

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 7:15 AM
To: 'Andy Ball'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Good morning,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20240032, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz

Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Andy Ball <gab_three@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 6:08 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo Smith <Commissioner.Passidomo.Smith@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for conducting the public hearings and listening to our concerns. I see that your staffs have been hard at work developing recommendations addressing Environmental Utilities (EU) application for sewer. I am grateful for their hard work. However, as a full-time island resident on a fixed income, I strongly disagree with the recommendation to approve.

During the last round, the PSC disapproved the application in part based on need and requests from the residents. While the County issued a resolution in support of EU, there was a much larger outpouring of opposition by residents this time around. Lets be honest here, the resolution is a demonstration of hypocrisy by the County Commissioners. The resolution should not be viewed as support for EU as the county commissioner's actions speak louder than the words they put a piece of paper.

While on one hand, County commissioners say septic is bad and should not be allowed, yet they continue to issue building permits for new homes with septic systems here on the island. They line the county coffers by collecting money for permits for septic tanks they

claim are environmentally harmful. If they really thought septic was so bad, they would not be allowing more houses to be built with septic systems. If they can continue to allow new septic systems on the island, where is the need despite their Resolution? If septic is so bad, the county should put a moratorium on permitting septic systems and halt development. Additionally, they should be the one installing the sewer system not a private company. To further exemplify the hypocrisy of the Resolution (lobbied for by EU?), at least one of the commissioners who supported the resolution is a builder/developer. This builder has been building on the island with septic systems even as this issue unfolds. Again, if he truly believes septic is so bad, why would he continue to install them on the island? Perhaps its greed and not a true concern for the community and environment as the resolution he supported states? Something smells fishy and it aint red tide caused by septic tanks here. It makes me wonder if that resolution wasn't bought and paid for. While the resolution does give your staff something to point to, it is nothing more than smoke and mirrors. The actions of the county should weigh more than what they put on paper. Do as i say and not as I do, doesn't work for me. The disingenuous resolution should not be considered as county support for EU as stated in the recommendations.

Furthermore, as stated in my written stakeholder comment and, it was mentioned at the public hearing, EU is essentially going to extort the residents of the island to live here for a service not requested or needed. The high cost of the extortion fee for me to live on the island is outrageous. My family that lives in Port Charlotte pays roughly \$80 a month for both County water and sewer. However, even though i live in the same county, I will have to pay \$200 or more a month. If i was paying the county, I would not be as upset as this is a function of local government. While i was upset before when we had to go through this in past years, I am now angered and outraged knowing this could become a reality should you follow the recommendations of staff.

Being a retired federal government official who was involved in rule making, I understand the difficulties and challenges in not following staff recommendations however, it is not uncommon to do. I urge you to go against staff's recommendations with a clear conscious. Consider the County's actions not, their lip service.

Thank you for considering my comments.

George A Ball
gab_three@yahoo.com