

**Charlie Smith**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 12:20 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket No. 20240032-SU  
**Attachments:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU; RE: Docket #20240032-SU; Fw: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

Please place the attached emails in Docket No. 20240032

Thanks

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Michael Orlando <21palmdrivellc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:57 AM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; mfriedman@deanmead.com  
**Subject:** RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Public Service Clerk, Commissioners and Mr. Friedman:

Please accept this as our Certificate of Objection to the privatization of wastewater/sewer service for 21 Palm Drive, LLC which owns and maintains the real property located at: 21 Palm Drive, Placida, FL 33946 and is assigned Charlotte County Parcel Nbr.: 412028353007. We adopt the stated objections asserted by our island's civic association, Palm Island Estates, which have been previously submitted with particularity and by reference made a part hereof.

Further, we assert an objection to the privatization of what should be deemed a basic governmental service afforded to its citizens and would further the phenomenon of "taxing through the tap." To allow Charlotte County to abrogate its responsibility to its citizens by privatizing wastewater/sewer service is tantamount to taxation without representation. Charlotte County is not fiscally constrained by any means and is more than competent to internally handle wastewater and sewers as do the vast majority of other counties in Florida.

Say no to privatization in this instance, please.

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Amanda Small <amanda.small@redrockstech.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:44 PM  
**To:** Records Clerk  
**Cc:** Office of Chairman La Rosa; Office of Commissioner Clark; Office of Commissioner Passidomo; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Fay; Edward Small  
**Subject:** RE: Docket #20240032-SU

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Dear Clerk of the Commission,

We are writing to request the **DENIAL** of Environmental Utilities application for wastewater service on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island. Quite simply: We love the island the way it is. We do not want to see a private entity “run” this utility for a profit. The out of pocket costs to us to implement and ongoing monthly fees and maintenance expenses would be burdensome now and especially so in a future fixed-income retirement.

To be more elaborate:

- 1) We don't believe EU or any other entity has ever “proven a need” for a central sewer service. The septic systems that have been in place for YEARS have never been shown to cause any issues to us as homeowners or to the surrounding environment.
- 2) For the reasons stated above in #1 and more, we have not and would not request a sewer service to be established on the island.
- 3) There is great concern to us that EU is a private and for-profit utility. Utilities should never be run as for-profit organizations. Especially, one deceiving folks on the surface with an “Environmental” name. How is there transparency in a private company to its stakeholders?
- 4) EU's lack of experience in owning a wastewater utility is of great concern. How can one man claim to suddenly know how to run a wastewater utility with no experience? It is my understanding his running of previous and current water utilities has been less than stellar and honest.
- 5) The estimated out of pocket costs to us that would be mandatory up-front to establish service and then the outrageous monthly fees plus ongoing maintenance costs are egregious for anyone. They will be a burden to all current homeowners. They will deter future buyers here. They will devalue our properties and limit our pool of potential buyers as ongoing costs will have to be factored into total cost of ownership. Those wanting to live the final years of their lives here will be forced to look somewhere other than the island. With a private for-profit utility any initial monthly rates are going to rise every chance they can and for the maximum amount. This is not affordable to most folks here now or in the future FOR SEWER BILL ALONE.
- 6) Since Hurricane Ian struck our island hard, it has oftentimes felt like living in a war zone with all of the machinery and service folks doing repairs and rebuilding. We can't imagine what it will be like and for how long with heavy machinery tearing up our sandy roads and yards.
- 7) After Hurricane Ian, the island was without power for several days. How will we be able to flush our toilets or use water with the suggested sewer system during the next hurricane/extended power loss? And if there's flooding that takes out the generators needed to run the systems in a power outage?
- 8) As we live on an island only accessible by private ferry or personal boat, accessing and living on our island while any sewer systems are implemented would make this place unlivable for an extended period of time.
- 9) We have abundant wildlife on the island including gopher tortoises and bobcats and very fragile plant life. The destruction of this precious environment cannot be allowed.
- 10) We are fortunate enough to also own a vacant lot on the island that could provide us with a larger home to better match our needs. However, we (and any other future land owners wanting to build) would be crazy to

start building now and pay several thousands of dollars and be approved to install a currently valid septic system. Then, find out that EU's application had been approved and we have to shell out many more thousands of dollars remove that new no longer valid septic system and connect to sewers. While this drawn out application continues, any wise landowner would self-impose a moratorium on building until the final decision is made. But, then is it REALLY final if denied a SECOND TIME, and Jack Boyer applies a THIRD TIME? When does this end?

We feel in love with this special island years ago and were fortunate enough to buy a small affordable house here before the housing market went out of control. This is the affordable house that we plan to retire in, but it won't be that with the costs of implementation, monthly bills, and ongoing maintenance or replacement of a sewer system. If we wanted sewers, density, and high rise condos with zero character, there are many other overbuilt islands and cities in Florida. We chose this place as it was and there is almost nothing that is needed to improve life here. That certainly isn't an overpriced privately run for-profit sewer! Please DENY Environmental Utilities request to install a central sewer on Palm Island/Don Pedro Island.

Sincerely,

Edward and Amanda Small

[Amanda@redrockstech.com](mailto:Amanda@redrockstech.com)

[Ed.Small@redrockstech.com](mailto:Ed.Small@redrockstech.com)

720-235-9289

Owners and full-time residents of 30 Kettle Harbor Drive, Placida, FL 33946

Owners of an undeveloped lot at 12 Pointe Way, Placida, FL 33946

Palm Island/Don Pedro Island

Mailing Address: PO Box 652, Placida, FL 33946

## Charlie Smith

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**From:** Bruce and Becky Rougraff <brougraff@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 4:01 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Fay  
**Subject:** Fw: RE. Docket #20240032-SU

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Commissioner Fay,

And to all whom it may concern at the PSC,  
I write this email as I join in solidarity with my fellow Palm Island residents. We on Palm Island (also known as Don Pedro Island) have no interest in public sewers. They will be outrageously expensive, they will disrupt our island for a very long time as they are installed, and the ongoing expense to deliver this public service will continue to hit us in our pocket books forever. We take great care to maintain our septic systems, and to protect the integrity and cleanliness of our beautiful private island. We feel the public sewer is a power grab to collect more \$ from us, , raise our taxes even further, and allow government to slowly remove our ability to protect our island and maintain is as it was designed. It is a bridgeless barrier island accessible only by car ferry. There is no public beach. There is no public park. It is private and quiet and we like it that way. We do NOT support this sewer project, we do NOT want to pay for it, and we don't need it!!!

No THANK Y O U.

Rebecca and Bruce Rougraff  
280 N. Gulf Blvd  
Palm Island (Don Pedro Island)  
Placida, FL  
317-443-7220

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)