

## **HERNANDO COUNTY DELEGATION ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY**

### **America 250 / Brooksville Main St Funding Request**

I am here today not as Bob Morgan the individual but Bob Morgan on behalf of the Hernando DOGE Advisory Committee. I was asked by my colleagues at the DOGE Committee to relay our concerns and objection with the expenditure of \$50,000 for this event.

At our regularly scheduled meeting yesterday, a citizen brought this item forward and asked DOGE to speak up against this item. DOGE listened, held a healthy discussion, read the 250 Committee letter outlining the event and voted 7-1 to recommend the BOCC decline funding this event.

While we whole heartedly support the celebratory theme and meaning behind this event, Hernando DOGE cannot justify taxpayer expenditures based on the following:

- 1) This expenditure is against DOGE Mission of identifying and eliminating wasteful or low priority funding so that monies are readily available for core services of public safety, infrastructure and emergency response.
- 2) Alternative funding would appear to be available from local private sector sources. Historically, large corporations have seen fit to help sponsor community driven events. The upcoming Kickball Tournament for United Way of Hernando County has numerous corporate sponsors including: Publix, Tampa General Hospital, Texas Roadhouse, Suncoast Credit Union, Coastal Engineering, Withlacoochee Electric just to name a few. DOGE recommends the America 250/Brooksville Main Street pursue similar partnerships.
- 3) Brooksville Main Street applied for a State of Florida Grant from the Division of Arts & Culture and were not awarded a grant (no reason available).
- 4) Approving this request would establish an expectation for similar future sponsorships.

Should the BOCC consider moving forward with this funding, the DOGE Committee asks for clarification and consideration regarding the following items:

- 1) Was this a budgeted item for FY2026, if so, which department and how much?
- 2) Is Hernando Fire Rescue making a monetary contribution to the event? Are they donating their time and equipment (in-kind) for this event or will they be paid for the services they provide?
- 3) Is the Hernando County Sheriff's Office making a monetary contribution to this event? Are they donating their Deputies time (in-kind) for this event or will they be paid for the services they provide?
- 4) How much are the other community partners listed in the letter contributing to the event?
- 5) We recommend that any event-funding proposals include: (a) a full event budget with line-item detail, (b) proof of secured alternative funding (at least 50-75% private/grant), and (c) measurable economic-impact projections. This level of transparency is consistent with DOGE principles.

Hernando DOGE Advisory Committee respectfully recommends this funding be declined.

Thank you for your consideration.