INCUBATE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

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April 6, 2023

U.S. Department of Energy
Grid Deployment Office
Office of Clean Energy Demonstration
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585
OCED@hq.doe.gov

RE: Community Partnership Documentation for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority GRIP Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Chief Executive Officer at Incubate Neighborhood Center in Fort Pierce, Florida, I am writing to share my full support of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority grant proposal to improve the resilience of our electric in our Fort Pierce community.

Incubate Neighborhood Center (INC) is a non-profit organization designed to revitalize distressed communities of color through a community hub model that implements our multi-generational, entrepreneurial, workforce, and homeownership programs. These programs result in building community wealth and its residents reaching economic self-sufficiency. Our community hub approach allows us to work with an ecosystem of community partners, including FPUA. Coupled with an upward mobility strategy, INC reaches our community members in need by providing a multitude of food sources, workforce training, community navigation, and health services directly to residents. We aim to empower citizens to build generational wealth and become community leaders.

We have partnered with FPUA on multiple occasions and serve as an important point of contact for connecting FPUA with Fort Pierce citizens and a growing and diversified workforce. Within the last year, Incubate, located in the historically disadvantaged area of Lincoln Park within Fort Pierce, proudly hosted FPUA town hall meetings to enable FPUA to reach community members with important wastewater plant relocation and rates communications, and allowing them to collect feedback in a safe and inclusive in-person format. We also hosted one of the four Energy and Water Saver Workshops provided by FPUA and the UF/IFAS St. Lucie County Extension Office, which was intended to communicate with community members about the natural gas rate hikes and methods for reducing power bills in such times of emergency.

We celebrate FPUA's efforts to improve its relationship with the community, and proudly support them in their request for federal funds to improve the resilience of our electric grid in Fort Pierce.

Sincerely,

Canieria Gardner
Chief Executive Officer

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FLORIDA

ST. LUCIE WORKS

Board of County Commissioners

Chris Dzadovsky
DISTRICT 1

Larry Leet
DISTRICT 2

Linda Bartz
DISTRICT 3

Jamie Fowler
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Administration

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Dan McIntyre
COUNTY ATTORNEY

April 6, 2023

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RE: Community Partnership Documentation for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority GRIP Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Community Resource Development Extension Agent for the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in St. Lucie County, I am writing to share my full support of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority grant proposal to improve the resilience of the electric grid in Fort Pierce.

In my community role at UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie, my focus is toward educating residents about economically sustainable behaviors and tools that can help lead to more positive lifestyle outcomes. Part of this focus on sustainability relates to energy efficiency and the numerous ways to reduce energy and save money.

Last year, FPUA partnered with UF/IFAS to develop a joint energy/water course and that UF/IFAS offered at four different locations throughout Fort Pierce. The course was free and was offered in response to emergency rate hikes caused by the unprecedented increase in natural gas rates in the Summer of 2022. Residents who attended the program learned about their energy consumption. They also learned about free and low-cost energy saving tools to help reduce their energy costs.

FPUA staff worked diligently to identify opportunities to provide giveaways for the community, encourage attendance, and made the recommendation to host the four different sessions at four locations throughout the community to ensure ease of access for community members who may have trouble traveling.

We celebrate FPUA's obvious efforts to improve its relationship with the community, and proudly support them in their request for federal funds to improve the resilience of our electric grid in Fort Pierce.

Carol Roberts
Community Resource Development Extension Agent

cc: UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie Director

UF/IFAS Extension St. Lucie County

8400 Picos Rd Ste. # 101 | Fort Pierce, FL 34945 (772) 462-1660 www.stlucieco.gov

MANATEE OBSERVATION AND EDUCATION CENTER
Explore • Educate • Inspire

480 North Indian River Drive
Fort Pierce, FL 34950-3024
772.429.6266
www.ManateeEducationCenter.org

April 6, 2023

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Clean Energy Demonstration
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585
OCED@hq.doe.gov

RE: Community Partnership Documentation for Fort Pierce Utilities Authority GRIP Grant Proposal

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Manager of the Manatee Observation and Education Center in Fort Pierce, Florida, I am writing to share my full support of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority grant proposal to improve the resilience of our electric grid in our Fort Pierce community.

The Manatee Center is a unique community entity within Fort Pierce that is nestled first as a community-based environmental education department under FPUA and second as an ongoing contribution by the City of Fort Pierce who donates the use of their building through a recently-renewed 25-year Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Fort Pierce and FPUA.

MOEC's mission is to promote understanding and responsible actions for the protection of the Treasure Coast's fragile ecosystems and their inhabitants, especially the threatened Florida Manatee. We provide environmental education to the public through museum exhibits, wildlife viewing, events, programs, and boat tours. In FY2022, MOEC reached nearly 67,000 individuals through visitors to the museum, education program participants, boat tours, and individuals engaged at offsite partner events where MOEC participates. We also proudly maintain an active volunteer program that enhances our community presence and draws on a unique work force in search of opportunities to give back to their community through environmental causes like ours.

We make an intentional effort to partner with local groups dedicated to empowering disadvantaged youth, including the St. Lucie County Boys and Girls Club, and the local Grace Education & Business Community Center, which is located in a historically disadvantaged area of Fort Pierce and provides educational services for students in K-8th grade including workforce training summer camp that we host at the Manatee Center.

FPUA's support of MOEC reaches nearly $500,000 each year, and makes it possible for us to focus on what's most important – impact and environmental education in our community. We celebrate FPUA's efforts to improve its relationship with the community, and proudly support them in their request for federal funds to improve the resilience of our electric grid in Fort Pierce.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kadie Barclay

Jessica Kadie Barclay
Manatee Center Manager

ONGOING AGREEMENT - ACTIVE THROUGH FY23 with renewal options **FPUA Board Meeting: 2/16/10**

FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY MEMORANDUM

A-2

TO: Director of Utilities

FROM: Director of Procurement

SUBJECT: Education Assistance Program and Partnership Education Program
Bid No. 5912, Sole Source

COPY TO: Each Authority Member

DATE: February 8, 2010

BUDGET CODE: 04-1-000-14360-0000; 04-04-015-29100-2170

IRSC is a federally recognized minority serving institution. FPUA has a sole-source agreement to pay 100% of tuition for our employees who venture to study at IRSC.

A recommendation was received from the Director of Shared Services (see attached) on January 12, 2010, to request authorization from the Board to issue a blanket purchase to *Indian River State College, Fort Pierce, FL,* to fund the Educational Assistance and Partnership Education Program (PEP), in the amount not to exceed $58,515.50, for fiscal year 2010.

The FPUA Board approved these programs as a Sole Source with Indian River State College on March 17, 2009. It is requested that the Board approve these programs with annual renewal options not to exceed $60,000.00, to be funded in each fiscal year budget.

The Procurement Department has reviewed and investigated this request and found that all information and justification to be correct for sole source requirements. These programs were designed to make available to all employees the opportunity for training and development and advancement consistent with individual ability, performance, and requirements of Fort Pierce Utilities Authority.

This is a budgeted item for fiscal year 2010.

Submitted by:

Jan Gorham

Jan Gorham, CPPB, Purchasing Manager

Funds Available:

Nina Hurtubise

Nina Hurtubise, Director of Finance

/jg
Attachment

cc: Doug Giel, Director of Shared Services
Edward Cox, Human Resources Manager
Keith Robinson, Training & Development Coordinator

APPROVED:
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

William G. Thiess, P.E., Director

Date

APPROVED BY PURCHASING

Tony Barnes

Tony Barnes, CPPB, Director

DATE: 2/10/10

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010, 4:00 P.M., CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Members Present: Chairman, Robert W. Summerhays, Jr.; Vice Chairman, Darrell Drummond; Secretary, Pamela K. Cully; Deputy Secretary, Michael A. Perri, Jr.; Mayor Robert J. Benton III (left the meeting at 5:00), and David Recor, Ex-Officio Member/City Manager (arrived at 4:10).

Others present: William G. Thiess, Director of Utilities; Rupert N. Koblegard, III, FPUA Attorney; Nina Hurtubise, Director of Finance; John Tompeck, Gas Operations Superintendent; Timothy E. Perkins, Director of Water and Wastewater Systems; Douglas W. Giel, Director of Shared Services; Levette Dixon, Communications Manager; and Putnam Moreman, Internal Auditor.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Summerhays.

The Invocation was given by Craig Brewer, Electric T & D Superintendent.

The *Pledge of Allegiance* was recited.

The roll was called and a quorum declared.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cully, seconded by Mr. Drummond and unanimously carried to approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2010.

2. Approval of a blanket purchase to Indian River State College, Fort Pierce, to fund the Educational Assistance and Partnership Education Program, in the amount not to exceed $58,515.50, for fiscal year 2010. Also request approval of these programs with annual renewal options not to exceed $60,000 to be funded in each fiscal year budget.

A note was received from Joel R. Manzolillo thanking Eddie Richberg from Customer Service for his efforts and politeness in responding to his trash bill issues.

Nick Guarriello, General Manager of Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA), presented the wholesale rates and FMPA's efforts to regain a competitive position in the wholesale power market. Mr. Guarriello said he would go through the front information quickly since the Board is already familiar with FMPA. He said he knows the FPUA power bills have gone up, these are very bad economic times, and there is a lot of concern for all the Member's customers. Mr. Guarriello said that FMPA was created to lower power cost and was very successful in early years through the year 2000. He said in some years they had the lowest power cost in the State and were successful