



First Amendment FOUNDATION

Protecting Your Right to Know Since 1985

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

JIM BALTZELLE, CHAIRMAN

Director Local Media, Southeast,
The Associated Press

GARY GREEN, VICE CHAIRMAN

Deputy News Editor and Digital Director,
Innovation News Center

FRANK DENTON, TREASURER

Retired Editor, *Florida Times-Union*

PETE WEITZEL

Founder and Director Emeritus

ANA-KLARA ANDERSON

Counsel, *NBC Sports – NBCUniversal Media*

FARHOOD BASIRI

Co-Founder, Bellwether Software Development

DICK BATCHELOR

Founder and President,
Dick Batchelor Management Group, Inc.

MIKE DEESON

Deeson Media

TRIMMEL GOMES

President, Gomes Media Strategies

THOMAS D. HALL

President, TLH Consulting Group LLC

AMY HOLLYFIELD

Senior Deputy Editor, *Tampa Bay Times*

CAROL JEAN LOCICERO, CHAIRWOMAN

Thomas & LoCicero

CINDY McCURRY-ROSS

Executive Editor & VP of Content, *The News-Press*

SAMUEL J. MORLEY

General Counsel, Florida Press Association

MATT PARCELL

News Director, Cox Media Group Orlando

PATRICK RICE

Editor, *Daytona Beach News-Journal*

DEAN RIDINGS

President & CEO, Intersect Media Solutions

BOB SHAW

Retired Editor, *Orlando Sentinel*

CAITIE SWITALSKI

Reporter, *WLRN Public Media*

CHARLEY WILLIAMS

Past State Board,

League of Women Voters of Florida

Director, Business Development, GEC

DAVE WILSON

Senior Editor, *The Miami Herald*

January 6, 2020

The Honorable Bobby DuBose
Florida House of Representatives
402 S. Monroe Street, Room 1302 Cap
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Re: HB 755 Exemption/911 and E911 Communication Systems

Dear Representative DuBose:

I am writing on behalf of the First Amendment Foundation in response to HB 755, which would create public record and meeting exemptions related to 911 and E911 emergency communication systems.

While we do not object to the proposed exemptions, we do suggest that the bill be amended to provide some sort of record, such as a recording, of those portions of meetings that would be closed under the exemption. Records of closed meetings are vitally important, allowing for oversight of the task force in the event that questions are raised about whether private discussions were limited to those allowed under the exemption. We would suggest an amendment modeled on the language in SB 1170, lines 278-292.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if we can be of assistance in drafting the suggested amendment, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Pamela C. Marsh, President

Cc: The Honorable Jose Oliva, Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
Mr. Jim Baltzelle, Associated Press, Chair, First Amendment Foundation
Mr. Samuel Morley, General Counsel, Florida Press Association
Ms. Lisa Nellesen Savage, Chair, Florida Society of News Editors