

Sandra Soto

From: Shalonda Hopkins
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 9:22 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160101-WS - City of Longwood - Application for Increase in Water and Wastewater Rates in Seminole County by Utilities, Inc.
Attachments: 3-6-17, Letter from Durso.pdf

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

Shalonda M. Hopkins

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CITY OF LONGWOOD

Fostering citizen trust and cultivating a prosperous community

March 6, 2017

Julie Brown, Chair
Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the residents of the City of Longwood and Seminole County, I'm submitting this letter of objection to the above application for increased rates for private Longwood and Seminole County residents along with any increase for general and flat rates charged to Seminole County as a direct customer.

While we acknowledge that some of our residents may see a decrease in monthly rates, many of our residents will not, in fact they will see dramatic increases. Proposed increases in excess of 100% are outrageous and will no doubt negatively impact many residents who are on fixed incomes or who may face other financial challenges. The City of Longwood is concerned that citizens who are direct customers of Utilities, Inc. will not be able to pay this unreasonable rate increase.

Additionally, the proposal to impose a uniform rate over systems that are distinctly different is majorly flawed. While it may be easier to manage a utility with consolidate rates, our residents will be forced to subsidize the rates for other customers in different areas of the state. Maintaining separate rates and billing for each company within Utilities, Inc. fairly allocates the costs of operation without arbitrarily increasing the cost on others.

Over the years, Longwood has received numerous complaints about the application of rates, billing and level of customer service provided to our residents. This prompted our staff to engage representatives of Utilities, Inc. Longwood to discuss acquisition of the system. While that original conversation was not successful, the City of Longwood remains willing to reengage Utilities, Inc. of Longwood to discuss bringing this system into public ownership.

Thank you for your consideration of this objection. We look forward to participating in this proceeding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Durso, Mayor
City of Longwood



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

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

Commissioner Art Graham
Commissioner Ronald A. Brisé

Richard Kornbluh, Utilities Manager, City of Longwood