

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY STATEMENT**

*The Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce, Government Affairs Strategy Task Force recommends to the Board of Directors that the following Public Affairs Policy be adopted to further the goals and objectives of the Board in the area of Government Affairs.*

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce will foster forward thinking and leadership in many areas of Public Affairs including, but not limited to: transportation, water management, land use, parks, beaches and other outdoor recreation. The Public Affairs Strategic Plan proposed for adoption later this year is intended to be a proactive document that will identify and prioritize the critical issues to be addressed by this Chamber over the next three years, updated on an annual basis. Once approved, the Chamber's focus will be on implementing that plan.

Notwithstanding our focus on "working the plan", in a dynamic arena such as public affairs, issues will arise that have not been anticipated by the plan. As a leader and an experienced voice for the Bonita Springs area, the Chamber has an important role in identifying, defining and solving evolving issues. When issues requiring some action by the Chamber arise outside those anticipated by the Public Affairs Strategic Plan, they should be handled in the following manner.

### **Procedures for Chamber Consideration of Action on Issues Outside Those Approved in the Public Affairs Plan**

Persons or organizations requesting Chamber action on a public affairs-type issue should submit the request to the Chamber President in writing, being as specific about the desired action as possible and including any background materials available. Upon receipt of all information, the Government Affairs Committee will consider the action requested at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If the committee agrees that action is warranted, it will draft a position paper recommending such for approval or denial at the Board of Directors' next monthly meeting. Depending upon the complexity of the issue, the committee reserves the right to postpone recommendation to the Board until all reasonable questions have been answered to the satisfaction of the committee.

The guiding principles for the Chamber in developing positions on issues will include a fair look at both sides of the issue, and verification that the issue coincides with our mission and furthers the implementation of our strategic plan. In addition, the Chamber will identify key resources it can utilize, including the collective experience of the Government Affairs Committee.

Issue Parameters – The committee will apply the following questions to the issue:

1. Does it serve our members?
2. Does it promote an environment where business can grow and prosper?
3. Does it enhance the quality of life in Bonita Springs?
4. Is there a positive/negative fiscal impact?
5. Is it a global or isolated issue?

Approved by Board of Directors 8-17-00