



City Commission August 17, 2020

George "Bud" Scholl
Mayor

VIA EMAIL TO:

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Vice Mayor

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Dana Goldman
Commissioner

Alex Lama
Commissioner

To the North Miami Beach City Commission:

Jeniffer Viscarra
Commissioner

Decisions have consequences. The recent decision to terminate the City of North Miami Beach's ("City") contact with the Jacobs Engineering Group will undoubtedly affect our Sunny Isles Beach residents, and the 200,000+ persons in our area, including Aventura, Golden Beach, Miami Gardens and Miami-Dade unincorporated areas who rely upon Jacobs' water and wastewater services provided through the City's contract.

Christopher J. Russo
City Manager

Mauricio Betancur
City Clerk, CMC

I urge you to reconsider. The recent vote terminating the Jacobs contract flies in the face of universal recommendations by your consultant, City Manager, City Attorney and CFO to retain it. In addition to the contract break-up fees, this termination is estimated to be at least \$9 million in tangible transition expenses, possibly higher, and at best unclear whether you can find the requisite number of personnel during this pandemic. You have been advised that it can take much longer than that, even absent a pandemic.

What was Jacob's downfall? Having effectively navigated the privatized operation and maintenance of the water system, created greater efficiencies and response times for water service to Sunny Isles Beach and our neighboring municipalities? Having made all of the necessary capital improvements and fixing the deficient infrastructure?

Clear as day this decision will result in water rate increases for our residents and that of our neighboring municipalities. We already pay outside rates because we are not within the City's jurisdictional limits. With the termination comes an unnecessary rate hike over and above the current rate increase which commenced in 2019. As your own CFO recently suggested, "Any costs that are allocated toward transition are costs that we will have to recover with rate increases to cover our bonds,". Given the severe budgetary constraints our municipalities now face it is simply not the right time to make such a draconian move.

Clean, reliable water service is vital to the health, safety and welfare of our residents. Jacobs Engineering Group held up their end of that bargain. Please reconsider the dire consequences of multimillion-dollar deficits, an inability to replace critically important and trained personnel, dramatic upsurges in water rates and an increase in water bills.

I urge the North Miami Beach City Commission to reconsider your vote and reinstate Jacobs.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Dana Goldman