

DiNapoli, Franchesca

From: O'Donnell, Stacy
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 10:45 AM
To: Revie, Derelynn H; BCC Agenda Comments
Subject: FYI - EV Charging- Citizens to be Heard 5.19.26
Attachments: The need for Pinellas County Charging stations.; URGENT: Please Pause EV Charging Station Decommission — A No-Cost Alternative Exists

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Just an fyi of a possible Citizens to be Heard about decommission of free county EV charging stations. Administration asked that I forward this to you.



Stacy O'Donnell
Executive Aide to Chairman Dave Eggers
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
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Office (727) 464-3276

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DiNapoli, Franchesca

From: Brandon Call <a.brandon.call@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 9:44 AM
To: Eggers, Dave; McDaniel, Kim
Cc: Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Scherer, Chris; Scott, Brian; Nowicki, Vince; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Brandon Call
Subject: URGENT: Please Pause EV Charging Station Decommission — A No-Cost Alternative Exists

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Dear Mrs McDaniel & all Pinellas County Commissioners,

My name is Archie Call, and I am a Clearwater Beach resident for more than a decade writing in strong opposition to the planned June 1, 2026 decommissioning of all public EV charging stations in Pinellas County parks and facilities — including Sand Key Park, which my family with a special needs child personally depend on.

I understand the annual operating cost of approximately \$56,600 was cited as the reason for this decision. I am respectfully asking the Board to reconsider, for the following reasons:

1. A NO-COST ALTERNATIVE EXISTS AND WAS NOT EXPLORED.

Commercial EV network operators — ChargePoint, EVgo, Blink, Electrify America — will install, operate, and maintain EV charging equipment at zero cost to the property owner and often share revenue with the host. Many Florida counties and cities already operate under this model. Before permanently removing this infrastructure, the county should issue an RFP to these operators immediately.

2. THE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC COST EXCEEDS THE SAVINGS.

Sand Key and Fort De Soto are among the most-visited parks in the region. EV drivers actively route around charging access. Removing it will cost the county in lost visitor spending — far exceeding \$56,600/year in negative economic impact.

3. RESIDENTS MADE DECISIONS BASED ON THIS INFRASTRUCTURE.

Removing public charging penalizes residents who chose electric vehicles in part because of available public charging — a choice that benefits the county's air quality and environmental goals.

4. THIS CONTRADICTS THE COUNTY'S OWN RESILIENCY COMMITMENTS.

Pinellas County has a Resiliency Program. Removing EV infrastructure at public parks while claiming to support clean energy is incoherent public policy.

My specific requests:

- Delay the June 1 decommissioning by 60–90 days.
- Direct staff to immediately issue an RFP to commercial EV charging operators.
- Schedule this item for public discussion at the May 19 BCC meeting.

I plan to attend the May 19 meeting and address the Board directly. I am also organizing other affected EV owners and park visitors to join me. I believe this is a solvable problem and I am committed to working with your office toward a better outcome.

With respect and appreciation for your service,

Archie

Archie Brandon Call

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DiNapoli, Franchesca

From: drandle bluecommunity.info <drandle@bluecommunity.info>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2026 6:11 PM
To: Eggers, Dave; Latvala, Christopher; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Nowicki, Vince; Scherer, Chris; Scott, Brian; McDaniel, Kim
Subject: The need for Pinellas County Charging stations.
Attachments: 260515 Pinellas County Commissioners EV.pdf

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Greetings Pinellas County Commissioners.

I understand that you will be having a meeting on May 19th to discuss EV Charging.

Unfortunately I will be out of town or otherwise would love to attend.

Since I am unable to attend, please find attached a letter that addresses this issue.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this input.

Be Well,

Dr. David W. Randle
Managing Director
Blue Community Consortium
www.bluecommunity.info

727-479-4767



Dr. David W. Randle

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May 15, 2026

Mr. Dave Eggers, Mr. Chris Latvala, Ms. Kathleen Peters, Ms. Rene Flowers, Mr. Vince Nowicki, Mr. Chris Scherer, Mr. Brian Scott, and Ms. Kim McDaniel
Members of the Pinellas County Commissioners

Sent via email to each of the above members.

Greetings Pinellas County Commissioners.

I am writing this letter in the capacity of Managing Director of the Blue Community Consortium who's mission is to collaborate with others to protect, enhance, and restore coastal habitats and marine environments. The letter is to express concern regarding the discontinuation of EV Charging stations, particularly in the County Parks, Botanical Gardens, and Public Library.

There are several reasons to keep these EV Charging stations in operation. Below are some of the key reasons to keep the EV charging stations:

1. **Promotes clean transportation and reduces emissions**

Public parks are highly visible, trusted community spaces. Installing chargers there normalizes EV adoption and supports counties' climate action plans by reducing reliance on gasoline.

2. **Encourages equitable EV access**

Many residents, especially in multi-unit housing or low-income neighborhoods, lack home charging. Park-based chargers provide convenient, public access, helping close the EV equity gap. I myself live in a condominium complex that does not have EV Charging. The opportunity to charge my EV while bike riding, swimming or walking on the beach at Fort DeSoto or while using the Public library has made owning an EV without a home charging station much more practical.

3. Leverages existing infrastructure and land

Parks often have available parking, electrical capacity, and minimal land acquisition costs, making them lower-cost sites compared to dense commercial zones.

4. Generates revenue or supports cost recovery

Counties can partner with utilities or private charging networks. Fee-based charging can generate revenue to offset park maintenance costs, or offer free charging as an amenity to attract visitors.

5. Supports fleet electrification

County-owned electric vehicles (maintenance, police, park rangers) can use park chargers during the workday, reducing fuel costs and demonstrating public leadership. While the county may not currently have many electric vehicles, in the future they will likely have more.

6. Improves disaster resilience

In emergencies (wildfires, heatwaves, power outages), parks with EV chargers and solar+storage can serve as community resilience hubs, providing backup power or charging for critical response vehicles.

7. Aligns with health and environmental justice

EV charging stations can help reduce air pollution through reducing transportation emissions and increasing green space usage—addressing dual environmental and health goals.

8. Future-proofs county infrastructure

As EV adoption grows, proactively siting chargers in parks avoids retrofitting costs later and positions the county as forward-thinking on transportation and land use.

9. Attracts grant and state funding

Many funding programs prioritize publicly accessible charging in parks, community centers, and transit hubs. Having EV Chargers enable Pinellas County to better compete for non-tax revenue.

Electric vehicles are moving from niche to mainstream. Currently EVs account for 9% of passenger car, truck and SUV (light-duty vehicle) sales in 2025. Globally the percentage is much higher. Higher fuel prices will only increase the acceleration of this percentage.

Pinellas County needs to be looking to the future not retreating to the past. If anything the County would do well to explore new partnerships with EV Charging stations to increase the number of Pinellas County Parks that offer EV charging, not reduce the number.

In summary, park-based EV charging turns underutilized parking into a multi-benefit asset: advancing climate goals, serving underserved residents, boosting park economies, and attracting external funding—all while reinforcing parks as modern, multi-functional community hubs. The future of transportation will be powered by electricity not gasoline. Pinellas County would do well to keep moving into the future.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts.

Be Well,

David Randle Digitally signed by David Randle
Date: 2026.05.15 17:51:16
-04'00'

Dr. David W. Randle
Managing Director
Blue Community Consortium