

RESOLUTION NO. 2021 2828

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (PSC) TO REJECT FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT'S (FPL) REQUEST FOR A BASE RATE INCREASE AND RATE UNIFICATION, AND TO REJECT THE PROPOSED MINIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2021, Florida Power & Light Company ("FPL") filed a Petition for Base Rate Increase and Rate Unification with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC)¹; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 2021, FPL, Citizens through the Office of Public Counsel, Florida Retail Federation, Florida Industrial Power Users Group, and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement for four years of pre-approved rate increases totaling \$1.53 billion; and

WHEREAS, if approved, it will be the largest utility rate increase in Florida's history and FPL customers can expect to see their energy bill increase by more than \$200 per year; and

WHEREAS, the timing of increased bills comes at a difficult time for many Floridians who are still impacted by the financial strains of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by SaveOnEnergy, Florida has the 14th highest average monthly bill out of the 50 states in the U.S. at \$131.74, which is higher than the \$123.29 monthly average for the United States; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the rate increase, FPL is proposing a \$25 per month minimum bill or charge - meaning that a customer's monthly utility bill will not ever be lower than the minimum, even if the property has solar and uses only a small amount, or none, of electricity from the utility; and

WHEREAS, minimum bills may unfairly target low energy users, such as part-time residents, residents trying to age in place and, most importantly, solar customers who have made large home improvement investments to cut their use of electricity generated by fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, in light of climate change, people should be encouraged to use less energy and convert to renewable energy such as solar panels, yet FPL's proposals may have the opposite effect; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to charge a flat base fee runs counter to the Legislature's fight against climate change which is to encourage the development of solar energy in both residential and commercial settings; and

WHEREAS, the FPL's proposed rate increase and minimum bill provision will only increase financial burdens on many Floridians while making it harder for people to help fight climate change by utilizing solar alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission is in opposition to FPL's Petition for Base Rate Increase and Rate Unification and any proposal for a minimum monthly charge.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby adopted.

Section 2. Urging PSC to Reject Rate Increase and Minimum Charge. The Town Commission of the Town of Surfside hereby urge the Florida Public Service Commission to reject or reduce Florida Power & Light's request to increase rates and to reject Florida Power & Light's request to institute a \$25 per month minimum bill or charge.

Section 3. Transmittal of Resolution. The Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Members of the Florida Public Service Commission; Clerk of the Florida Public Service Commission; Electronically file this resolution with the Clerk of the Florida Public Service Commission; all municipalities in Miami-Dade County; the Florida League of Cities; Miami-Dade County League of Cities; and Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. Effective Date. This resolution will become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of November, 2021.

Motion By: Commissioner Velasquez

Second By: Commissioner Kesl

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

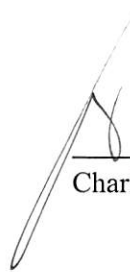
Commissioner Charles Kesl Yes

Commissioner Eliana R. Salzhauer Yes

Commissioner Nelly Velasquez Yes

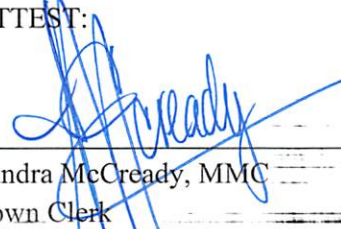
Vice Mayor Tina Paul Yes

Mayor Charles W. Burkett Yes




Charles W. Burkett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sandra McCready, MMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney