



PEMBROKE PINES CITY  
COMMISSION

**Angelo Castillo**  
MAYOR  
954-450-1020  
acastillo@ppines.com

**Michael A. Hernandez**  
VICE MAYOR  
DISTRICT 4  
954-450-1030  
mihernandez@ppines.com

**Thomas Good, Jr**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 1  
954-450-1030  
tgood@ppines.com

**Jay D. Schwartz**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 2  
954-450-1030  
jschwartz@ppines.com

**Maria Rodriguez**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 3  
954-450-1030  
mrodriguez@ppines.com

**Charles F. Dodge**  
CITY MANAGER  
954-450-1040  
cdodge@ppines.com

## MEMORANDUM

Date: February 25, 2026

To: Mayor, Vice-Mayor & Commissioners

From: Charles F. Dodge, City Manager 

Subject: Townhall Meetings

---

I am writing to provide clarification regarding recent communications circulating about my position on the use of City facilities, particularly as it relates to "Town Hall Meetings".

It has never been my position to restrict the use of City buildings by any elected official who requests the use of a City facility for a legitimate public purpose. Historically, the City has accommodated such requests in support of transparency, accessibility, and community engagement.

Most recently, a request was submitted by Commissioner Schwartz to hold a District 2 Town Hall Meeting on February 2nd. That request was subsequently modified to a citywide Town Hall Meeting on February 12th, and later revised again to a District 2 Town Hall Meeting on February 20th. These changes occurred without a clear and transparent explanation to the public regarding the purpose or necessity of the meeting, which understandably generated questions within the community.

On February 17th, prior to the February 18th City Commission Meeting, I contacted the Commissioner to inquire about the urgency of holding a short-noticed citywide meeting and whether it could be postponed until mid-March to allow for adequate planning, coordination, and clarity of purpose. I was advised that the meeting needed to occur immediately and could not be delayed. Additionally, staff was directed—without my prior knowledge—to arrange for supplemental accommodations, including videography services, drapery, and reconfiguration of the meeting room. These requests would have resulted in additional public expenditures and were not processed in accordance with the administrative structure outlined in Sections 4.01 and 4.04 of the City Charter.

My concerns were centered on the potential for unnecessary public expenditures, the timing of a citywide meeting (as opposed to a district-specific meeting) in advance of upcoming elections, and the

lack of clarity regarding the subject matters to be discussed. For these reasons, I placed an item under the City Manager's Report on the February 18th City Commission Meeting agenda to initiate a discussion on the development of a formal policy governing the use of City facilities by City Commissioners.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of a quorum following Commissioner Schwartz's departure from the meeting, the Commission was unable to provide direction on this matter. As a result, and in the interest of consistency and fiscal responsibility, I will not schedule any Town Hall Meetings until the City Commission provides formal direction.

It is my belief that establishing a consistent policy will enhance transparency, ensure compliance with the City Charter, safeguard public resources, and prevent similar issues from arising in the future.

Accordingly, I intend to place an item on the March 4th City Commission Meeting agenda for further discussion and possible action regarding the establishment of such a policy.