



Citizens Address Commission on Code Enforcement; Christmas Parade Announced

Posted on November 14, 2025 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (Nov. 6, 2025) — Citizens participated in the public comment portion of the Dade County Board of Commissioners' regular monthly meeting, sharing their perspectives on local code enforcement and announcing upcoming community events.

The Citizens Participation segment of each meeting provides residents an opportunity to address the Board directly on matters of personal or public interest. While commissioners typically reserve their comments for later in the meeting, all citizen remarks are entered into the public record for consideration.

Code enforcement has been a recurring topic at Commission meetings throughout 2025. In February, the Board initiated a comprehensive review of Dade County's Building Code Enforcement Ordinance and held multiple workshops with local contractors, excavators, electricians, and other tradespeople to gather input. The conversation continued during the September meeting, when commissioners reviewed Building Code Enforcement Policy and Procedures in detail. That article is available on our website under the Latest News tab.

As commissioners continue evaluating enforcement options and determining how best to implement consistent, fair procedures, citizens and business owners have continued to raise questions and share feedback during the public comment portion of recent meetings.



State Senator Colton Moore spoke first, clarifying that he was not attending in an official capacity but rather as a Dade County resident. Senator Moore expressed concern about recent code enforcement activity and inspection practices, stating that he had been contacted by citizens who felt the enforcement process was inconsistent with state law. He said that he had filed an open records request to better understand how local permitting and inspection procedures are handled.

"I came to the conclusion that our local code enforcement office doesn't fully understand state law," Moore said, adding that he believed the county should reconsider how enforcement

responsibilities are managed. “The government shouldn’t be a nanny state inserting itself into private business.”

Resident Steven Shaffer, a general contractor and owner of Blackberry Ridge Wedding Venue, also spoke during the public comment period. Shaffer expressed some initial frustration about the current inspection process but ultimately called for a balanced approach. “Who’s going to be inspecting?” he asked. “If we’re going to require inspections, then we need to have licensed professionals performing them.”



Shaffer noted that neighboring counties vary widely in their approaches to code enforcement and permitting, emphasizing that while he supports safety and compliance, those goals should be pursued through proper training and professional standards. His comments reflected a shared desire to see Dade County’s enforcement program implemented “the right way.”



In other public comments, Audrey Clark of the Bank of Dade announced details for this year’s Dade County Christmas Parade, which is sponsored annually by the bank. The Lighted Parade, themed “Winter Wonderland,” will take place on Saturday, December 13, at 6 p.m. Lineup will begin behind the Bank of Dade, and the parade will conclude at Moore Funeral Home. The event will feature local organizations, schools, and community groups. There is no entry fee, and everyone is welcome to participate. The parade will also be livestreamed on the county’s Facebook page.

The next Dade County Board of Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2025, at the Dade County Administrative Building.