

*Email from Commissioner Scott Black, Dade City to
Senator Wilton Simpson & Representative Danny Burgess*

Good afternoon, Wilton and Danny

I think the above referenced bills have been barreling through the House and Senate committees and you may want to stop and pay them some particular additional attention before you provide them any further support.

I know these bills sound like a fairness issue and are being pushed that way, but guess who's going to pay the tab??? **Our shared constituents!** When a needed project is postponed or canceled because of the added costs, guess who will be impacted? **Again, our shared constituents.**

Please see the below email from our city engineer, Gordon Onderdonk, providing a concrete example of one very important Dade City project that could be adversely affected by the passage of this bill...**Our stormwater utility project!** As you know, this has been a very important new project for us here in Dade City and it has enjoyed great support from our legislative delegation and our downtown business owners.

The expenses we would have to incur if this utility relocation bill is passed would add significant costs to the successful implementation of our stormwater projects. Further costs can cause further **delay** of this much needed solution to our stormwater problems. I think you realize how important these projects will be to our downtown businesses and residents (**again, our shared constituents**).

I would ask that you look into this further and reconsider any support that you may have previously offered to these bills. As you know, what may be trumpeted as a "fairness issue" and may seem like a "no-brainer," can often have negative unintended consequences. In this case, it would be better to be aware that there is another side and let the longtime legal interpretations remain in place.

I knew you would be interested in knowing about this specific instance here in Dade City where this legislation could have a negative impact. **Your reconsideration would be greatly appreciated.** We need to keep costs low on this and other such projects where utility relocations are required so these very necessary projects will not be delayed or shelved because of the added costs caused by "well-meaning legislation."

Thank you very much...I appreciate your giving this one a deeper look.

Scott Black

Follow-Up to Email: This email was sent prior to CS/CS/SB896 being heard in Senate Appropriations and CS/HB 391 being heard on the House floor. Senator Simpson didn't get to vote on the bill in Appropriations. Representative Burgess adamantly opposed the legislation and was one of only five representatives to vote against it on the House floor.

Commented [KT1]: Knows them well enough to address by first name. Also puts them on a "level playing field".

Commented [KT2]: Asks for what he wants immediately.

Commented [KT3]: Tells them who will be impacted three times throughout the email.

Commented [KT4]: Documentation to support his position.

Commented [KT5]: Gives a very specific example of a project that would be affected. Senator Simpson & Rep. Burgess sponsored a budget allocation for this very project.

Commented [KT6]: Tells a local story of who supports the project, including the legislative delegation!

Commented [KT7]: What the impact will be.

Commented [KT8]: Recognizes they would want to make an informed decision.

Commented [KT9]: Asks four times throughout the email for their opposition to the legislation.

Email from Dade City, City Manager Gordon Onderdonk to Commissioner Scott Black

From: Gordon Onderdonk [<mailto:gonderdonk@DADECITYFL.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 2:56 PM

To: Scott Black; William Poe

Subject: RE: From Scott Black - URGENT! Need Information Regarding Utility Relocation

We had TECO relocate a few utility poles for the CDBG roadway paving project. But since it was for transportation I don't think this bill would have affected that.

Non-transportation related projects could apply towards stormwater retrofit projects which we will have at least two of these in the future (downtown and Dade Oaks). If this is the case, relocating all the underground communications, electric, etc. for these projects would be an additional expense to the city.

Thanks,

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