

Gary M. (Mike) New

July 27, 2016

Mayor Gib Coerper
Vice Mayor Robert Wilford
Commissioner Ben Bourkari
Commissioner Shirley Green Brown
Commissioner Gary Hardacre
City of Alachua
PO Box 9
Alachua, Florida 32616

Reference: Florida Board of Professional Engineers Complaint

Dear Mayor and Commissioners,

I could really use your help.

In January, 2015, John Curtis Jr., the original developer for the Heritage Oaks subdivision, attacked me by filing three (3) separate complaints with the Florida Board of Professional Engineers (FBPE) against my professional engineering license alleging that I committed engineering misconduct (among other things) from April 2004 through December 2009 during my employment with the City of Alachua. The three (3) complaints included more than 60 individual issues that Mr. Curtis alleged engineering misconduct. FBPE required me to respond to two (2) of the complaints.

After consulting with Traci and Marian, I hired David Theriaque to represent me, rationalizing that David's familiarity with the case would greatly reduce the time required to address the complaints. In March, 2016, the FBPE issued its ruling in the case; finding in my favor on every allegation by Mr. Curtis. The total amount of attorney's fees and costs that I incurred defending the allegations is \$18,400.

Each of the allegations raised by Mr. Curtis pertained to actions I took as the City of Alachua's Public Services Director. Regardless of whether such actions were characterized as "engineering" or "non-engineering," all such actions were performed as an employee of the City. My actions were requirements of my job description and they were conducted at the direction of my supervisor, former City Manager Clovis Watson, Jr.

In consideration of the fact that I incurred these attorneys' fees and costs while performing my duties as the Public Services Director for the City of Alachua at the direction of the City Manager, and in light of the fact that the FBPE determined that all of Mr. Curtis's allegations

were without any merit, I respectfully request that the City pay for such attorneys' fees and costs.

Thank you for considering my request. I intend to personally request your support on this matter at one of your next meetings. I welcome your call at (352) 258-6373 if you have questions or comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M A' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Gary M. (Mike) New

c: Traci L. Gresham, City Manager
Marian Rush, Esquire, City Attorney
Adam Bourkari, Assistant City Manager

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