



OBSERVER CORPS REPORT

Volusia County Council

Reported by Karen Rainville

January 8, 2026

Public participation

Concern was voiced regarding Volusia Forever potentially being changed by the County Council to include limitations, as well as change it to a limited number of years, instead of "in perpetuity", as the voters approved in 2000 and 2020.

Several citizens spoke against the decision by the Council to withdraw funding for Cultural grants, which were approved by voters. The Cultural Alliance strongly supports continuation of the grants, citing benefits to our communities and negative impact to young people by withholding funds. The Volusia Cultural Alliance will be sending further information to the Council to support the funding.

Citizens presented concern regarding the inability of young people to enter the housing market and the rising cost of buying a first home.

One citizen voiced dissatisfaction with the excessive signage on A1A in Flagler, as part of the repairs from storms.

Agenda Item H

Amendment No. 1 to Task Assignment No. 1 with RebelGroup Americas, Inc. for Public Private Partnership (P3) Consulting Services for **Motocross and ATV/UTV Trail Riding Facility, 25-SQ-65PW**

Expenditure: \$195,795 [From ECHO DCE funds]

Strategic Goals: Expand Recreation and Sports Tourism

Several citizens spoke in opposition to taking Echo funds for this motocross facility in DeLand.

Echo is funded by the taxpayers. Opposition arguments include motocross being a 'niche' activity. Cited other facilities of this kind in Florida aren't profitable and that the taxpayers will be subsidizing its maintenance for years. Arguments that a motocross facility is not what was intended within Volusia Echo.

This amendment is approved at the meeting by 5-1, with Council Chair Brower opposing.

Additional discussion

Efforts in Tallahassee to limit Home Rule. SB 718 would prevent counties and municipalities from regulating their own water quality.