

**Sandra Soto**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Brown  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:11 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 160101-WS - City of Longwood Commissioners - re: Utilities, Inc. of Florida Rate Consolidation & Rate Increase  
**Attachments:** 17-02-17 - Seminole County Board of County Commissioners.pdf; 16-10-10 - Pasco County Commissioner Mariano comments.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160101-WS. Thank you.

***Shalonda M. Hopkins***

Florida Registered Paralegal  
Executive Assistant to Chairman Brown  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 413-6030  
Fax: (850) 413-6031

*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.*

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**From:** Brian Holmes [mailto:bdholmes1@outlook.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 7:22 PM  
**To:** jdurso@longwoodfl.org; jmaingot@longwoodfl.org; bparis@longwoodfl.org; mweller@longwoodfl.org; bsackett@longwoodfl.org; jwilliams@longwoodfl.org  
**Cc:** Ann Marie Ryan - FCW Alliance - LEADER - fcw.alliance (fcw.alliance@gmail.com); Brian Holmes; jmariano@pascocountyfl.net; sayler.erik@leg.state.fl.us; JR Kelly; Office of Commissioner Brown; RICK.SCOTT@EOG.MYFLORIDA.com  
**Subject:** City of Longwood Commissioners - re: Utilities, Inc. of Florida Rate Consolidation & Rate Increase

District 1 – John C. Maingot  
Mayor & District 2 – Joe Durso  
District 3 – Ben Paris  
District 4 – Mark Weller  
Deputy Mayor & District 5 – Brian D. Sackett  
City Manager – Jon Williams

Date: March 1, 2017

Re: Utilities, Inc. of Florida Rate Consolidation & Rate Increase

Dear Sirs,

Utilities, Inc of Florida's (UIF) proposed rate consolidation & rate increase, which is before the Public Service Commission (Docket No. 160101-WS), is not in the "best interest" of the future direction of the City of Longwood, Seminole County, the 29,000\* customers & Citizens of Central Florida, nor the remaining 31,000\* current Statewide Customers of UIF. (\*- 60,000 Equivalent Residential Connections (ERCs)..see "Footnotes" at the bottom of this email).

This is evidenced during Mayor Durso's District 2 report at the last Commissioner's Meeting (held Feb. 20, 2017), in which it was stated that he wanted to:

- o "...direct City Staff to place this topic on the Agenda..."
- o "...develop resolution & support for cause against what is about to happen...";
- o "...get on-board with whatever opposition the county is presenting and other municipalities are presenting..."

Seminole County has stated in a letter sent to the Public Service Commission (Written Feb. 17, 2017; Filed Feb. 23, 2017), of its "...objection..." to the proposals due to the 70% increase in bulk water costs, which would have to be passed onto the Residents of the County that are supplied by Seminole County. (See attached pdf: 17-02-17 - Seminole County Board of County Commissioners)

Pasco County and the Summertree Community has been in protracted disputes (Primary & Secondary Water Quality issues, coupled with non-stop rate hikes, despite unresolved water quality issues) with UIF for several years, and recently moved Summertree's service from UIF to Pasco County. FL Senator Wilton Simpson, State Representative Richard Corcoran, & Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano were all involved with these disputes, as well as this latest proposal by UIF. Of particular interest, is Commissioner Mariano's submission (via Secretary to the [Pasco] County Commissioners) to PSC in a letter dated October 6, 2016, in which he states "...In my opinion, **they should have their licenses revoked...**" and goes on further "...It is unfortunate that this private Utility has failed these residents. I, **personally, intend to do everything in my power to see to it that this Utility is brought into public ownership...**" (See attached pdf: 16-10-10 - Pasco County Commissioner Mariano comments)

I am certain that other communities & Counties have also had their share of issues with UIF. This latest proposal, with rate hikes ranging from 70-109%, is just the latest in a long string of rate hikes. As such, the current Customers of UIF, under the Leadership of Ann Marie Ryan, have formed "**Florida Consumer Water/Wastewater Alliance (FCW Alliance)**", and support the City of Longwood's opposition to the UIF proposal. Ann Marie, who is also in a Leadership position for Summertree Water Alliance (SWA), has been successful in holding UIF's "feet to the fire" and mobilizing Summertree's residents in opposition to prior proposals brought before the Public Service Commission (PSC). FCW Alliance can be found @ [www.facebook.com/groups/fcw.alliance/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fcw.alliance/)

As such, FCW Alliance respectfully requests that the City of Longwood support our efforts in UNITING ALL 60,000\* UIF CUSTOMERS in a dual strategy by:

**1. UIF Customers, County & City officials join together to oppose Docket No. 160101-WS, UIF Consolidated Rate Case:**

- o Drafting and approving a "Letter of Support" for FCW Alliance efforts to unite UIF customers in opposition to Statewide consolidation
- Drafting and approving a "Letter of Opposition" to UIF's proposal (Docket No. 160101-WS)
- Filing such letters with: Commission Clerk, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
- Request a "courtesy copy" of these letters be sent to: Florida Consumer Water/Wastewater Alliance, 11436 Windsor Court, New Port Richey, FL 34654

**2. Help to effect Legislative Reform:**

- The groundwork for this action has already begun. Please reach out to our Elected State Representatives to speak with Fla. Senator-Wilton Simpson and Fla. Representative & Speaker-Richard Corcoran who are ready to address Legislative Reform to help with UIF's customers with on-going water quality and service issues.

Lastly, members of FCW Alliance (including Leader Ryan) and concerned citizens, plan on attending the next City of Longwood Commissioners Meeting on March 6, 2017, and if given the opportunity, would sincerely appreciate the opportunity to address the Commission, and answer any questions that may be asked.

In closing, thank-you for taking the time to read this email, and bringing this issue to the attention of the City Commissioners and the general Public.

Warmest of regards,

Brian Holmes  
Member-FCW Alliance  
2371 Westwood Drive,  
Longwood, FL 32779

Cc: Ann Marie Ryan – FCW Alliance Leader  
Jack Mariano – Pasco County Commissioner  
Erik Sayer & J.R. Kelly – Office of Public Counsel  
Julie Brown – Public Service Commission – Chairperson  
Rick Scott – Florida Governor

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## References:

Current Rate Case Docket Filings (Docket No. 160101-WS):

<http://www.floridapsc.com/ClerkOffice/DocketFiling?docket=160101&page=1>

Pasco County/Summertree Docket Filings (Docket No. 150269 – which was bifurcated and #160101-WS started):

<http://www.floridapsc.com/ClerkOffice/DocketFiling?docket=150269>

## Footnotes:

\*All notations regarding the number of customers is based upon “Equivalent Residential Connections” (ERC’s).

- **Statewide:** UIF has about 60,000 combined water and wastewater equivalent residential connections (ERCs). Some customers receive both wastewater and water service from UIF (i.e. – 1 customer = 2 ERCs) and some customers place greater demand on UIF services (i.e.- a large condo customer with large water meter might equal 20 ERCs, but be one customer). According to Office of Public Counsel, there are about 44,000 Customer Accounts.
- **Sanlando, Seminole, and Longwood:** According to the Office of Public Counsel, the number of *monthly bills sent* to residential customers and general service (commercial) customers:

	Water	Wastewater
Sanlando	10,448	9,726
Seminole County	2,574	1,382
Longwood	n/a	1,619
Total	13,022	12,717

Note: some customers are water only, wastewater only, or both.

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Joann Parsons  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:34 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 160101  
**Attachments:** 2017-02-17, Ltr frm Chairman Horan.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160101-WS.

Thank you.

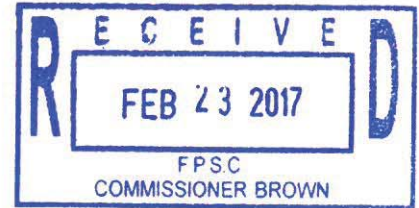
Joann

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**



February 17, 2017

Julie I. Brown, Chair  
Commissioner Art Graham  
Commissioner Ronald A. Brisé  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850



**RE:** Docket No. 160101-WS - Application for Increase in  
Water and Wastewater Rates in Seminole County  
By Utilities Inc.

Dear Commissioners:

Seminole County (the "County") is a wholesale customer of Utilities, Inc. of Florida (the "Utility"). The County purchases water and wastewater services from Sanlando Utilities Corporation, which is owned by the Utility. The County hereby objects to the above referred to increases proposed for the residential, general and flat rates charged to the County as a direct customer; and also those increases proposed for customers of the Utility who are private Seminole County residents.

Based upon the Fiscal Year 2016 payments the County has made to the Utility as a wholesale customer, the County would pay an additional \$279,000 more per year on all of its accounts to the Utility; an increase of over 70%. The majority of the increase is from the Sanlando area serviced by the Utility that is billed to the County on a flat rate per the ERC method for wastewater treatment. The amount the County would pay would increase from \$326,124 to \$544,236 per year. Based on FY2016 County expenditure information for the remaining five (5) other accounts with the Utility, the proposed increase would cause County costs to rise from \$57,000 to \$117,645.

Increases of this magnitude are well beyond what the County would reasonably anticipate and are beyond any reasonable assumptions the County has used for creating and maintaining rates within its five-year plan. If these increases are approved, they would shock the County's customers if they were passed on. The County is placed at a significant disadvantage by this level of increase. It does not have the ability to pass-through the rate increase without undertaking a formal rate adjustment hearing which would undoubtedly receive significant customer disapproval. Of course, the County would be susceptible to the claim of providing an illegal subsidy if it did not follow the appropriate procedures that would directly pass the costs through to the customers.

Florida Public Service Commissioners -2-  
RE: Docket No. 160101-WS

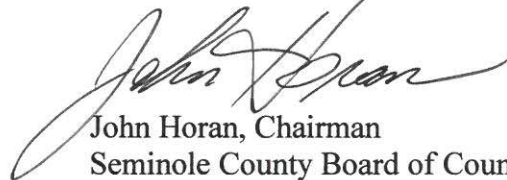
February 17, 2017

The County is also concerned that its citizens who are direct customers of Utilities, Inc. will not be able to pay this exorbitant rate increase. Increases of over 100% are proposed for some residents. These increases are just not able to be absorbed by many customers, especially those on fixed incomes.

Charging consolidated rates would be easier for the Utility to manage; but imposing a uniform rate over disparate cost utilities will cause many of our customers in Seminole County to subsidize the rates for other customers of the Utility in other parts of the state. It is hard to understand the equity of charging a consolidated rate when the company continues to bill separately. Separate billing mechanisms are in place for each company within Utilities Inc. That method facilitates the allocation of fair costs and does not unjustly increase the costs to low-cost system customers in a discriminatory manner.

Thank you for your consideration of this objection and we look forward participating in this proceeding to protect the interests of the good citizens of Seminole County.

Respectfully submitted,



John Horan, Chairman  
Seminole County Board of County Commissioners

cc: Carlotta S. Stauffer, Commission Clerk  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission

and

Office of the General Counsel  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

Ralph Terrero, Interim Director Environmental Services  
Seminole County, Florida

**Sandra Soto**

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**From:** Sandra Soto on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2016 1:29 PM  
**To:** 'Michele Isitt'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Utilities of Florida, Inc.

Good afternoon,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 150269-WS and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

**Sandra Soto**

Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 413-6010

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**From:** Michele Isitt [<mailto:misitt@pascocountyfl.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Patronis  
**Cc:** 'Rick Scott'; 'Wilton Simpson'; 'Richard Corcoran'; 'Ann Ryan'; 'Brian Armstrong'; 'Erik Saylor'; Joseph Richards; Flip Mellinger; 'Doris Graumann'; 'Judy Parker ([PARKER.JUDY@flsenate.gov](mailto:PARKER.JUDY@flsenate.gov))'; Linda Rios; Jean Masson; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Utilities of Florida, Inc.

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Please refer to the attached letter from Commissioner Jack Mariano with regard to Docket No. 150269-WS. Application for limited proceeding water rate increase in Marion, Pasco, and Seminole Counties, by Utilities, Inc. of Florida – Revised Recommendation at the PSC Public Hearing scheduled for tomorrow, October 11, 2016.

Thank you for your attention.

**Shelly Isitt**

Secretary to the County Commissioners  
Pasco County Board of Commissioners  
West Pasco Government Center  
8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 150  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
TEL: 727-847-8100  
FAX: 727-847-8969



## *"Bringing Opportunities Home"*

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CUSA18A7



## Sandra Soto

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**From:** Michele Isitt <misitt@pascocountyfl.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 10, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Patronis  
**Cc:** 'Rick Scott'; 'Wilton Simpson'; 'Richard Corcoran'; 'Ann Ryan'; 'Brian Armstrong'; 'Erik Saylor'; Joseph Richards; Flip Mellinger; 'Doris Graumann'; 'Judy Parker (PARKER.JUDY@flsenate.gov)'; Linda Rios; Jean Masson; Records Clerk  
**Subject:** Utilities of Florida, Inc.  
**Attachments:** PSC, re Summertree, 10.10.16.pdf

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

Please refer to the attached letter from Commissioner Jack Mariano with regard to Docket No. 150269-WS. Application for limited proceeding water rate increase in Marion, Pasco, and Seminole Counties, by Utilities, Inc. of Florida – Revised Recommendation at the PSC Public Hearing scheduled for tomorrow, October 11, 2016.

Thank you for your attention.

### Shelly Isitt

Secretary to the County Commissioners  
Pasco County Board of Commissioners  
West Pasco Government Center  
8731 Citizens Drive, Suite 150  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
TEL: 727-847-8100  
FAX: 727-847-8969



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CUSA18A7



October 6, 2016

Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Ted Schrader, District 1  
Mike Moore, District 2  
Kathryn Starkey, District 3  
Mike Wells, District 4  
Jack Mariano, District 5

Honorable Members of the Florida Public Service Commission:

On behalf of Pasco County and residents of Summertree, I would like to share some insight on the case currently before you. For nearly twenty (20) years, the residents of this community feel they have been dealing with a company that never once operated with their best interests in mind. The facts are compelling – they have continually pumped and distributed some of the worst quality water from their wells to profitably sell it on the backs of these residents. In my opinion, they should have their licenses revoked. Utilities, Inc. now stands before you seeking approval of an interconnect with Pasco County and possibly a rate increase.

The residents themselves have spent over \$16,000 of their own money to push this initiative forward, while Utilities, Inc. of Florida attempts to find new ways to nickel and dime these folks to death. Should this not be a consideration of the PSC when determining which course of action is proper? Furthermore, Utilities, Inc. of Florida, through its spokesman, Mr. Patrick Flynn, attempts to mislead the PSC by not presenting all of the facts. One such example was during the last hearing on September 13, 2016, when Mr. Flynn stated that Pasco County had not completed the design for the interconnect and thus giving the impression that this project is not ready to move ahead. In fact, the week prior, on September 7, 2016, to be precise, Mr. Flynn indicated in an email that he had no further comments on the design. At that point, the design was deemed complete, and Pasco County was ready to move forward with construction within the coming weeks.

It is unfortunate that this private Utility has failed these residents. I, personally, intend to do everything in my power to see to it that this Utility is brought into public ownership; however, until that time, I ask that you strongly consider the testimony of the residents and the professionals from Pasco County, here present, on October 11, 2016, as you decide how to best handle this case.

Sincerely,

Jack Mariano  
Commissioner  
District 5

cc: The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor, State of Florida, The Capitor, 400 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Ann Marie Ryan, Summertree Alliance Group, 11436 Windstar Court, New Port Richey, FL 34654  
Brian Armstrong, Law Office, P.O. Box 5055, Tallahassee, FL 32314-5055  
The Honorable Richard Corcoran, District 37, Florida House, 17953 Hunting Bow Circle, Suite 101, Lutz, FL 33558  
The Honorable Wilton Simpson, District 18, Florida Senate, 5509 Grand Blvd., Suite 300, New Port Richey, FL 34652  
Erik Saylor, Florida Office of Public Counsel, 111 W. Madison Street, #812, Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Joe Richards, Pasco County Senior Assistant County Attorney  
Flip Mellinger, Pasco County Assistant County Administrator (Utilities)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**