

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) for authority to charge FPL rates to former City of Vero Beach customers and for approval of FPL's accounting treatment for City of Vero Beach transaction.

DOCKET NO. 20170235-EI

In re: Joint petition to terminate territorial agreement, by Florida Power & Light and the City of Vero Beach.

DOCKET NO. 20170236-EU

**PETITIONER CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO  
EX PARTE COMMUNICATION FROM VERO BEACH OFFICIALS**

1. The participation of the Civic Association of Indian River County ["Civic Assn." or "CAIRC"] in these petitions can, in large part, be attributed to the attitudes and pernicious actions of City of Vero Beach ["COVB"] officials, as outlined below. The letter to the Commission from Mayor Howle allows us early entree into this subject.
2. Since the origination of this proposed transaction, city residents who either question the details of the sale and budgeting for the City or, worse, object to any parts of it, have been subjected to personal attack and retribution by the present City Council members and those of the recent past, as well. The campaign to silence, and even to punish, any opposition has been remarkable by any standards.
3. Attached are the most recent social media postings of Harry Howle, current mayor and constant correspondent with the PSC, in spite of the City being adequately represented themselves by legal counsel. CAIRC wishes to add these postings to the record, since Mayor Howle's assertions are part and parcel to the problems found in addressing this matter at all levels.

4. The Mayor of this admittedly small city states that his “residents and neighbors” are being “negatively impacted” by anyone requesting that alleged facts and projections about one of the most momentous changes to the City revenue stream and its loss of one of the most reliable and hard-working utility staff in the state would be challenged. An extraordinary, but telling, admission.

5. The Mayor sets out more false statements about the CAIRC positions and actions, saying we are part of a cadre “working behind the scenes” to kill the sale. Nothing could be further from the truth. We have presented in open forum settings, at Council meetings, and intervened in any proceeding [including intervening with the FERC in 2013 to protest much of the questionable “facts” that were being proffered at that time by FPL] in which we felt we should be giving the citizens a voice. If this participation was not adequately covered in the local media, that was not under our control. The bias of some in the local media is well known, and it has been a struggle to have a voice owing to that situation.

6. Painting our and others efforts to find the truth among all the FPL propaganda as “trying to kill” the sale is tremendously inaccurate and unfair. Our voices, from the start, were there to point out the dangers of acting rashly, without legal guidance, and without a rational plan for the City budget. Much evidence of this educated and expert-driven informational program is available, but when up against a behemoth corporation who can buy hourly television ads in any market, our voices were not as loud. Getting people to understand such a dense and complicated issue, of course, is no small task. So when the matter was reduced by the Mayor and his predecessors to “lower rates for everyone!” the voices of reason had an even more difficult time being heard.

7. The Mayor is also “furious” that the large consumers of electric would, via FIPUG, actually have the nerve to complain. We note this only to indicate the sadly self-centered attitudes of these local officials seeking to demean even those who are being asked to pay the lion’s share of this purchase via their rates.

8. As you can see from the attached social media posts from this same Mayor, the vitriol and frankly shocking requests to get his followers to attack our efforts is quite over the top from anyone, but more particularly from an elected official. “Doxing” anyone who dares speak the truth is how this campaign has been run. Prior City Councilmembers have threatened staff with dismissal if any of them even questioned the terms and conditions of the sale. Last year, when acting as the mayor at the time, Councilmember Moss took a vote to deprive our city finance and utility committees not only of reviewing the latest deal but to also completely silencing them from any debate on the matter. That vote passed with the votes of the FPL-supported councilmembers, another shocking move. Turning your back on expertise and knowledge hardly seems the prudent course for those running our City and working for the best interests of their constituents.

9. These points, and attached examples, are merely the tip of the iceberg when it comes to proving that the public interest will not benefit from the actions being considered by the Commission. While much more will be in evidence in the future, these points are directed to the most recent filing of the Mayor’s letter.

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Commission.

**CERTIFICATION**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing has been filed and forwarded via email this 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018, to: PARTIES listed below.

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By /s/ LYNNE A. LARKIN  
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**Harry Howle** is with **Heather Hargrave Howle**.



Yesterday at 9:04 AM · 🌐

For those of you living in, and paying electrical bills within, the City of Vero Beach and the County of Indian River. By now you have heard that a group of three selfish people have protested the decision of the Public Service Commission to allow the sale of the Vero Beach Electrical utility to FPL. The sale that will save us all \$20,000,000 per year. That's \$20M left in our hands to spend in our county.

Who would be so idiotic that they would want to subvert this sale? No other than Lynne Larkin, Ken Daige, and Charlie Vitunac (who is, in my opinion, criminally culpable for putting us in these contracts in the first place). These three neophytes started a not for profit called THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY. I'm not sure what in the hell that means but it sounds like a really broad way to describe three single celled, parasitic, eukaryotes.

What's worse? One person, of the same mindset, is running for City Council this year. Linda Hillman cannot win.

If you are part of the vast majority who voted twice to sell the electric utility; if you are for keeping \$20,000,000 in our community every year, let these three cave dwelling zygotes know how you feel.

Mark Ballard and 59 others

67 Comments 47 Shares

Like

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Dede Pittman

3 cave dwelling zygotes....love it Harry Howle!!!

11h Like Reply



Bill Wagner

Where is the \$20m savings coming from?

1h Like Reply



Heather Hargrave Howle

It comes from the cost you pay the middleman. The FMPA and the OUC.

31m Like Reply



Harry Howle

- 617 Days after Shores electric franchise with COVB expired (Nov. 5, 2016)
- 497 Days after County's electric and WSI franchises with COVB expired (March 4, 2017)
- \$167,905,000 – More paid in extra rates (since April 4, 2011, date of FPL sales offer!)
- \$5,088.03 - More paid per average customer (since April 4, 2011, date of FPL sales offer!)
- \$58,760,750 - More paid by inside City ratepayer (since April 4, 2011, date of FPL sales offer!)
- \$109,138,250 – More paid by outside ratepayers (at 65 % of revenue since April 4, 2011!)
- \$210,000,000 – More paid in extra rates



Write a comment...



Harry Howle updated his cover photo.

January 14, 2016 ·

From Vero Beach, Florida

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1d Like Reply



Mimi Fredericks

Who are these three idiots!? Please please let this sale go through for all the hardworking people in Vero who are paying TOO MUCH!!!! Thanks Harry Howle for your dedication and hard work!

1d Like Reply



Bradford Jefferson

Harry I'm not sure I understand about this complex subject but I can tell you my home in Marsh, FPL electric, is twice the size of my old home, Vero electric, and the bill is roughly half.

23h Like Reply



Harry Howle

That's all you, or anyone else, needs to understand Brad. You actually do understand. Thank you for the evidence.

22h Like Reply



Kathleen Provancher

I had FPL and my bill was half as well.

12h Like Reply



Write a reply...



Pat Blackburn

Is there anything the public can do to mitigate this protect? Can we file our own protect to the



Write a comment...



Harry Howle updated his cover photo.

January 14, 2016 ·



Team Kasich  
The Latest

Comments Done

**Harry Howle**  
**Sue Shell**, I'm describing these shortsighted, malignant, troglodytes accurately. They have made their own prejudices known over a period of many years. I'll say to you again, I am sorry the fitting descriptions are bothersome to you because I really have, and do, like you Sue. But I absolutely refuse to quell my verbiage to suit your PC inclinations. These folks are looking at throwing away \$20M a year as we have done for years. They are asking that we pay an additional \$111M out of pocket to OUC. They are going, again, against the will of the people. I won't stand for it. I will not allow this small group of people to derail what has been an effort by the entire community (excluding said troglodytes) to cause more pain, anguish, and expense to our citizens; inc... See More

22h Like Reply 4

**Harry Howle**  
**Charlie Wilson** I could not agree more. Let's all stand together to make that happen.

22h Like Reply 1

**Leah Facto**  
 A win for Linda Hillman is a loss for all the pocketbooks of Indian River County.

19h Like Reply 1

Write a comment... GIF 😊 ➤

**Harry Howle** updated his cover photo.  
 January 14, 2016 · 🌐



From Vero Beach, Florida

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...ing for an explanation of why you would call anyone trite, self serving, and basically out of touch. Shame on you. Name calling is high school behavior. Please cut it out. I thought you were open minded and concerned about the people of VB. Your comments are not needed. Keep your hateful name calling to your self. How do you know Linda Hillman won't win? Open your mind!!!

1d Like Reply



Harry Howle

Sue, I'm not sure you grasp the gravity of the situation and naivety of the bunch which have implemented this protest. Are you asking me to be PC? Are you asking me to pet and sooth these people. You will not get that from me. What you see herein is a toned down version of what should really be said. I am who I have ALWAYS been and my title will not change that. In fact, I refuse to be anyone other than my true and honest self. I am with my title, like it or not, for being exactly that; me. I am very straight forward and I don't like to circumvent the truth with "feel good" language. If you are asking me to temper my thoughts and opinions to fit your mold I'm sorry. I won't do it. I have zero sympathy for your sensitivities. I'm sorry you feel offended but that really isn't my concern. Th... See More

1d Like Reply

15



Write a comment...



Harry Howle updated his cover photo.

January 14, 2016 · 🌐

Big Lots  
New Ad Starts Today!  
the American Cancer Society's, near Main Street, near Main Street.



**Downtown Friday – Main Street Vero Beach**  
Dedicated to the revitalization and promotion of  
Historic Downtown Vero Beach

[mainstreetverobeach.org](http://mainstreetverobeach.org)

2

2 Comments

Like Comment Share



**Harry Howle**

Yesterday at 12:26 PM · 🌐

For those of you asking me what you can do to help with the electric sale, here is step 1. A group called the Civic Association of Indian River County has filed a protest against the sale. The following is a list of board members AND former board members. Please call and e-mail them asking them to rescind their protest.

Lynne Larkin: 772-234-5565 – [lynnelarkin@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynnelarkin@bellsouth.net)

Ken Daige: 772-538-5979 – [kendaige@att.net](mailto:kendaige@att.net)

Charlie Vitunac: 772-696-4613 – [dvitunac@verolaw.com](mailto:dvitunac@verolaw.com)

Caroline Ginn: 772-226-5241

I'll have some more ideas I'm working on this afternoon with FIPUG members, but for now this is a great start.

... See More

11

8 Shares

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**Harry Howle**

Thursday at 9:28 AM · 🌐



WPBF.COM  
**Treasure Coast family turns tragedy into a cause for good**  
Treasure Coast family turns tragedy into a cause for good

7

Like Share

**Harry Howle**  
Yesterday at 8:59 AM

Page 30 is the best! I was in hysterics by the end of this article. It really shows how disengaged these three or four people are from the community they reside in. 900 people!? HAHAHA! Stop it!! I think Bugs Bunny would have called these clowns "ultra maroons".

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4 15 Comments

Like Share

**Harry Howle**  
Friday at 3:16 PM

**NOTICE: DOWNTOWN FRIDAY IS CANCELLED**

- Friends
- Wesley Davis**  
Vero Beach, Florida  
87 Mutual Friends
  - Cindy Johnson ODare**  
Broker Associate at Premier E...  
76 Mutual Friends
  - Greg MacKay**  
Republican District 54 at Greg...  
69 Mutual Friends
  - Margo Margarita Sudnykov...**  
Real Estate Agent at Self-Emp...  
57 Mutual Friends
- See More