



## PROCLAMATION NO. 2016-02

### SUNSHINE WEEK OPEN GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATION March 13-19, 2016

WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of our federal Constitution, wrote that “consent of the governed” requires that the people be able to “arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives,” and

WHEREAS, every citizen in our participatory democracy has an inherent right to access to government meetings and public records; and

WHEREAS, an open and accessible government is vital to establishing and maintaining the people’s trust and confidence in their government and in the government’s ability to effectively serve its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Public Records Law is designed to guarantee that the public has access to public records of governmental bodies in North Carolina. The first statute dealing with public documents in the State was passed in 1935 (N.C.G.S. 132-1 Public Records). This law focused on the duty of government officials to preserve public records carefully; and

WHEREAS, the protection of every person’s right of access to public records and government meetings is a high priority of Brevard City Council, and

WHEREAS, the Brevard City Council is committed to openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations as exemplified in the City’s core values of professionalism, leadership, ethics, accountability and transparency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Jimmy Harris, do hereby proclaim **March 13-19, 2016**, as **Sunshine Week** in the City of Brevard, North Carolina, and commit throughout the year to work diligently to enhance the public’s access to government records and information, to increase information provided electronically and online, and to ensure that all meetings of deliberative bodies under its jurisdiction, and their committees, are fully noticed and open to the public.

Adopted and approved this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2016.

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Jimmy Harris  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Desiree D. Perry, CMC, NCCMC  
City Clerk