



Freeport City Council  
October 27, 2016  
Regular Council Meeting  
Package

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**City of Freeport**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
6:00 p.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall  
October 27, 2016 Agenda

- I. Meeting Called to Order**
- II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Recognition of Guests**
  - 1. Robert L. Jones, Jones-Phillips & Associates, Inc. (**Attachment**) **Tab 1**
    - CDBG Grant
- IV. Approval of Past Minutes**
  - October 11, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes (**Attachment**) **Tab 2**
- V. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda**
- VI. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions**
- VII. Staff Reports**
  - A. City Clerk Matters
    - 1. RAO Re-Designation MOA (**Attachment**) **Tab 3 a,b,c**
    - 2. Staff Promotional Opportunity Recommendation (**Attachment**) **Tab 4 a,b**
  - B. Staff Accountant
    - 1. Pay all bills in order
  - C. Planning & Zoning Dept.
    - 1. Update on 331 North WWTP location
  - D. Legal Matters
  - E. Engineering
  - F. Water Dept.
  - G. Sewer Dept.
    - Councilwoman McLean
      - 1. Funding Sources for City of Freeport Wastewater Treatment Plant
      - 2. Request to engage our engineers to perform preliminary site investigation and conceptual layout of a wastewater treatment plant for Freeport. Payment would be on an hourly basis not to exceed \$20,000.00.
      - 3. Proposal for Grinder pumps
      - 4. Furniture for new treatment plant.
  - H. Parks Dept.
    - 1. Disc Golf
    - 2. Field Updates
- VIII. Old Business**
- IX. New Business**
  - A. Mayor Russ Barley
    - 1. Approval for Freeport First Baptist Church to hold Thanksgiving Banquet (**Attachment**) **Tab 5**

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- B. Councilwoman Brannon
  - 1. Legislative Matters
  - 2. Stand Up North Florida Resolution (**Attachment**) **Tab 6 a,b,c**
  - 3. City of Freeport Nepotism Policy (**Attachment**) **Tab 7**
  - 4. Council Presidency
- C. Councilwoman Cuchens
- D. Councilwoman McLean
- E. Councilman Farris
- F. Councilwoman Laird
- X. Public Comment**
- XI. Adjournment**

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CITY OF FREEPORT CDBG APPLICANTS LIST  
OCTOBER 3, 2016

Tab 1

The following applicants for Rehabilitation or Replacement Housing under the City of Freeport's CDBG 2014 Housing Rehabilitation Grant have been found eligible under the City's Housing Assistance Program:

Rehabilitation

Roland C. Campbell  
128 Joe Campbell Road

Norma J. McCormick  
92 Andy Drive

June B. Quillian  
181 Sarah Street

Gwendolyn L. Taunton  
460 N. Jackson Street

Replacement

(Note: Requires approximately 50% other funding from other sources)

Elizabeth F. Hawthorne  
240 Four Mile Road

Ross M. Hunning  
25 Canary Drive

Donald Ray Patton  
836 Old Jolly Bay Road

Elizabeth Pulkowski  
144 Sarah Street

We are now proceeding with such tasks as lead-based paint testing, property surveys and work write-ups.

These applicants will be reviewed by the City of Freeport Community Action Task Force Committee for any conflict of interest.

I am requesting that the members of the City Council review these applicants and advise if there is any conflict of interest that exists.

Robert L. Jones  
Jones-Phillips & Associates, Inc.  
Program Administrators



Tab 2

**City of Freeport**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
9:00 a.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall  
October 11, 2016 Minutes

**I. Meeting Opened**

The October 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council members present: Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens, Councilwoman Janice McLean, Mayor Russ Barley, Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon and Councilwoman Jennifer Laird.

Staff present: City Attorney Clay Adkinson, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, Staff Accountant Deborah Wimer-Zills, Parks Director Dana Weiler, Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle, Water Crew Leader Addison Parker & Parks Director Assistant Chris Campbell.

**II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Councilman Farris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**III. Recognition of Guests**

- Ms. Peloquin's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

**IV. Approval of Past Minutes**

- September 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

*Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the September 13, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried*

- September 20, 2016 Final Budget Hearing Minutes

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to approve the September 20, 2016 Final Budget Hearing Minutes as presented. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried*

- September 20, 2016 Special Council Meeting Minutes

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to approve the September 20, 2016 Special Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Councilman Farris seconded the motion. All*

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October 11, 2016 Minutes

*ayes; motion carried.*

- September 22, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to approve the September 22, 2016 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried*

**V. Consideration of Additions/Deletions to Agenda**

1. Additions

- Eddie Farris - Temporary Personnel
- Kasey Cuchens – Approval of the FRDAP Grants
- Janice McLean (Sewer) – Praestare Information
- Legal – Discontinuation of Temporary Personnel

2. Deletions

- Parks – Quotes for Complex Light fuses
- Parks – Quotes for Score Boards

**VI. Approval of Agenda with Additions/Deletions**

*Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the Agenda with specified Additions and Deletions as presented. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

**VII. Staff Reports**

A. Water Dept.

1. Meter Upgrade Project Approval

- Water Supervisor Larry Tuggle presented the Bid proposal from HD Supply to replace Neptune Meters with Sensus IPEARL Meters. The City will need to purchase 1500 meters to complete the project. City Attorney Clay Adkinson recommended the Council approve the bid by HD Supply in the amount of \$260.50 per meter for a total amount of \$390,750.00 with the following changes to the agreement:
  - a. Bid document needs to be updated to reflect 1500 meters rather than 1100
  - b. Paragraph 11 will be struck or modified to reflect share in cost of expenses in collection of suit or other legal action.
  - c. Paragraph 5 and 12 will be changed to include a general line regarding non-waiver of sovereign immunity.

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October 11, 2016 Minutes

*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the HD Supply Bid Proposal No. 148543 for the purchase of 1500 meters in the amount of \$260.50 per meter for a total of \$390,750.00, subject to an updated bid reflecting the changes noted by the Freeport City Attorney to include the new dollar amount and quantity of meters; as well as the recommendations to the changes of paragraph 5, 11 & 12 to be elected by the HD Supply Attorneys. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- **Advanced Utility Services (AUS) - Statement of Work**  
City Attorney Adkinson advised the Council that the City is not a party to the Statement of Work presented by Advanced Utility Services for meter installation. The document should not be signed and approved by the City Council. The document presented is for information only. The document is a subcontractor agreement between AUS Company and HD Supply.

Mr. John Woods with HD Supply approached the podium and informed the Council that he will work with AUS Company and have the installation documents prepared to be approved at the next Regular Council Meeting.

- B. City Clerk Matters: None
- C. Staff Accountant
  - 1. Pay all bills in order.

*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve all bills in order. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- D. Planning & Zoning Dept.

*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to table the next two items so that City Planner Hughes-Neel could retrieve the documentation needed for presentation and in this way the Council may continue with the next agenda item. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- 1. American Fidelity SSA 1st Reading
- 2. American Fidelity RZ 1st Reading

- E. Legal Matters

- 1. Ordinance Amending Land Development Code – Freeport Recreation Committee

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*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the first reading and advertisement for Public Hearing of the Ordinance amending Ordinance 2.03.03 of the Freeport Land Development Code (D), entitled, "The Freeport Recreation Committee". Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- City Attorney Adkinson proceeded with the First Reading of the Ordinance.
- 2. Discontinuation of Temporary Personnel
  - Councilman Farris explained to the Council that as of October 31, 2016 the City needs to discontinue the employment of the Temporary Seasonal Employee Darrell Dixon who is currently providing the grass cutting of the highways. The season has ended and this position is no longer needed.

Attorney Adkinson advised the Council that this position was always meant to be a temporary position and at some point the scope of hours were expanded to something other than what was originally budgeted for. This action being requested of the Council in no way has anything to do with the performance of the employee.

*Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to terminate the seasonal position for grass cutting of the highways as of October 31, 2016. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- Freeport Youth Sports Fee Waiver Agreement Update. No action was taken and will be presented again at the next meeting.

F. Planning & Zoning Dept. Cont.

1. American Fidelity Small Scale Amendment 1st Reading

*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the first reading and advertise for the second reading of the American Fidelity Small Scale Amendment Ordinance. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel proceeded with the first reading of the American Fidelity Small Scale Amendment Ordinance.

2. American Fidelity Rezoning 1st Reading

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*Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion to approve the first reading and to advertise for the second reading of the American Fidelity Rezoning Ordinance. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel proceeded with the first reading of the American Fidelity Rezoning Ordinance.

G. Engineering

1. Engineering Updates

- Councilwoman McLean updated the Council on the progress of the sludge bed project at the City Sewer Plant which is required by DEP.

H. Sewer Dept.

1. Councilwoman McLean

- Praestare Information

Councilwoman McLean updated the Council on a meeting that was held between City Engineer Cliff Knauer and Jody Solomon, Alan Parker and herself. Everyone involved is in agreement that the City of Freeport does need to retrieve the plans that Praestare has in their possession. The bottom line is that the Engineering firm would like to be paid for the work they have done before turning over the plans. The recommendation of Councilwoman McLean and the City Engineer is to pay the last payment and retrieve the plans that belong to the City.

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to pay Praestare a total of \$18,380.00 owed to them and in return be given all plans, specifications, inspection reports, drawings and any other information that belongs to the City of Freeport that is in the possession of the firm in regards to the following projects:*

1. Sewer Plant – digital information and upgrade plans to the plant
2. Bay Gove Road – Force Main
3. Master lift station at Highway 3280
4. Inspection reports for the utility lines on Highway 331

*Councilwoman Cuchens seconded for discussion.*

Council discussion ensued.

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean amended her original motion to include an agreement that will be executed by the City Attorney to Praestare and signed by the Mayor outlining the*

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*agreement. Councilwoman Cuchens seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

H. Parks Dept.

1. Old City Hall - Fee Based Programs
  - Parks Director Weiler presented the Old City Hall Rental Contract that was updated by herself and the City Attorney to be utilized for Fee Based Programs.

Parks Director Weiler requested the Council decide if they want to approve Fee Based Programs to be utilized in the Old City Hall Building and to have it managed by The Parks Department.

Council discussion ensued.

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean made a motion to utilize Old City Hall as a fee based program rental and to appoint this responsibility as well as the preparation and maintenance to the building to the Parks and Recreation Department Head. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion.*

Council discussion ensued.

*Council Action: Councilwoman McLean amended her motion to include a kick-out clause to indicate events may not go past 10:00 pm. Councilwoman Laird seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

2. Update on Freeport Regional Sports Complex fields
  - Parks Director Weiler updated the Council on the maintenance of the Sports Complex fields. Council suggested to Parks Director Weiler that a notice be posted on the City Utility Bills, Hammock Bay Website and the Mayor's Facebook Page to notify the public that the fields will be closed for maintenance during the winter.
3. Replace Water fountain at Casey Park
  - Parks Director Weiler informed the Council that the water fountain at Casey Park is broken and it is not repairable. The least expensive water fountain Weiler has found is \$1,900.00. Weiler requested Council make a decision on what they would like to do.

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*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to remove the water fountain and that it not be replaced at this time. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

4. ~~Quotes for Complex Light fuses~~

5. ~~Quotes for Score Boards~~

6. Walton Outdoors Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Dana and Chris (Information Only)

- Parks Director Weiler announced that the Walton Outdoors will be held Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

7. New ADA compliant Swing at playground – Sherriff's Department (Information Only)

- Parks Director Weiler explained the process of the installation of the new ADA compliant swing and gates being installed at the Sports Complex playground.

**VIII. Old Business**

**IX. New Business**

**A. Mayor Russ Barley**

1. Schedule Special Meeting to conduct interviews for City Bookkeeper Position

- A Special Meeting was scheduled for October 17, 2016 at 6:00 pm to conduct interviews for the City Bookkeeper Position. A request was made that copies of the applications and resumes be sent to the Council for review prior to the meeting.
- Mayor Barley announced a reminder that the Mayor's Charity Ball will be Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and tickets are available at the Reception Desk of City Hall. This is a good cause that provides the children of families less fortunate to have gifts for Christmas.
- Bayfest is scheduled for November the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Sports Complex.
- The North West Florida League of Cities will hold their meeting and dinner at the Freeport City Community Center on Tuesday evening of November the 15<sup>th</sup>. The time of the event has not been verified at this time.

**B. Councilwoman Brannon**

1. Legislative Matters

- The North West Florida League of Cities will hold a meeting in Chattahoochee on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. The event is listed on the NWFLC website.

**C. Councilwoman Cuchens**

1. FRDAP Grant Update

*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the FRDAP Grant Application for the Casey Park Pool. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes;*

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*motion carried.*

*Council Action: Councilwoman Cuchens made a motion to approve the FRDAP Grant application for the Splash Pad and Recreation Area at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex. Councilwoman McLean seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

- Councilwoman Cuchens announced that the first Public Workshop for the Freeport Recreation Master Plan Grant in partnership with the West Florida Regional Planning Council will be held Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 11:30 am.
  - Councilwoman Cuchens announced a second Public Workshop for the same on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 5:00 pm and a third will be held on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.
- D. Councilwoman McLean
- Councilwoman McLean reported to the Council on discussions that have been held between herself, City Engineer Anna Hudson and DEP. On October the 6<sup>th</sup>, Anna Hudson and Councilwoman McLean met with Connie Becker and Tim Banks of the Department of Environmental Protection in Tallahassee. This meeting was the result of a meeting with Mr. Banks on August the 18<sup>th</sup> in regards to grants for the City of Freeport's Water and Sewer. An email was received on October 11, 2016 in regards to the planning and design of the first phase as well as the planning and grant funding for Freeport. Contacts are being established and Mr. Goth recommended the City of Freeport to Ms. Becker in regards to the Section 3-19 Grant Program. This grant opportunity is designed to close sceptics around the bay area and enable the residents to be hooked up to sewer. The goal of this grant is: environmental cleanup of the bay area, runoff, and failing sceptics. It was expressed that Freeport has the type of issues that this program is designed for. This is an \$800,000.00 grant which will have some matching funds required. The amount of the match has not been determined because of the Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO) Designation that Freeport currently holds. Approval to apply for this grant will be on the next agenda.
  - On October 10, 2016, Councilwoman McLean met with Senator George Gainer about the City of Freeport and the County's needs. Mr. Gainer asked that the City furnish him with anything that will help him when he takes office in November. Mr. Gainer will be visiting the City of Freeport as well. Councilwoman McLean expressed that we have a real friend who realizes what our City needs.
  - Councilwoman McLean informed the Council that she and City Engineer Anna Hudson will be meeting with Rural Development on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 to review their programs and grant opportunities that are available.
  - Councilwoman McLean also mentioned an article to the Council in regards to the grant

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opportunities that were awarded in the Pensacola Water Shed area. These are opportunities that are available to our City as well.

**E. Councilman Farris**

1. Councilman Farris reported that the City is waiting on FDOT to review the plans for our Welcome Signs and once that is complete the City can move onto the next phase.
2. The Elected Municipal Officials training that Councilman Farris was scheduled to attend was cancelled due to Hurricane Mathew. It has been rescheduled for January 2017.
3. Traffic Table on South Jackson
  - Councilman Farris contacted the County and has met with City Engineers in regards to the Traffic Table. Councilman Farris requests approval to advertise for two weeks to notify the public and have the Traffic Tables installed. The County has agreed to put message boards up in regards to the tables at the end of South Jackson. The total price to install two Traffic Tables by CW Roberts is \$7,320.00. This would include the labor, signage and the striping.

*Council Action: Councilman Farris made a motion for Council to approve two weeks of advertising, County message board signs to notify the public, and the purchase of two Traffic Tables to be installed by CW Roberts on South Jackson in the amount of \$7,320.00. Councilwoman Brannon seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.*

**F. Councilwoman Laird: None**

**X. Public Comment**

1. Delores Waldatne approached the podium to suggest code locks for the rental facilities.
2. Shanna Scali approached the podium and addressed the Council in regards to the septic and sewage issues on Tropical Way.
3. Addison Parker approached the podium and addressed the Council and the homeowner in regards to the septic sewage issues.
4. Councilwoman Cuchens announced the Board of County Commissioners Multi-Government meeting on the 331 Project is going to be on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please mark calendars for this date.
5. Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel informed the Council that the Meeting Councilwoman Cuchens is referring to is a Workshop and will be held at 3:45 pm on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the County Courthouse in the Commission Meeting Room.

**XI. Adjournment**

Mayor Russ Barley called for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman McLean motioned to adjourn. The Mayor gavelled and the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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9:00 a.m./Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall  
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FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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## Becky Podraza

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**From:** Gitzen, Robert <Robert.Gitzen@deo.myflorida.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 8:30 AM  
**To:** Becky Podraza  
**Cc:** Lewis, Sean  
**Subject:** ATTN: Mayor Bailey Northwest RAO Re-Designation MOA  
**Attachments:** F1229 City of Freeport.pdf; Executive\_Order\_15-133.pdf

Tab 3a

Dear Mayor Bailey:

Please find attached the Memorandum of Agreement detailing the terms and conditions of the re-designation of the Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity. Continued designation as a Rural Area of Opportunity is dependent upon each county and community executing and adhering to the terms and conditions contained within the MOA per Executive Order 15-133 and section 288.0656(7)(b) F.S.

(b) Designation as a rural area of opportunity under this subsection shall be contingent upon the execution of a memorandum of agreement among the department; the governing body of the county; and the governing bodies of any municipalities to be included within a rural area of opportunity. Such agreement shall specify the terms and conditions of the designation, including, but not limited to, the duties and responsibilities of the county and any participating municipalities to take actions designed to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the area, as well as the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

- Failure to execute the MOA will put the designation in jeopardy along with access to the assistance available under the designation as a Rural Area of Opportunity.
- Please review the memorandum with your city commission at your next scheduled meeting, and return two original signature pages, along with two copies of the completed Exhibit A, Designated Contacts, to my attention at the address below. One fully executed copy will be returned to you.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please feel free to contact me at 850-717-8497

Thank you.

Bob Gitzen, FCCM  
Development Representative III  
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity  
Division of Community Development  
107 E. Madison Street  
Caldwell Building, MSC 160  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: 850-717-8497  
E-Mail: [Robert.Gitzen@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:Robert.Gitzen@deo.myflorida.com)

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 15-133

WHEREAS, although economic progress has been made in many rural areas, the growth and prosperity enjoyed by most communities in the State during the past 50 years did not extend into Florida's rural areas; and

WHEREAS, these communities are stewards of the vast majority of Florida's land and natural resources, upon which the State's continued growth and prosperity depend; and

WHEREAS, successful rural communities are essential to the overall success of the State's economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, certain rural communities are struggling to maintain, support, or enhance job-creating activity, or to generate revenues for education and other critical government services, such as infrastructure, transportation, and safety; and

WHEREAS, the challenges faced by these rural communities threaten their well-being and viability; and

WHEREAS, the Governor is authorized under Section 288.0656(7), Florida Statutes, to designate up to three Rural Areas of Opportunity upon the recommendation of the Rural Economic Development Initiative; and

WHEREAS, a Rural Area of Opportunity, formerly known as a rural area of critical economic concern, is a rural community, or a region composed of rural communities, designated by the Governor, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster, or that presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact; and

WHEREAS, the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington were designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity by Executive Order 99-275, dated November 8, 1999, for a term of five years due to being adversely affected by extraordinary economic events. Such extraordinary economic events include the "net ban" constitutional amendment, the closure of the paper mill in Port St. Joe, as well as other plant closures throughout the region. Five of the eight counties in the region were among the second most economically distressed in the state.

WHEREAS, after the original designation expired on November 8, 2004, the Rural Economic Development Initiative met on November 19, 2004, and recommended the Governor re-designate the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington as a Rural Area of Opportunity, and to also add the area within the city limits of Freeport in the designation.

WHEREAS, the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington, and the area within the city limits of Freeport, were designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity for a period of five years by Executive Order 04-250, dated December 6, 2004.

WHEREAS, after the re-designation expired on December 6, 2009, the Rural Economic Development Initiative met on November 19, 2009, and recommended the Governor re-designate the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington, and the area within the city limits of Freeport, as a Rural Area of Opportunity.

WHEREAS, the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, and Washington, and the area within the city limits of Freeport, were designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity for a period of five years by Executive Order 10-22, dated January 25, 2010.

Executive Order 10-22 was amended on May 5, 2011, by Executive Order 11-103, to add Wakulla County to the designated Rural Area of Opportunity.

WHEREAS, after the re-designation expired on January 8, 2015, the Rural Economic Development Initiative met on January 16, 2015, and recommended the Governor re-designate the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington, and the area within the city limits of Freeport, as a Rural Area of Opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a), Florida Constitution, and Section 288.0656(7), Florida Statutes, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1. The area within the boundaries of the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington, and the area within the city limits of Freeport, is designated as a Rural Area of Opportunity.

Section 2. This area shall be a priority assignment for the Rural Economic Development Initiative.

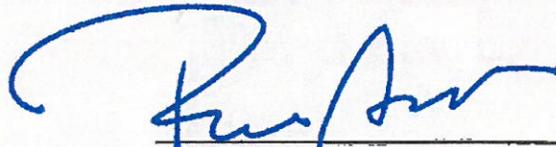
Section 3. On a case-by-case basis, the criteria, requirements, or similar provisions of economic development incentives may be waived. Such incentives include, but shall not be limited to, the Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program under Section 288.106, Florida Statutes, the Quick Response Training Program under Section 288.047, Florida Statutes, the Quick Response Training Program for participants in the welfare transition program under Section 288.047(8), Florida Statutes, transportation projects under Section 339.2821, Florida Statutes, the brownfield redevelopment bonus refund under Section 288.107, Florida Statutes, and the rural job tax credit program under Sections 212.098 and 220.1895, Florida Statutes.

Section 4. Access to the assistance available under this designation as a Rural Area of Opportunity shall be contingent upon the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Economic Opportunity, the governing bodies of the counties, and the governing bodies of the municipalities included within the area. Such Memoranda of Agreement shall specify the terms and conditions of the designation, including, but not limited to, the duties and responsibilities of the counties and municipalities to take actions designed to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses in the area, as well as the recruitment of new businesses to the area.

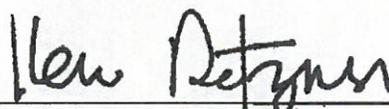
Section 5. This designation shall be in effect for five years and will expire on July 8, 2020, but shall be reviewed by the Rural Economic Development Initiative annually. The Rural Economic Development Initiative may recommend that the designation be terminated or continued based on economic development progress from current base lines or upon performance under the Memoranda of Agreement.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee this 8th day of July, 2015.



  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2015 JUL - 8 AM 9:37  
FILED  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Tab 3  
C

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (“MOA”)** is made and entered into by and between the State of Florida, Department of Economic Opportunity (“DEO”), and The City of Freeport in Walton County (“City”). DEO and the City are sometimes referred to herein individually as a “Party” and collectively as “the Parties.”

**I. Background and Purpose of MOA**

- A. The purpose of this MOA is to document the terms and conditions of the implementation of the Northwest Rural Area of Opportunity (RAO), formerly the Northwest Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC), designation.
- B. The Governor of Florida recognizes that successful rural communities are essential to the overall success of the State of Florida’s economy and quality of life, yet many rural communities struggle to maintain, support or enhance job creation activities and to generate revenues for critical government services.
- C. Florida’s Legislature also recognizes that rural communities continue to face extraordinary challenges in their efforts to significantly improve their economies, and as such, section 288.0656, Florida Statutes (F.S.), establishes the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) within the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and authorizes the participation of State and regional organizations in this initiative. Paragraph 288.0656 (7)(a), F.S. (2015), provides for the designation of up to three Rural Areas of Opportunity (RAO’s) (formerly Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC’s) under F.S., 1999-2013). RAO’s are rural communities that have been adversely affected by extraordinary economic events, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster or that present a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact.
- D. Pursuant to subsection 288.0656 (7), F.S., representatives of the State and regional agencies and organizations comprising the REDI met on January 16, 2015 and recommended the re-designation of the Northwest region composed of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla, and Washington counties and the communities of the City of Freeport in Walton County. On July 8, 2015, Governor Rick Scott signed Executive Order 15-133 which re-designated the area for another five-year term with an expiration date of July 8, 2020.

## II. The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)

- A. REDI is a proactive, multi-agency effort responsible for coordinating and focusing efforts and resources of State and regional agencies on problems which affect the fiscal, economic, and community viability of Florida's economically distressed rural communities.
- B. REDI works with local governments, community-based organizations, and private organizations on the growth and development of these communities to find ways to enhance the local economy and resolve issues while balancing local environmental and growth management needs.
- C. Participating REDI representatives:
  - 1. must have comprehensive knowledge of their agencies' functions, both regulatory and service in nature, and of the State's economic goals, policies, and programs;
  - 2. act as the primary point of contact for their agencies on issues and projects relating to economically distressed rural communities;
  - 3. ensure prompt and effective response to problems arising with regard to rural issues;
  - 4. work closely with other REDI representatives in the identification of opportunities for preferential awards of program funds and allowances, and waiver of program requirements, when necessary, to encourage and facilitate long-term private capital investment and job creation;
  - 5. review and evaluate statutes and rules for adverse impact on rural communities and the development of alternative proposals to mitigate that impact;
  - 6. undertake outreach, capacity-building, and other advocacy efforts to improve conditions in rural communities;
  - 7. ensure each district office or facility of their agencies is informed about REDI;
  - 8. provide assistance throughout their agencies in the implementation of REDI activities;
  - 9. recognize counties and communities designated as a RAO are eligible for a reduction or waiver of financial match of state grants and permit fees; and
  - 10. recognize designated RAO's are priority assignments for REDI, per paragraph 288.0656(7)(a), F.S.
- D. On a case-by-case basis, REDI may recommend to the Governor waivers of criteria, requirements or similar provisions of any economic development incentive. Such incentives shall include, but not be limited to:
  - 1. the Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund Program under section 288.106, F.S.,
  - 2. the Quick Response Training Program under section 288.047, F.S.,
  - 3. the WAGES Quick Response Training Program under subsection 288.047(8), F.S.,
  - 4. the Economic Development Transportation Fund under section 339.2821, F.S.,
  - 5. the Brownfield Bonus Tax Program under section 288.107, F.S., and
  - 6. the Rural Job Tax Credit Program under sections 212.098 and 220.1895, F.S.

- E. Paragraph 288.0656(7)(c), F.S., states: “each rural area of opportunity may designate catalyst projects, provided that each catalyst project is: specifically recommended by REDI, identified as a catalyst project by Enterprise Florida, Inc. [EFI], and confirmed as a catalyst project by the department [DEO]. All state agencies and departments shall use all available tools and resources to the extent permissible by law to promote the creation and development of each catalyst project and the development of catalyst sites.”
- F. REDI reviews the RAO designation and may recommend the designation of the area, counties, or municipalities be terminated or continued based upon performance under this MOA.

### **III. The Participating Community**

- A. Pursuant to paragraph 288.0656(7)(b), F.S., and Executive Order 15-133, designation as a RAO shall be contingent upon the execution of a MOA between DEO and the governing bodies of the counties and the municipalities included within the area. Such MOAs shall specify the terms and conditions of the designations and the duties and responsibilities of the counties and municipalities.
- B. The City agrees that fulfillment of the following duties and responsibilities, as reasonably determined by REDI, are required for recommendation by REDI for continued designation as a RAO.
- C. The City shall:
  - 1. designate a specific contact person from among City elected or appointed officials to serve as a point of contact in all matters and activities relating to the Northwest RAO;
  - 2. designate a specific person from a non-profit organization actively engaged in economic development within the City, to serve as the as single point of contact to represent and provide input on all economic development matters and activities relating to the Northwest RAO, and to receive and process leads and referrals from EFI;
  - 3. include contact information for designees on Exhibit A, attached hereto, (these designees may be the same designee to serve as the representative to other similar organizations); the City shall inform DEO in writing by either mail or email of any changes to the specified persons within ten business days of the change;
  - 4. in order to help build knowledge and skillsets required to compete more effectively for job creating projects, ensure one or both of the designated representatives

participate in at least two economic development training events offered by DEO, EFI, FEDC, utility companies, and/or other state or national recognized economic development organizations during the term of this MOA; and

5. in order to facilitate the retention and expansion of existing businesses as well as the recruitment of new businesses, ensure one or both of the designated representatives:
  - a) work closely with the designated County point of contact to gather information on available buildings and sites for inclusion in statewide and regional databases, including but not limited to, those developed by EFI ([www.enterpriseflorida.com/find-properties](http://www.enterpriseflorida.com/find-properties)), Florida Power and Light, Duke Energy, or regional organizations such as Opportunity Florida and Florida's Great Northwest, and
  - b) work closely with the designated County point of contact to provide DEO with an overview and timeline of the City permitting process, plan approval and business licensing requirements within 180 days of the execution of this MOA.

#### **IV. Implementation and Duration**

- A. Pursuant to Executive Order #15-133, the designation of the Northwest RAO affecting the counties of Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Wakulla and Washington and the City of Freeport in Walton County shall be in effect for five years and will expire on July 8, 2020.
- B. REDI may recommend the RAO designation and this MOA be terminated or continued based on performance under this MOA.
- C. This MOA shall take effect immediately upon full and proper execution by all Parties, and supersedes and replaces any and all previous such RACEC and RAO agreement(s) between the Parties.
- D. This MOA shall expire on July 8, 2020 unless terminated earlier.
- E. Both Parties shall review this MOA annually. If revisions are needed, notification shall be given to both Parties in writing of the specific changes desired with the proposed amendment language and the reasons for the revisions. With the mutual consent of both Parties, the proposed changes shall become effective when both Parties have duly executed an amendment to this MOA.
- F. The City may terminate this MOA at any time upon written notice to DEO.
- G. Designation as a RAO is, by statute and Executive Order, contingent upon execution of a MOA between the Parties. REDI shall recommend the RAO designation be

terminated if this MOA is not duly executed or if this MOA is terminated and another MOA is not timely and duly executed in its place.

**V. EXECUTION**

I have read the above MOA and the Exhibit thereto and understand each section and paragraph.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, and in consideration of the mutual covenants set forth above and in the Exhibit hereto, the Parties have caused to be executed this MOA by their undersigned officials duly authorized.

**CITY OF FREEPORT**

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sidney R. Barley**  
Mayor

Title \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

**Taylor Teepell**  
Director,  
Division of Community  
Development

Title \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency, subject only to full and proper execution by the Parties.

**OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A – DESIGNATED CONTACTS**  
**City of Freeport**

**Contact Information for an Elected or Appointed Official**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information for One Person from  
a Non-Profit Organization Engaged in Economic Development**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this page and return with the signed MOA. The City is required to inform DEO of any changes to this information within ten business days of a change.

# Memo

Tab 4 a

To: Rebecca Podraza, City Clerk

From: Jennifer Douglas, Billing Supervisor

cc: Russ Barley, Mayor

Date: October 21, 2016

Re: Recommendation for promotion of Nicole Martin from Meter Reader to Lead Meter Reader

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Nichole is cross trained and can assist in the Billing & Customer Service Office whenever she is needed. For example, Nicole arrived from the field Thursday, October 20, 2016 and both clerks were on the phone. Nicole went straight to the front counter, signed into the billing system, took payments and processed a new application. She will inform me if a customer has a leak, filled a pool or if a property is vacant just by looking at the re-reads/billing reports. This is most helpful to us in determining problems with Customer Billing. She can explain how to load and unload handhelds in the billing system. She can create and complete services orders. She works with other meter readers with repairs and maintenance of their equipment in the field so we do not have to call and wait on technical support. Nicole assists in the scheduling and overseeing of the routes. Overall she is a hard working employee who has been doing this job for almost 10 years. She has proven she has what it takes to be the Lead Meter Reader.

Tab 4b

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**TITLE:** LEAD METER READER

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Two Years Meter Reading experience with the City of Freeport
2. Cross Trained to Assist Customer Service Department
3. Valid FL State Drivers License

**REPORTS TO:** Billing Supervisor

**SUPERVISES:** None

**POSITION GOALS:** Train, lead and assist Meter Readers to perform their job in an accurate and timely fashion. To serve as the field representative between the City Utility Company and the customer. To coordinate and streamline routes to assist the Billing Supervisor with timely billing cycles and Customer Service.

### **PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Read meters monthly manually and with automated hand-held reader.
2. Keep meters clean and programmed.
3. Perform turn-ons and shut-offs as required.
4. Does foliage cleanup around meters as needed.
5. Assist Utility and Wastewater Maintenance Crews as needed.
6. Operates, troubleshoots, and maintains radio meter reading system and handhelds.
7. Performs cross training with Customer Service Staff in a wide variety of administrative support work, e.g., data entry, work orders, new taps, review and analyze and evaluate consumption and billing, billing calculations, reconciliation tasks for high bills.
8. Assists in identifying complex consumption problems and recommends corrective measures; addresses pressure issues.
9. Assists other departments as necessary; performs various research and reporting duties as directed by management.
10. On Call with water department
11. Troubleshoots problems with various software related to meter reading and performs updates to system.
12. Flexible schedule including working scheduled days off and including weekends if required to complete task in timely manner.
13. Operates utility vehicle or truck; cleans and maintains assigned vehicle, tools or equipment.

### **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Bending and Lifting when reading meters.

### **TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

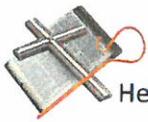
Forty hours per week, non-inclusive of lunch. Starting wage is \$14.00 per hour. City paid health insurance after probation period. The City participates in the Florida Retirement System. Vacation and sick leave will be available after probation according to the City personnel policy.

### **EVALUATION:**

Performance of this position will be evaluated annually by the Supervisor and the evaluation will be reviewed by the Council.

### **HOURLY WAGE SCALE**

Starting hourly wage is \$14.00



I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken. Psalm 62:1-2 (HCSB)

Tab 5

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FREEPORT

His Honor the Mayor  
Russ Barley  
City Hall Freeport  
Freeport, FL 32439

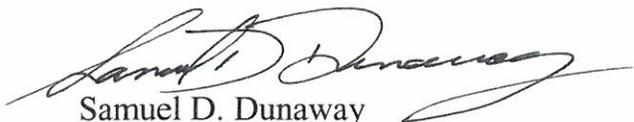
October 11, 2016

Dear Sir:

Per the conversation we had in late September, several of the Churches of the Freeport Community are requesting the use of the grassy area behind City Hall and the Community Center for our third annual Thanksgiving Banquet. The idea is once again to provide the citizens of the Freeport Community an opportunity to gather together in fellowship of a meal that provides the chance to express thanks to God and to each other.

The date chosen for this year's Thanksgiving Banquet is November 19<sup>th</sup>. The program will follow the familiar program of starting at 12 noon and concluding at 2 pm. The time allows a clear opportunity for all to join in the meal and in the fellowship. We would ask once again that, as our Mayor, you would provide a proclamation of thanksgiving much like the President and the Governor provide at this time of the year. The rest of the program will follow the same process as the previous Banquets with a guest speaker and music.

The hope is that all will come and enjoy the time of Freeport coming together with an emphasis of inviting neighbors who may not have the means to come to the Banquet on their own. Thank you again and we will pick up the key to the Community Center on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

  
Samuel D. Dunaway  
First Baptist Church Freeport  
Pastor

430 Klyea Laird Drive  
Freeport, Florida 32439  
850-835-2742



Email = [FBCFreeport@yahoo.com](mailto:FBCFreeport@yahoo.com)  
<http://fbcfreeport.weebly.com/>



All of Florida's water resources are important and it's essential to fund restorative and protective efforts throughout the state because water is essential to our environment and economy. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has found that 80% of our lakes and 70% of our springs are considered "impaired"!

Stand Up North Florida is a new organization and we believe that the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, from Amendment 1, is for all of Florida. We are advocating that these conservation funds should be fairly appropriated so that no single project, region, or water management district monopolize these statewide funds.

Because of so many vital needs for restoring water resources across Florida, it's imperative that our limited conservation dollars aren't spent on *any* multi-billion dollar, long term projects that guarantee no relief in the immediate or long term for the environmental issues Floridians face.

Here are the important facts about our resolution and the need to protect funding for North and Central Florida's water resources:

- Amendment 1, which dedicated 33% of documentary taxes to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, was passed by 75% of all Floridians<sup>1</sup> who believed that their hometowns and counties would receive this dedicated conservation funding for 20 years.
- The Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) is a limited fund and its projected revenues are not guaranteed to be consistent yearly. These funds cannot be spent twice.
- Incoming Senate President Joe Negron's proposed land buy in South Florida is a driving force behind this conversation. Stand Up North Florida would make the same argument for *any* other policy proposal that monopolized conservation funding for *any* expensive, long term project. Especially those with questionable returns on investment.
- Sen. Negron even acknowledges that this is a competition for limited conservation funds.

**"We are in a competition. Money that is spent to build this reservoir can't be spent twice...So the money that it's going to cost to do this, it's going to come from the limited funds that we have."**

-- Sen. Joe Negron, August 12, 2016<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_Water\\_and\\_Land\\_Conservation\\_Initiative,\\_Amendment\\_1\\_\(2014\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Water_and_Land_Conservation_Initiative,_Amendment_1_(2014))

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.savfiereview.com/page/Weekly%20Roundup%20Negron%20tries%20to%20find%20sweet%20spot%20with%20land%20plan>

- With an estimated \$4.8 billion price tag and a completion timeline of 10-20 years, the South Florida land buy Senator Negron is proposing provides no immediate relief to the current issues facing South Floridians and limited long term benefits.<sup>3</sup>
- The Southwest Florida Water Management District has already created a plan to create multiple reservoirs in all directions around Lake Okeechobee, a plan that mirrors the recommendations made by the Florida Water Institute Study that suggested a “system-wide approach rather than one big reservoir.”<sup>4</sup>
- Any multi-billion dollar, long term project that does not solve enough of the problem for a region will open up the pathway for even more of the lion's share of conservation dollars to be appropriated to a single region or water management district.
- Because the proposed land buy will not address the issues currently occurring with Lake Okeechobee, it should be expected that even more conservation dollars will be requested to address the issues taking place in the Indian and Caloosahatchee Rivers.
- North and Central Florida is right to question how their state conservation dollars are spent when there are so many worthy restorative projects that deserve funding.

### **Conservation funds are already out the door!**

- By law, bonds must be paid first by the LATF, in a specific order, before the remaining balance of the fund can be appropriated.
- \$255 million, or 32.6%, whichever is less of remaining LATF has been annually designate for the next ten years via the Florida Forever Act of 2016.<sup>5</sup> Once this law sunsets there will be another appropriations battle with no guarantees to how these conservation funds will be spent.
- \$187.7 million in FY2016/17 was spent on statewide operation costs.
- Senator Negron has proposed bonding \$100 million a year for the next 20 years to pay for half of the project, which does not include the debt service on those bonds or the operations/maintenance costs, which would both come from the LATF.

It is poor public policy to appropriate funding for a long term, expensive project based on projections when a single downturn in the economy will decrease the amount of funding the LATF receives. North and Central Florida should be concerned that projects could become underfunded or not funded at all with so much money going out the door so quickly and no guarantees that formula based budgeting will be available.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://saintpetersblog.com/keen-eye-toward-senate-presidency-joe-negron-unveils-lake-okeechobee-plan/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://okeechobeenews.net/lake-okeechobee/negron-proposes-massive-land-buy-south-big-o/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.flgov.com/2016/04/07/governor-scott-signs-legacy-florida-legislation/>

## **North West Florida WMD Gets Pennies Compared to the Southern WMD**

In the 2016/17 budget \$215.2 million<sup>6</sup> was appropriated to the Everglades & its estuaries in the Southern Water Management District. Only \$3,110,000 was appropriated to the North West FL Water Management District (budget line item 1580<sup>7</sup>).

That's 69 times more LATF appropriated to the Southern WMD than the NWFL WMD.

If Sen. Negron's proposal passes, which would spend another \$100 million minimum per year in the Southern WMD, it would be 105 times more than what the NWFL WMD would receive.

Only \$10.1 million was appropriated for the entire state for beach projects! (Budget item 1630A.)

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<sup>6</sup><http://dev-florida-conservation-voters.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/sidebysideALL-030916updated.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2016/5001/BillText/Filed/PDF>

Tab 6 b

To: The Northwest League of Florida Cities

From: Nick Loffer, Stand Up North Florida

Thank you for adopting our resolution calling on the legislature to protect funding for North Florida's water resources. I apologize for not being present at the October board meeting as I had prior commitment.

As we have seen since the passage of Amendment 1 in 2014 and the subsequent legislative actions and proposals, North Floridians must be active in the conversation on how these Statewide funds are appropriated.

To that end Stand Up North Florida is a relatively new organization formed in the last few months to:

- Bring light to the process of how our conservation dollars from Amendment 1, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, are appropriated to North and Central Florida.
- Ask citizens and locally elected officials to rightfully question how these limited statewide funds are appropriated yearly by the legislature.
- Bring attention to the specific upcoming legislative proposal during 2017 Legislative Session which will set the long term policy of how conservation dollars from Amendment 1 are appropriated and the effects it will have on North and Central Florida.

As Senator Negron so aptly stated, these funds cannot be spent twice. That is why it's imperative that we ask our State elected officials to develop a sound policy to ensure that these funds are fairly appropriated to the entire state, and not engrossed by one part of the state.

We believe it is wrong for the State to choose any policy path that opens the door for one region water management district to monopolize these funds. The \$4.8 billion, decade or longer, water reservoir proposal in South Florida will lead to the monopolization of these funds without actually addressing the current issues South Florida is facing and should be opposed.

It would greatly be appreciated, and I believe it would be extremely helpful, if prior to any meeting with the resolution on the agenda to have a discussion over the policy and any additional questions that your city's elected officials or staff may have.

I or a representative from our organization would love to be at any adoption meeting, so please give us a heads up of when the resolution would be on an agenda. We will do our best to be there and we hope that there are limited overlaps between city meetings.

Please send all questions, feedback, and requests to Nick Loffer at 850-570-1662 or [nick@standupnorthfl.org](mailto:nick@standupnorthfl.org)

I look forward to discussing further this important issue facing North Florida with all of you.

Best

Nick

RESOLUTION #: \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ COMMISSION OF THE CITY/COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, FLORIDA URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE AND CABINET TO DEDICATE CONSERVATION FUNDS FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS OF NORTH AND CENTRAL FLORIDA, AND OPPOSE ANY EFFORTS TO USE STATE CONSERVATION FUNDS TO PURCHASE FARM LANDS SOUTH OF LAKE OKEECHOBEE FOR WATER STORAGE.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment was passed favorably by seventy-five percent of Florida voters, providing a guaranteed revenue source of conservation funds for the purpose protecting all of Florida's vital water resources;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, with forty percent of Florida's acreage covered by water, including more than 1,000 natural springs, 27,561 miles of rivers and streams, and 1.6 million acres of lakes, reservoirs and ponds,<sup>2</sup> Florida's water is one of its most unique and important features; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has found that eighty percent of Florida's lakes and seventy percent of Florida's springs are considered "impaired" by excessive levels of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus;<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, North and Central Florida are home to seventy percent of Florida's river watersheds,<sup>4</sup> the majority of Florida's springs,<sup>5</sup> and provides nearly all of the recharge to the Floridan aquifer;<sup>6</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, it is of statewide importance to ensure clear-water systems like the freshwater springs, lakes and rivers throughout North and Central Florida are protected from excessive nutrient impairment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature should fund and finish existing water improvement programs across Florida to prevent delays that would unnecessarily jeopardize nutrient reduction programs, best management practices, & other restorative efforts that are working;<sup>7</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the Everglades and southern estuaries received 380 percent, or 4.8 times, more Land Acquisition Trust Fund (Amendment 1) funding than statewide springs protection did;<sup>8</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, a supermajority of conservation funding should not be dedicated to one project or Water Management district, and it is essential that no one project jeopardize funding for other essential projects and priorities across Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, purchasing land south of Lake Okeechobee for water storage does not guarantee the prevention of algae blooms and other environmental incidents in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers, and does nothing to address the sources of water contamination that are being seen across the state;<sup>9</sup> and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION/COUNCIL OF THE  
\_\_\_\_\_ (City/County), FLORIDA that:**

Section 1: The \_\_\_\_\_ (commission or council) of \_\_\_\_\_ (local government) hereby urges the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to dedicate conservation funds allocated through the Land Acquisition Trust Fund each year for water conservation projects in the environmentally sensitive areas of North and Central Florida.

Section 2: The \_\_\_\_\_ (commission or council) of the \_\_\_\_\_ (local government) hereby urges the Florida Legislature and Cabinet to oppose any proposal to use state conservation funds to purchase farm lands south of Lake Okeechobee for water storage.

Section 3: The commission / council hereby authorizes the City or County Clerk to transmit this Resolution to the Florida Legislature and Cabinet.

Section 3: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman or Mayor or designee

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City or County Clerk

<sup>1</sup> [Ballotpedia](#)

<sup>2</sup> 2016 Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Annual Report](#), page 20

<sup>3</sup> 2016 Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Annual Report](#), page 22

<sup>4</sup> Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Watershed Management](#)

<sup>5</sup> Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Springs Initiative Monitoring Report](#), page 2

<sup>6</sup> [USGS](#)

<sup>7</sup> [2016 South Florida Water Report](#) - SFWMD

<sup>8</sup> [2016 General Appropriations Act](#)

<sup>9</sup> South Florida Water Management District [Myth vs. Fact](#) & page 51 of 2016 Florida Department of Environmental Protection [Annual Report](#)

Tab 7

**613. Nepotism**

No person shall be employed by the City in a position in which he/she would be supervised by a member of his/her immediate family. For the purposes of this section the term "immediate family" refers to: spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren of both of the employee and the spouse.

APPROVED