

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

**NOTICE OF SERVICE & CERTIFICATION**

The Civic Association of Indian River County, Inc. ["CAIRC"], pursuant to Rule 28-106.204, Fla. Admin. Code, hereby files its Certificate of Service for the Testimony of Tom White.

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 September, 2018, to: PARTIES listed below.

LYNNE A. LARKIN, ESQ.  
5690 Hwy. A1A, Unit 101  
Vero Beach, FL 32963  
Phone: 772-234-5565  
lynnelarkin@bellsouth.net

By /s/ LYNNE A. LARKIN  
Florida Bar # 56693

**LIST OF PARTIES**

Office of the General Counsel  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
cmurphy@psc.state.fl.us

Florida Power and Light  
700 Universe Blvd.  
Juno Beach, FL 33408  
bryan.anderson@fpl.com  
ken.rubin@flp.com

Office of the Public Counsel  
111 West Madison Street, Suite 812  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400  
morse.stephanie@leg.state.fl.us

City of Vero Beach, Florida  
J. Michael Walls  
4221 W. Boy Scout Blvd.  
Tampa, FL 33607  
mwalls@cfjblaw.com

Brian Headly  
[brianheadly@msn.com](mailto:brianheadly@msn.com)

Michael Moran  
[mmoran@veronet.com](mailto:mmoran@veronet.com)

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**FPSC DOCKET NO. 2017-0235, 0236**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF THOMAS P. WHITE**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, INC.**

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2018**

**Q. Please state your name, residence, and occupation.**

A. My name is Tom White. I am a resident of the city of Vero Beach, Florida, having moved here in 1974. I am the owner operator of TeeJays Awards in Vero Beach.

**Q. Can you briefly summarize your City service?**

A. I was elected to the Vero Beach City Council in March 1998 and served continuously until November 2010. I served as Mayor for five terms.

**Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

A. On November 3, 2017, FPL filed a petition with this Commission for authority to charge FPL rates to former COVB customers and approval of their accounting treatment for the COVB transaction, and to alter territorial agreements. My testimony is directed to the claims that this sale is in the public interest and how the CAIRC has always played a role in City issues.

**Q.Summary of your testimony.**

A. The facts set forth by FPL about the rates and fees being charged are not supported by the facts and call into question the alleged benefits to the public interest of a sale. The CAIRC, where I've been a member for many years, has always spoken about it.

**Q. Do you have any exhibits?**

1 A. Yes. TPW - 1, Resume of City and civic activities.

2 **Q. How did the sale of the COVB utility to FPL become such an important**  
3 **item for the City Council?**

4 A. As a member of the Council, I know it was not a pressing issue until about 2006  
5 or 7. The cry for FPL did not become a real factor until a couple of County residents  
6 started telling the public that we would save \$50 to \$100 on their Utility Bills, that  
7 was around 2008 or so. FPL became a major player by supporting candidates for the  
8 City Council. In fact FPL spent thousands to get pro FPL candidates in office, and  
9 they succeeded. They then succeeded in pushing for a contract to buy our electric  
10 system.

11 **Q. In your experience on the Council, do you believe the Council is responsive**  
12 **to all customers, including those in the county?**

13 A. Yes, they are able to participate just like city customers, which is to say serve on  
14 committees, speak at public hearings and participate in elections for City Council  
15 through lobbying and funding of campaigns. Right now, they control the Council.  
16 There has never been any difference in the services, rates, or access to authority  
17 among all COVB customers.

18 As far as county customers, they've benefited substantially without having to pay City  
19 taxes. The City ran new infrastructure into the County so they could have electric and  
20 water without asking them to annex that land into the City. Not realizing that more  
21 building would go on in the County that would so directly affect the City, we made  
22 agreements with the County on service. We as a Council worked very hard to give our  
23 utility customers the best service and rates, and for much of my time on Council we  
24 had expert utility professionals handling the utility and the plant itself. The  
25 FPL-backed candidates who were elected started eliminating anyone with expertise in

1 the utility field, then shut down any conversation at the committees and boards that  
2 are concerned with utility matters.

3 **Q. As a long-time member of CAIRC, what would you say have been their**  
4 **goals over the years?**

5 A. To support issues that impact the City, particularly, and since the County has  
6 grown to immensely, issues that impact everyone in the area. From zoning matters to  
7 tree ordinances, charter issues for the County, anything that affects our quality of life.  
8 Things that are important to all of us, and it's why so many people are members.

9 **Q. How long has CAIRC been involved in the issues of selling the electric**  
10 **utility to FPL?**

11 A. As I recall, they were involved in the 70's when that first attempt failed. But  
12 CAIRC, along with Warren Winchester, really got involved again when the efforts to  
13 sell were being proposed seriously in about 2009-2010. We all knew, especially those  
14 of us who were in office, how many hurdles there would be to a sale, and how  
15 uncertain the City's future would be without solid, long-term planning if the electric  
16 was sold. So as it seemed like everyone was getting confusing information about a  
17 possible sale, CAIRC really took the lead in speaking out about all those issues. For  
18 instance, when there was a referendum proposed about leasing the land under the  
19 power plant, land that is protected under our City Charter, it seemed like a normal  
20 thing to do in case that option came up. But then the pro-FPL crowd began stating that  
21 this had really been a vote to sell the whole system. Many residents were very  
22 confused about what was going on, and the CAIRC board came to City meetings to  
23 bring attention to the facts.

24 The Council had just been through a long arbitration with the FMPPA, which we lost,  
25 and so much of the higher rates we were experiencing weren't really understood, or

1 were being misrepresented, by the FPL crowd. The only people that I recall, other  
2 than the Council at the time, speaking publicly about the concerns regarding a sale  
3 were Warren Winchester, Caroline Ginn, Tom Nason, Ken Daige and Lynne Larkin,  
4 all from the CAIRC. As an elected official, myself, the City Manager & City Attorney  
5 spent many hours with FMPA after the arbitration, and we even tried to see if they  
6 would take over our plant. They told us that they would consider it, and but after a  
7 year of doing nothing to help us, we had to look for other assistance with Orlando.

8 **Q. Was there a concerted effort by the City to educate the public on what a sale**  
9 **would mean to both city residents and to outside customers of the city?**

10 A. No. The City has followed FPL's public relations line all through this process.  
11 That has never happened before, that I can recall.

12 **Q. When Council and FPL state that the public has "spoken" on its desire to**  
13 **sell to FPL, do you think that is true?**

14 A. I feel very strongly both that people have only been promised lower rates without  
15 real facts to back that up, and about not selling our assets to FPL. In my opinion FPL  
16 has not acted fairly with the City in manipulating elections and making promises they  
17 can't keep. I do not see the benefit the City officials are promising to the residents.  
18 As a resident and rate payer for 44 years, money made by the City of Vero Beach has  
19 helped keep our tax base low, help support our Police Department and keep our parks,  
20 recreation and beaches some of the best. Not to mention that all money made from our  
21 utilities stays here to benefit every one that comes into the City. That message  
22 concerning the public interest, our future, and what our rates and total bills will be,  
23 has been ignored.

24 **Q. What has been your experience with the utility and T&D departments?**

1 A. TD dept is the best of the best. The staff and crew worked very hard during the  
2 hurricanes of 2004, 2005 etc. The City always had electricity turned on within  
3 minutes from your call in normal weather if the power went out. I really could not say  
4 enough about T&D and customer service. Exemplary in every way.

5 **Q. Does this conclude your pre-filed testimony?**

6 A. Yes.

7

***Thomas P. White's ~ City & COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT***

<b>Clubs &amp; Organizations</b>	<b>Member Since:</b>
<b>FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE</b>	<b>1975 -</b>
Office Held: State Trustee..... 8 years ..... 1978– 1985	
Lodge #69 President ..... 3 years ..... 1985– 1986 – 1987	
(State) Asst. Director..... 2 years ..... 1987– 1988	
(State) District Director.. 1 year ..... 1989– 1990	
<b>“MEMBER OF THE YEAR” Awards: 1982 – 1984 – 1988</b>	
<b>KIWANIS CLUB OF VERO BEACH</b> Office Held: Vice President... 1991– 92..(&)..2003-04 <b>1989-Present</b>	
President..... 1992– 93.... (&)... 2004–06 Lt. Governor..... 1994– 95Florida District	
<b>“KIWANIAN OF THE YEAR” Award: 1992 “GEORGE F. HIXSON FELLOW” Awarded: 2002</b>	
<b>Florida League of Cities.... Board of Directors.....</b>	<b>2008 - 2010</b>
<b>Criminal Justice &amp; Ethics Committee (Fla. League of Cities).... (Chairman).....</b>	<b>1998 – 2006</b>
<b>I.R.C. Marine Advisory Watershed Committee (MANWAC).....</b>	<b>1998 – 2010</b>
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.....	<b>1998 – 2001</b>
Florida Atlantic University Advisory Board.....	<b>2001 – 2010</b>
<b>Florida Municipal Insurance Trust (Board of Trustees).....</b>	<b>2004 – 2010</b>
<b>Florida League of Mayors..... (Board of Directors).....</b>	<b>2007 - 2009</b>
<b>Public Safety &amp; Crime Prevention (National League of Cities).....</b>	<b>2000 – 2007</b>
<b>I.R.C. Council of Public Officials..... (Chairman).....</b>	<b>2004 – 2006</b>
<b>Treasure Coast Regional League of Cities..... (Charter President 2yrs).....</b>	<b>2006 – 2010</b>
Sustainable Treasure Coast (Appointed by Governor Bush).....	<b>2005 - 2007</b>
<b>I.R.C. Beach &amp; Shore Preservation Committee ..... (Chairman-07&amp;08).....</b>	<b>2000 – 2010</b>
<b>Leadership Training Council (National League of Cities).....</b>	<b>2004 - 2006</b>
<b>I.R.C. Taxpayers Association Board of Directors.....</b>	<b>2000 – 2006</b>
<b>Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #1774.....</b>	<b>1973 – 2000</b>
<b>Civic Association of Indian River County.....</b>	<b>1995 - present</b>
<b>Republican Men's Club.....Director 1994-95, V.P. 1997, Pres. 1998, Treasurer 2000-08.....</b>	<b>1991 – 2010</b>
<b>I.R.C. Republican Eve Club..... Director, Treasurer 04-06.....</b>	<b>1991 – 2007</b>
<b>International Association of Assessing Officers.....</b>	<b>1991 – 2000</b>
<small>Florida Crime Stoppers.....</small>	<b>1982 – 1990</b>
<b>Florida Police Combat League.....Vice President, President.....</b>	<b>1980 – 1987</b>
<b>North T/C American Red Cross Board of Directors..... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman.....</b>	<b>1998 – 2002</b>
<small>Substance Abuse Advisory Board.....</small>	<b>2000 – 2010</b>
<b>Senior Resource Association.... (Board of Directors).....</b>	<b>1998 – 2008</b>
<b>International Relations Committee.....</b>	<b>2003 – 2010</b>
<b>Advocacy Committee.....</b>	<b>2004 – 2007</b>
<b>Indian River Corvette Club..... Charter President.....</b>	<b>2000 - 2009</b>
<b>Elected Officials Oversight Committee...Chairman.....</b>	<b>2008 - 2009</b>

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

- March of Dimes "MAN OF THE YEAR" (1986-87)  
Vero Beach Jaycees "ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR" (1992)  
2)  
Featured in Marquis "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA" (1995-1996-2000)  
IRC Taxpayers Association "MISER OF THE YEAR" (1999)  
School District of IRC "ACADEMY OF STARS" (2001)  
National League of Cities "GOLD FELLOW" in Leadership (2006)  
National League of Cities "PLATINUM AWARD" in Leadership (2008)  
Exchange Club of Vero Beach "BOOK OF GOLDEN DEEDS" (2008)

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**OTHER VOLUNTEER SERVICE:**

*City of Vero Beach Board of Adjustments.....	1994 - 1998
*March of Dimes WalkAthon & Chefs Auction Committee.....	1993 - 2000

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