



May 16, 2017

Mayor's Statement To City of Vero Beach's Council Regarding FPL Letter of Intent
(as presented by Robert Stabe, Town Manager, on Mayor Barefoot's behalf)

Mayor Moss and Members of the City Council, I wish I could be there in person for this historic meeting.

After many years of false starts, our communities, our region, and our constituents are being presented with a solution that will end our disputes and which meets the best interests of all. What a great opportunity for us to now move forward as a region to tackle important issues.

FPL's Letter of Intent outlining a full purchase of the Vero Beach Electric System is groundbreaking. FPL is offering to cover the exit from FMPA, fulfill OUC's outstanding contracts, meet the City's pension liabilities, and provide approximately \$30 million dollars in unrestricted funding to meet the City's needs.

There will be no surcharge to customers. There will be only savings as all residents of our region are brought under the FPL umbrella.

I wish to thank the City Council for pursuing this opportunity even as you approved the partial sale of the system in Indian River Shores. I am also grateful to Florida Power & Light for agreeing that the partial sale will move forward immediately if, for some unforeseen reason, the full purchase is not completed. That is important to my constituents, but I agree with each of you that the best option for all involved is a full sale.

Signing this Letter of Intent is a first step toward making that happen. It begins the process of review, which includes Committee and citizen input as you negotiate a contract. I am confident a final contract will be reviewed thoroughly as this process moves forward.

At the same time, let us be clear that this has been the most studied issue in our region. The costs and liabilities are known. The revenue is known. The citizens' long-standing and vocal support for this sale is known. The savings to electric customers is known and extremely substantial, especially for those who live paycheck to paycheck and will see much lower electric bills.

I believe representatives of our regional hospital are there with you today; just think of the impact lower electric bills will have on the hospital and the people they serve. Think of the impact it will have on businesses and non-profit organizations throughout our region.

I urge you to sign the Letter of Intent and move forward to the review and negotiation of a complete sale that meets the will of voters and the needs of our communities.

Thank you,

Brian M. Barefoot
Mayor