



# Let the Sun Shine - Insist on Transparency

SHARON R. BOCK  
Clerk & Comptroller  
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Information is the lifeblood of our democracy. Thomas Jefferson said, "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people....They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."

March 11-17 marks "Sunshine Week", an initiative to promote the importance of open government, freedom of information and the public's right to know. Florida's Sunshine Law establishes your basic right of access to most public meetings and public records. The "sunshine" alludes to "letting light shine" on governmental activities.



**Sharon R. Bock**

Your elected and government officials have a *duty* to provide you with access to information. As citizens, we all have a *duty* to demand it. It is especially important now, with public corruption on the front pages of newspapers and in the forefront of everyone's thoughts.

The onus is on public officials to conduct meetings in the open, provide information and act with integrity at all times. But citizens have an equal responsibility to ensure all activities related to government are conducted in the sunshine. The opportunity for corruption is greater where darkness exists. In honor of Sunshine Week, I am urging my fellow citizens to ask for information, insist on accountability and demand transparency.

In my role as Clerk & Comptroller of Palm Beach County, I hold and safeguard the majority of Palm Beach County citizens' records. In this capacity, I am committed to public education and awareness that promote transparency and accountability in County government. As your public trustee, I am continuously seeking new ways to bring that information to you. You can access public records - including information on court cases and minutes for Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meetings - on our website, [www.pbcountyclerk.com](http://www.pbcountyclerk.com), and at our seven office locations.

Please make a commitment to get involved in the activities of your government, not just during Sunshine Week, but every week of the year.

Best regards,

Sharon R. Bock  
Clerk & Comptroller  
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