

**STATEMENT BY INDIAN RIVER SHORES MAYOR BRIAN BAREFOOT
REGARDING 2nd CONFLICT ASSESSMENT MEETING**

“I’m disappointed that after requesting a second Conflict Assessment Meeting specifically to discuss electric rates, the City had nothing new to share on ways to provide real rate relief for our citizens.

“In requesting this meeting, the City team clearly indicated it planned to present proposals to close the rate differential ‘substantially.’ Instead, the City offered only ‘maybes’ and ‘what ifs’ with no commitments, which fits the pattern of broken promises we have seen over many years.

“The Town Council provided clear direction to our attorney to seek rates that are comparable to FPL. What the City instead suggested is that the disparity in rates *might* be lessened at some point in the future, *if* a laundry list of action items were approved by the City Council, *if* all were implemented and *if* all succeeded.

“We still believe the optimal solution to this rate crisis is a sale of the Vero Beach utility system to Florida Power & Light. I again encourage the City to renew its efforts to make the sale happen.

“It is unfortunate that the Conflict Resolution Process was delayed to accommodate a meeting in which nothing new was discussed, and it is our hope that the process will now move forward on schedule so that we can seek a resolution by the end of this year.

“The Town Council remains committed to seeking significant, long-term electric rate relief for our residents.”