



City of Aventura

Government Center
19200 West Country Club Drive
Aventura, Florida 33180

ENID WEISMAN
MAYOR

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RONALD J. WASSON
CITY MANAGER

August 10, 2020

Mayor DeFilippo and North Miami Beach Commissioners:

It has come to my attention that on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, the North Miami Beach Commission voted to insource the operations and maintenance of the city's water plant. As I understand the facts, the city's independent consultant estimated this will add a minimum of nine million dollars to the short-term costs, as well as put the city in an extremely challenging position to properly staff the plant when the contract with Jacobs Engineering is terminated in six months. The recommendations made by an expert consultant as well as the city's staff made it very clear more time for the purpose of planning would be required to carry out this directive.

For these reasons, I am deeply concerned about increased water rates for the Aventura residents who are customers of North Miami Beach water. At a time when our national economy is in shambles, our unemployment rate has skyrocketed, and people can't afford unnecessary increases in their expenses, I believe the commission's decision have placed an undue financial burden on its customers, many of whom are in Aventura and put the city in an untenable position.

Additionally, I am extremely worried that if the plant fell out of compliance with state regulatory minimums, the health and safety of the public would be endangered. Having listened to the city's consultants, it is clear that the likelihood that you can properly staff the water plant six months from now are slim at best. As the Mayor of Aventura I cannot not risk the health and safety of my constituents on slim odds.

I hesitate to opine on another city's decisions, but I feel I must in this case because of the direct impact it has on Aventura residents and businesses.

If North Miami Beach does not reconsider this decision before the end of August, I plan to ask our City Manager and Commission to explore alternative water sources for Aventura. I have already informed our city's administration of my concerns and asked them to begin gathering information.

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of the public. I feel that making this decision at a time when so many people are struggling, and public health is already endangered by an unprecedented pandemic, casts doubts about the public's ability to rely on North Miami Beach to maintain safe, clean, and affordable water. I cannot and will not allow my constituents to be endangered.

I hope and implore you will do the right thing and reverse this decision until such time as you have a reasonable plan which will ensure public health and protect your customers from unnecessary increases of their water rates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Enid Weisman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Enid Weisman, Mayor