

Robert Sosnoskie

From: andrew kricun [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 10:32 AM
To: Safiya Omari
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Suggestions for long term plan for Jackson

Glad to help in any way, I can, Dr. Omari. Please count me in as a friend and ally. By the way, I found out yesterday that we have a friend in common----Kishia Powell. She is a true friend and kindred spirit!

Sincerely,
Andy

-----Original Message-----

From: Safiya Omari <somari@city.jackson.ms.us>
To: andrew kricun [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, Sep 8, 2022 11:26 am
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]Suggestions for long term plan for Jackson

Thanks, Andy. This is helpful.

Safiya R. Omari, PhD
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"Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it." - James Baldwin, Notes of a Native Son

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From: andrew kricun [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Chokwe A. Lumumba <calumumba@city.jackson.ms.us>; Safiya Omari <somari@city.jackson.ms.us>
Cc: rhea.williams-bishop@wkkf.org <rhea.williams-bishop@wkkf.org>; robb.gray@wkkf.org <robb.gray@wkkf.org>; prs@wkkf.org <prs@wkkf.org>; robyn.rosenthal@wkkf.org <robyn.rosenthal@wkkf.org>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL]Suggestions for long term plan for Jackson

Dear Mayor Lumumba and Dr. Omari,

I hope that you are both doing as well as possible under the current circumstances. I was speaking with Rhea and the Kellogg team yesterday and it was suggested that I provide you with some thoughts regarding the planning for Jackson's water infrastructure. Here, for your consideration and use as you best see fit, is a suggested five point plan that might be helpful:

1) Immediate work to improve resiliency and reduce vulnerability---Jackson should work with the Army Corps of Engineers and FEMA to identify the City's vulnerability to severe rain events and flooding (such as the recent contamination of the reservoir adjacent to the OB Curtis plant). In addition to recent events, this work should also address direct vulnerability of the two water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plant and associated pumping stations

2) Apply for capital infrastructure funding---Including, but not limited to, ARPA funding, SRF funding, FEMA BRIC grant funding, and possibly funding from WIFIA, CDBG. Corps of Engineers, etc, in order to close Jackson's infrastructure gap, with especial attention on making sure that mission critical infrastructure, such as the ultraviolet disinfection system, is reliable and redundant

3) Build internal managerial capacity for oversight of water systems--- Designate a person to be in charge of the drinking water system, the wastewater collection system, oversight of Veolia's wastewater treatment plant operations contract and interface with EPA with respect to compliance with the consent agreements, with as much supplemental external technical support as needed

4) Bring operations and maintenance staffing up to needed levels----In addition to direct hiring of qualified personnel, which should be the ultimate goal, Jackson will likely need to explore interim, additional, measures as well in order to build up its O+M capacity for the water and wastewater systems. Such measures could include:

---one time construction contracts to undertake specific maintenance needed at Jackson's water treatment facilities in order to close the current maintenance gap

--- temporary operations and maintenance contract, akin to the current contract with Veolia for operations and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant, but with close oversight from the City and its partners. An operations and maintenance contract for the drinking water system should (1) not be privatization, (2) be with a contractor chosen by the City and via a contract with the City and (3) have sufficient contract oversight, perhaps with outside technical assistance

--- automation to reduce the long term staffing needs

5) Close the current gap between water utility costs and water utility revenue----Jackson is already working to do this with its water metering improvement initiative which has been projected to bring in additional \$6 million in additional revenue annually. In addition to this, Jackson can:

---reduce operational costs via the aforementioned capital improvement upgrades (since newer equipment results in lower maintenance and energy costs and also reduced emergency costs)

---consider refinancing of debt service in order to reduce annual debt service costs

--- evaluate the current rate structure to close any remaining gap

I hope that this is helpful. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further. And, please let me know if I can be of any help to you during this difficult period of time.

Sincerely,
Andy Kricun

*About [EXTERNAL] in the subject line of this message.
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