

## Amanda Polematidis Statement

Resiliency Infrastructure and Continued Operations Subcommittee – November 13, 2020

With the passage of the referendum for city council to appoint 4 JEA board members, city council members now have ability to point JEA in a direction towards action in sustainability and resiliency. I propose that city council members set standards to these appointments. First, as a utility company, JEA ought to have at least have one electrical and one water/wastewater engineering expert on their board.

Secondly, since we are in the resiliency committee, I recommend that city council members commit to appointing board members who are committed to making Jacksonville and the JEA service area more resilient. These board members should be visionaries; unafraid to implement bold or innovative strategies in our grid structure. They should double down on a commitment to solar and battery storage. If we might envision, for a moment, a utility company that cultivates a habitable environment for residential and commercial solar. Imagine battery storage centers that take the surplus solar energy in the system, store it, and redistribute energy during peak hours. Distributed energy resources decentralized throughout our community not only makes us more resilient to outages, it alleviates the additional load that JEA would have to plan and build to as our population grows, which in turn, would reduce our carbon footprint as well and decelerate our own contributions to global warming.

It's a concerted effort to grow renewable energy and solar---among consumers, government, owners, developers, and utilities. And, ask yourself this: we live in the sunshine state. Why don't we see at least 50% of our roofs? Germany is reliant on renewable energy for 50% of their energy, 8% of which is solar. It is much further north and receives much less solar intensity and daylight hours than Florida, and it generated 4.6 TWh last year. At JEAs rate, that is \$5.1 Billion dollars in electricity from a renewable energy source.

We have a huge potential to create jobs and gain free energy from renewable energy like solar, and it's utilities and policy makers that have the power to drive this change, and in Jacksonville's case, that could make much more headway with appointments of resiliency-minded JEA board members.

Respectfully,

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