are elected from single-member districts, and two are elected county-wide. Each district commissioner must reside in the district for which he or she seeks election.

County Commissioners have a number of responsibilities, including:

- Perform legislative functions of government by developing policy for the management of Manatee County
- Disseminate information to the public through ordinances and resolutions
- Approve the County's [operating and capital budgets](#)
- Approve the County's [Capital Improvement Program](#), which is a schedule of all County infrastructure projects
- Take action on any programs to improve the County and the welfare of its residents
- Appoint the [County Administrator](#), [County Attorney](#) and numerous advisory and regulatory board members
- Serve as the [Port Authority](#)
- Serve on local, regional and state boards

More information about the powers and duties of the County Commissioners can be found in [Florida Statute Chapter 125.01](#).

There are more than enough guns in this county. Please don't bring more under the false pretense that they are here to PROTECT. AND DO THE JOB YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING!!

Please read the quotes from 2 men who cared and understood people and learn something.

By our readiness to allow arms to be purchased at will and fired at whim; by allowing our movie and television screens to teach our children that the hero is one who masters the art of shooting and the technique of killing . . . we have created an atmosphere in which violence and hatred have become popular pastimes.

Martin Luther King, November 1963, 6 months before he was shot and killed

We have a responsibility to the victims of crime and violence. ... It is a responsibility to put away' childish things-to make the possession and use of firearms a matter undertaken only by serious people who will use them with the restraint and maturity that their dangerous nature deserves-and demands.

Robert F Kennedy, July 11, 1967, 11 months before he was shot and killed

Graciela R Greenberg  
Co-President, HDCM  
[graciela2@aol.com](mailto:graciela2@aol.com)  
[gracielagreenberg13@gmail.com](mailto:gracielagreenberg13@gmail.com)  
914-325-0560  
Bradenton, FL 34212

From: Ann Miranda <[anncmiranda@gmail.com](mailto:anncmiranda@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 6:06 AM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Gun Sanctuary County

CAUTION: This email originated from an external source.  
Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

As a resident of Manatee County I oppose the proposal to make the county a gun sanctuary county.

Currently shootings occur on a daily basis. To open the gates to possession of firearms without permits, licensing, background checks, along with not requiring training on gun handling does not help make Manatee a safe county for residents.

Such a proposal places a greater strain on an already over worked police force as they work to maintain law and order and put their lives on the line protecting county residents.

The commissioners would demonstrate negligence in their duty to protect the community by voting to make Manatee a gun sanctuary County and eliminating/deterring the opportunity for common sense gun licensing and regulation. I also question the timing. Proposals put up for vote are required to meet time lines. In this case that requirement was simply overlooked. This does not demonstrate a willingness to be upfront with Manatee County residents.

Antoinette Miranda  
12278 Lavender Loop  
Bradenton, Florida 34212

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Donna Seymour <[donnamaria2248@gmail.com](mailto:donnamaria2248@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 7:15 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Agenda item: February 14, 2023

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**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Commissioners: Adding a controversial agenda item after the online public comment period has expired is both suspect and disturbing. As you well know, in Florida, counties and cities are not permitted to regulate guns. There are stiff penalties if one attempts to do so. Moreover, most Floridians support sensible firearm laws. Attaching the motion to consider making Manatee County a Second Amendment sanctuary, also known as a gun sanctuary, will prohibit or impede the enforcement of certain gun laws. By attaching the motion after the online public comment period, the opportunity to enter electronically opinions into the public record, you are denying the right to freedom of speech to citizens who are not physically able to attend the meeting. That the item was added to the February 14, 2023 agenda, the anniversary of the Parkland Massacre, is despicable.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Seymour  
5816 Garden Lakes Fern  
Bradenton, Florida 34203

#### Item Details

Manatee County as a Gun Sanctuary County

#### Supporting Documents

[To direct the County Attorney to begin working on the paperwork to establish Manatee County as a Gun Sanctuary County \(26674\)](#)

**From:** Robert Luersen <[emcitypress@aol.com](mailto:emcitypress@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 8:06 AM  
**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** gun sanctuary county

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

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**NO TO GUN SANCTUARY COUNTY I VOTE**

From: Melanie Kim <[mkhamill@icloud.com](mailto:mkhamill@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 8:25 AM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard  
<[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge  
<[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>;  
Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden  
<[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Regarding the upcoming meeting

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REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

Dear Commissioners,  
Please, I beg of you as a very concerned mother to refrain from voting to enact our  
county as a "gun sanctuary". Given the mass shooting epidemic in our country, this will  
only make it that much easier for this to perhaps happen in our very own community.  
Please think of your own loved ones and our community.

Thank you,  
Melanie Hamill  
Lakewood Ranch resident and mother

Sent from my iPhone

From: jean shoemaker <[jeanshoemaker@icloud.com](mailto:jeanshoemaker@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 9:22 AM  
To: Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Gun issue/vote

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Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

Commissioners,  
Tomorrow is Valentine Day AND the anniversary of the Parkland High School Shootings. Out of respect to all the victims, victims' families, and the Parkland community, I ask that the vote regarding the gun issue scheduled on tomorrow's agenda be canceled and rescheduled for a more appropriate date.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and respect for others, Jean Shoemaker

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Helen Andersen <[hmp2102@gmail.com](mailto:hmp2102@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 9:53 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Feb 14 Agenda item: Q44 - Manatee County as a Gun Sanctuary County

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Dear Commissioners,

I am aware that an item was added to the Feb 14th agenda to vote on preparing the paperwork to establish Manatee County as a Gun Sanctuary. I am writing to you today because the time to submit a public comment had passed before this item was added.

I absolutely OPPOSE this proposal.

I am a mom of 2 elementary school kids. My kids, along with all of their classmates, go through regular intruder drills at school and know why the School Guardians must carry a gun. My daughter, who is almost 9, is really starting to understand that the world is not always a safe place, and we have to be on alert and try to make good choices if someone decides to use a gun to hurt others or attack a certain location. She has stress induced GI issues due to this growing awareness, and has come home from school in tears as she tries to logically understand the world. I can't tell her there is nothing to worry about while at the same time try to help her work through the stress and anxiety of living in our current environment so she can focus on all of the learning and growing that all of the kids in our community deserve during this time in their lives.

I'm appalled that we will be using time and resources of our county to make our community LESS SAFE! Please vote no to moving forward on this.

Respectfully,  
Helen Andersen  
Parrish, FL



**From:** Patricia Grady <[pgrady404@gmail.com](mailto:pgrady404@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 9:55 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Please less guns not more

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Please less guns not more.

Do not make Manatee County a gun sanctuary.

Also, no Confederate monument and don't micromanage librarians.

Please stop worrying about woke. It's a fake issue and does nothing to increase affordable housing, healthcare for all, traffic and over development, water quality and other infrastructure issues.

Thank you for firing Mr. Hopes. We lost too many good employees in the last year. Please explain how you were able to come to agreement within the Sunshine Laws.

Thanks for listening

Patty Grady  
Lakewood Ranch

**From:** Michele Chapdelain <[michichap@yahoo.com](mailto:michichap@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 10:18 AM  
**To:** Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Guns

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

I hope you will do the right thing and vote against making Manatee County a gun sanctuary. The US leads the world in gun violence. The majority of Americans believe in sensible gun safety. May I remind you of Parkland and the Pulse shootings in our state? Why not concentrate on things that matter in Florida: the environment, gambling arcades and escalating homeowners insurance? It was bad enough that the commission reversed the ban on selling cats and dogs in pet shops. Please do not do this!!

Sincerely,

Michele La Hurd Chapdelain

**From:** Michele Chapdelain <[michichap@yahoo.com](mailto:michichap@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 10:19 AM  
**To:** Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Guns

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

I hope you will do the right thing and vote against making Manatee County a gun sanctuary. The US leads the world in gun violence. The majority of Americans believe in sensible gun safety. May I remind you of Parkland and the Pulse shootings in our state? Why not concentrate on things that matter in Florida:: the environment, gambling arcades and escalating homeowners insurance? It was bad enough that the commission reversed the ban on selling cats and dogs in pet shops. Please do not do this!!

Sincerely,

Michele La Hurd Chapdelain

**From:** Judy Mullen <[jmullen6704@verizon.net](mailto:jmullen6704@verizon.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 10:37 AM  
**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Gun sanctuary

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.  
**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Dear Commissioner Satcher,

I am not in favor of the motion to designate Manatee County as a gun sanctuary to be brought up tomorrow. I urge you to vote against this. I don't believe it would be in our best interest when suicide and violence by guns is so prevalent.  
Thank you.

Judy Mullen

**From:** Samantha Cummins <[samantha.cummins@verizon.net](mailto:samantha.cummins@verizon.net)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 10:57 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; [mike.rhan@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rhan@mymanatee.org); Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; [jason.bearden@manatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@manatee.org); George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Priorities for the County

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Commissioners,

Please be mindful and prioritize your actions as Manatee County BOCC. Your constituents are more concerned with the search for and hiring of a new County Administrator with integrity than discussions about and decisions regarding the possibility of making Manatee County a Gun Sanctuary. In fact, I am strongly opposed to the idea. I would like your efforts to be focused on the search for a new County Administrator to replace Scott Hopes. As a tax payer in District 5 for nearly 20 years, a parent and active member of the community I pray that any discussions regarding a Gun Sanctuary in Manatee County are tabled while the administrator search is conducted as well as some research regarding what it means to be a gun sanctuary, impacts on the community and out reach to your district constituents about their opinions. Not just your own special interest which is quite transparent to everyone who is looking.

Thank you,

Manatee County Resident since 2003

District 5

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** Barbara McDaniel <[bmcdaniel2@hotmail.com](mailto:bmcdaniel2@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:03 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Reject Gun Sanctuary proposal

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As a Manatee County resident and tax payer, reject this proposal>

- Has the Sheriff been consulted? State's Attorney? State Attorney General?
- Ignoring State and Federal firearm laws is dangerous and will make citizens less safe.
- Manatee County already has the highest suicide rate of comparable cities (Herald-Tribune, Oct 24, 2022); this could make it worse.
- Red flag laws, like the one FL passed after Parkland, work. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who LAW ENFORCEMENT (and only law enforcement) consider to be a threat to themselves and others. Ignoring them will make Manatee County less safe. And it will be your fault.
- Most Floridians support sensible firearm laws. This includes R's, D's and firearm owners.
- The Commissioners should focus on issues of immediate concern to MC residents - infrastructure, traffic, affordable housing, child welfare...

Barbara McDaniel  
7088 W. Country Club Dr N, 34243

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: Terri Kondos <[terri.kondos@gmail.com](mailto:terri.kondos@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 11:06 AM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Gun sanctuary proposal

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Commissioners,

As Manatee County residents, we strongly oppose this initiative and particularly object to it being put on the agenda after the deadline for comment. We respectfully request this item be removed from the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Terri and Glen Kondos  
549 Fore Drive  
Bradenton, FL

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Lisa <[lhami38@gmail.com](mailto:lhami38@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:19 AM

**To:** Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Tuesday Agenda

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In regards to Tuesday's agenda concerning making Manatee County a Gun Sanctuary County is just like banning abortions in Manatee County 2.0 ....The state is already addressing making Florida a constitutional carry state....So this is a waste of time by the county attorney and a waste of taxpayers money....On top of introducing this on the anniversary date of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School shooting is in very POOR TASTE!...Stop using this board as your personal wish list..Do something productive like searching for a qualified county administrator like you said you were going to do 2 years ago...You get no kudos from me because Hopes "resigned" . We all know he was your scapegoat for your misdeeds and he was no longer useful to you so you got rid of him with a golden parachute hoping he will keep all your secrets...And Baugh is yet to address her constituents and admit to her wrong doing like the Ethics Board suggested.... This distraction will not keep the concerned informed citizens off their game of keeping track of what this BOCC is up too....We are watching and know what you are doing....I didn't think this board could get any worse but no surprise the addition to some of these new commissioners again is making a mockery of the county with their personal agenda and lack of knowledge.

Lisa Hamilton

Manatee County Concerned Citizen

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** Holly Kennedy <[holkenn@gmail.com](mailto:holkenn@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:20 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Feburary 14 Agenda item#44

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Dear Manatee Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly oppose your efforts to push through a vote on Tuesday directing the County Attorney to prepare a document to make Manatee County a gun sanctuary without first putting the item on the meeting agenda in time for proper notification to the public. This prevents your constituents from submitting comments without having to appear in person if their schedule does not allow.

There is no apparent reason that this topic should not go through regular order and good governance procedures. Unless of course, it was done deliberately to avoid the democratic participation of residents of Manatee County, which is a distressing thought.

I would hope that you would, as an elected representative of your constituents, proudly, with honor and distinction, uphold to the highest standards of good governance by abiding by standards set forth for timely notification of agenda items. And with a thoughtful desire to balance the rights of all Manatee residents, carefully consider the pros and cons of this issue, through comments from the community and experts, to understand why this protects public safety. Your current approach leads one to conclude that you do not want to consider what is in the best interest of public safety, leading to this rushed and seemingly stealth approach to good governance. Please correct my possible misimpression if not accurately portraying this effort.

This vote should not be taken in such a rush, and without the opportunity for the public to have proper notification and the ability

to respond and participate. Proceeding under these circumstances creates the impression that you are avoiding public debate and discussion and deliberately trying to prevent the public from participating. A more respectful and good governance approach is to not vote on this decision until the agenda item has been properly communicated.

As far as public input goes, I voice strong oppose Manatee County becoming a gun sanctuary, and in so doing enable criminals, the mentally ill, dangerous people, as well as the vast majority of law-abiding gun owners, to break common sense laws that are designed to protect the safety of the public, without infringing on gun owners constitutional rights. The US Supreme Court did not prevent legislators from enacting sensible gun regulation when they ruled in Bruen. Your actions will send a loud message to everyone that, like other Counties in Florida, our elected officials have no concern do their utmost to BALANCE THE RIGHTS of LAW ABIDING GUN OWNERS with the PUBLIC INTEREST TO to be safe from reckless gun violence. Our laws provide sensible and limited rules that work to protect us. Why dismiss their valuable role in our communities by deliberately creating a lawless environment endangering the public?

A decision to ignore and not enforce common sense gun safety state and federal legislation puts everyone's lives at risk, particularly children and including yours and your family. Does law enforcement really want to ignore Red Flag laws? Already Manatee County tops the charts for the highest suicide rate of similar cities, at least half by firearms. Red flag laws, like the one FL passed after Parkland are working. Florida uses this law to remove firearms temporarily from those who LAW ENFORCEMENT (*and only law enforcement*) consider to be a threat to themselves and others. Ignoring them will make Manatee County less safe and lead to more deaths. A majority of gun owners approve of responsible gun safety legislation, and understand that a constitutional right to own a firearm does not prevent government entities from enacting sensible regulations to keep people safe. How does becoming a Gun Sanctuary fit into your efforts protect public safety?

I encourage you to focus on the bread and butter issues that affect our daily lives--public safety is a top priority. Abiding by laws that are designed to prevent gun violence is one of the issues affecting our daily lives. More school children and family members and members of the public will die if law enforcement is told to ignore Red Flag laws.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Holly Kennedy  
Lakewood Ranch

Holly E. Kennedy  
[Holkenn@gmail.com](mailto:Holkenn@gmail.com)  
mobile: 914 419 3469

Thank you.

Holly E. Kennedy  
Lakewood Ranch

**From:** Carolyn Sheets <[carolyns7911@gmail.com](mailto:carolyns7911@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:21 AM  
**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Gun Sanctuary

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Commissioners,

The proposal to consider making Manatee County a gun sanctuary is a proposal to make Manatee County a dangerous place in which to live. We're regularly hearing of kids shooting kids, an epidemic of suicide by gunshot, robberies taking place at gunpoint with the victims being shot.,and so on and so on. I find it frightening to imagine any and everyone being able to buy and carry a gun without any background checks or training in handling and caring for a gun safely.

I believe each of you took an oath to do your best to make Manatee County a better place to live and work.

Please vote against this proposal to make our county a more dangerous place to live. Vote against Manatee County becoming a gun sanctuary!

Carolyn Sheets  
7911 49th Ave E  
Bradenton

**From:** Laura Whitlock <[laurawhitlock06@gmail.com](mailto:laurawhitlock06@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 11:25 PM  
**To:** Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Web Query

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

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Commissioner Ballard:

I am strongly urging you not to support the proposal to make Manatee County a Second Amendment sanctuary.

The new permitless law is making it even easier for deadly weapons to fall into the wrong hands, endangering our loved ones, more easily. School shootings, domestic violence and suicides are increasing, as the implements of death are easier to procure.

Please consider opposing this, for the safety of the citizens of this county.

Sincerely,

Laura Whitlock

Precinct Captain 413

**From:** Carolyn Sheets <[carolyns7911@gmail.com](mailto:carolyns7911@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Gun Sanctuary

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

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Commissioner Bearden,

Your proposal to make Manatee County a gun sanctuary is a proposal to make this county a more dangerous place to live. I realize you, with your military background, know how to use and store a gun safely. But that isn't true for most of the population. The county needs to have background checks and training for safe handling and storage for everyone buying a gun.

We've been seeing multiple instances of kids shooting kids, suicides by gunshot and robberies taking place at gunpoint in which the victim is shot and killed.

Please do your duty as a county commissioner to work to make Manatee County a better place to live. Remove your item to make Manatee County a gun sanctuary from the agenda.

Carolyn Sheets  
7911 49th Ave E  
Bradenton

**From:** francine slack <[fslack@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:fslack@tampabay.rr.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:47 AM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Citizen safety

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Dear Commissioners:

I would appreciate your assistance in making/keeping Manatee a **CITIZEN SAFETY COUNTY** with the help of our few protection from firearms laws. We have more than enough gun-related crimes and deaths. Do not enable even more.

Thanks you.

Francine slack

226 Lakewood Drive

Bradenton

941 778 3444

**From:** Rob Hall <[robh.srq@gmail.com](mailto:robh.srq@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 11:52 AM  
**To:** Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** NO to Gun Sanctuary County initiative

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.  
**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Dear Commissioner Van Ostenbridge,

I understand the BOCC will vote tomorrow, Feb. 14, on instructing the county attorney to establish Manatee as a "Gun Sanctuary" County. I strongly oppose this initiative and urge you to speak out against doing so. We must focus on issues that will benefit all Manatee citizens, such as economic development, good paying jobs, affordable housing, and infrastructure planning. The gun sanctuary initiative is political theater, not thoughtful leadership for our county.

As a retired judge, I believe respect for the rule of law is critical and binding for citizens and law enforcement officials alike. We do not get to pick and choose which laws to follow. I am against any initiatives that encourage citizens and law enforcement to ignore legally binding laws. Elected leaders should not encourage unlawful activity. I support Second Amendment rights, but not the incitement to break duly passed laws, including those that attempt to reduce gun violence through common sense regulation. Please speak out against the Gun Sanctuary initiative and encourage your colleagues to focus on real Manatee county needs,

Sincerely,

Robert Hall  
12211 Lobelia Terrace  
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202



From: Renee Haines <[reenebay2005@yahoo.com](mailto:reenebay2005@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2023 12:38 PM  
To: James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard  
<[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge  
<[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>;  
Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden  
<[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>  
Subject: Gun sanctuary

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REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.

I am strongly against making manatee county a gun county sanctuary. Red flag laws in the state are beneficial. They can protect domestic violence victims and those suffering from mental health from completing suicide. As a mother and mental health professional I urge this not to be adopted.

Renee Haines  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Robin Marshall <[robintarsus@gmail.com](mailto:robintarsus@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 12:41 PM

**To:** Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>

**Cc:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; [george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)

**Subject:** Gun Sanctuary Proposal

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Dear Commissioners

What can you be thinking of? This proposal is absurd, guns are not endangered in fact quite the opposite their numbers are growing all the time together with a sharp increase in violent multiple killings, domestic gun violence and suicides with guns, Manatee county has the highest rate of suicides in all comparable cities.

As a relative of a member of state law enforcement officer I fear this would put him in even more danger.

As a popular vacation spot this could mean many would be reluctant to visit, this would be particularly true of international visitors whose media is full of the dangers of gun violence in the US .

The majority of citizens feel more regulation of firearms is needed and this includes many responsible members of the gun community.

I feel this is political posturing on someone's part, which does not address the reality of manatee residents pressing concerns

which include massive traffic congestion, affordable housing, lacking infrastructure, safety in their daily life and many more.

As a full time resident for almost forty years in the County, I feel this is a terrible backward step.

Robin Marshall Bradenton.

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**From:** Ruth Lawler <[ruthlawler@att.net](mailto:ruthlawler@att.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 1:07 PM  
**To:** Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>  
**Subject:** Fw: County Administrator

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.  
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Commissioner:

Thank goodness Scott Hopes is GONE as County Administrator.  
Under the "leadership" of Hopes, in 22 months Manatee County has lost 12 of 14 Department heads and hundreds of dedicated employees. This created a HUGE loss of institutional knowledge to the Manatee County government. In the HR department alone, it is my understanding that there are only 11 employees left.

**It is your duty to conduct a national search and to hire a very competent and experienced County Administrator to serve the residents of our County.**

The process for a search should include, using an experienced search organization:

- A. Public input as to what is important to residents in an administrator, which can be conducted online with a website link
- B. The Chamber of Commerce and other important groups should have the opportunity to make suggestions and be involved
- C. Q&A for the semi finalists along with Commission reps, MSO, Courts and others - just to help whittle the contestants down to a smaller group of 3 to 5
- D. Have the applicants send a short video clip of themselves (no more than 5 mins) to summarize their understanding of the challenges here
- E. Ask each applicant to address how do/will they motivate staff to move forward
- F. On the financial aspect, each applicant should include examples of their experience in good times and bad times.

**ANY effort for hiring a new County Administrator short of these suggestions will be a dereliction of your duties! DO NOT make the same mistake twice!**

On the issue of "Gun Sanctuary County," which was added to the BOCC meeting agenda AFTER the public comment period was closed, this should NOT be on the agenda nor be even considered by you, the Commissioners.

Were you aware that death by guns is the LEADING cause of death to children in the USA today, exceeding automobile accidents, drugs or illness? Yes, parents SHOULD secure their guns, yet too many do not do so, and children die!

I am vehemently opposed to MORE gun proliferation. Guns kill! Period.

Ruth Lawler  
Manatee County resident over 60 years

941-350-6085

**From:** Peggy Klimek <[mklimek@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mklimek@tampabay.rr.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 1:08 PM

**To:** Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** sanctuary county

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Dear Commissioner

We are opposed to Manatee becoming a sanctuary county for many reasons that don't seem too obvious to some of you , unfortunately. We have the highest suicide rate compared to other cities our size, there are red flag laws in place which will be ignored, will we be breaking a federal law. If you put this directly to the people it would undoubtedly be voted down. Most people don't think more guns in the hands of 'anyone' makes us more safe. Please concentrate on our more pressing issues. Stop with the culture war stuff.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Klimek  
Owen Harris  
Bradenton 34202

**From:** Kathy Flora <[kflora11@gmail.com](mailto:kflora11@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 1:44 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Item 44 on the Feb 14th agenda

**CAUTION:**This email originated from an external source.

**Be suspicious of Attachments, Links and Request for Login Information and utilize the REPORT MESSAGE Button in Outlook if you feel this is a Phishing email.**

Good afternoon, Commissioners;

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the naming of Manatee County a firearms sanctuary county. It is my belief that the job of the County Commissioners is to expertly manage our county business, with a focus on elements like growth, infrastructure, protecting our environment, and policies that enhance life in Manatee County to the benefit of all. The subject of establishing our county a firearms sanctuary is not at all within that realm. In fact, it is counter to the cooperation that elected officials should exhibit toward our other local, state, and federal elected officials and the laws that they set.

The job you were elected to do requires you to focus on the good of our citizens, and uphold local, state and federal laws as they relate to our daily lives. Eliminating the ability of citizens to live safely without fear of random gun violence is so outside the lines that I can hardly believe that you as a governing body would endorse such a move.

Mr. Beardon, specifically I understand that this is your proposal. I am curious whether our county law enforcement officers have endorsed your proposal? Have you taken into account the high rate of suicide, recent gang activity, and domestic violence that is present in our county? Have you considered the recent lockdowns in our schools due to gun threats? Apparently those elements of life in Manatee County do not take precedence over your desire to "be free". Well, the citizens that I know and respect prefer our freedom to be coupled with public safety and the security of our children to go to school without threat.

As our county representatives, I expect each of you to take all these things into consideration and to vote down such an ill-conceived proposal. We are counting on you to act rationally. And, we will all be watching what decision you make tomorrow on agenda item 44. Don't just table it. This one should be dead on arrival.

With the highest expectations,

Kathy Flora, Manatee County citizen.

Kathy Flora

941-779-6061

[kflora11@gmail.com](mailto:kflora11@gmail.com)

**From:** Cathy Duguay <[ceduguay@gmail.com](mailto:ceduguay@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 1:49 PM

**To:** Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; [jason.beardon@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.beardon@mymanatee.org); Kevin VanOstenbridge <[kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org](mailto:kevin.vanostenbridge@mymanatee.org)>; Vanessa Baugh <[vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org](mailto:vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Gun sanctuary

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Please stop wasting taxpayer money, time & resources on declaring Manatee Co a gun sanctuary. This is an issue that should be decided at the state or National level

Instead consider issues that are relevant to residents of the area such as infrastructure to keep pace with the explosion of growth or affordable housing for service workers.

Say no to unnecessary gun sanctuary status.

Respectfully

C.E.Duguay

**From:** Roslynn Steward <[rsteward@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rsteward@tampabay.rr.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2023 1:56 PM

**To:** James Satcher <[james.satcher@mymanatee.org](mailto:james.satcher@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Gun Sanctuary proposal

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Commissioner James Satcher,

Commissioner Mike Rahn,

We need MORE gun control - not less. The creators of the Second Amendment had no way to envision the assault weapons and high capacity firearms that are in our world today. I do NOT support Jason Bearden's proposal to make Manatee County a Gun Sanctuary County. Please work on something to benefit - not harm - our county. As an example, building affordable homes needs desperate attention in Manatee County.

Roslynn Steward

Manatee County Resident