

Extension granted to Ponte Vedra Corp.

Sept. 21, 2020

to Commissioner Blocker

cc: Commissioners Dean, Smith, Johns and Waldron, and Attorney McCormack

Dear Commissioner Blocker,

I'm writing regarding the Commission's August 18 unanimous approval of an amendment* to the settlement agreement with Ponte Vedra Corporation that allows an 18-month extension on the processing deadline of their application to develop the Outpost - giving their PUD application a total of 2.5 years to remain pending. It would have otherwise expired this month.

Although we understand the need for reasonable extensions and delays due to Covid, our objections are threefold:

- 1) An 18-month extension is excessive during a pandemic that has only existed for six months. In fact, it's an unheard of extension for Covid. "Due to Covid and otherwise" implies additional reasons which are not expressed in the Resolution, and should be named if good cause aside from Covid exists for the extension.
- 2) The granting of this extension is not consistent with the county's denial of an extension requested by citizens opposing a proposed Gate station in Ponte Vedra. The citizen group was given no Covid extension whatsoever at the height of the lockdown in May.
- 3) The Resolution states that the 18-month extension "is in the best interest of the public and the County."
In fact, it is not, and no evidence is provided to support this statement.

Ponte Vedra Corporation has made no progress during the past year towards a resolution. They are still not allowing a property appraisal and are no closer to being a willing seller than they were a year ago. We know of no good faith efforts made towards a resolution on the part of Gate/PVC.

Please recall how effectively the county represented SJC residents' interests during the lawsuit. That's the kind of representation we've come to expect.

Amendments to the "settlement agreement" on a lawsuit that Gate clearly lost should not set us back 18 months, particularly when there is no public notice of said amendment. We look to the Commission to help expedite a resolution to the Outpost issue that is beneficial to all and to be fair and evenhanded in the dispensation of extensions.

* First Amendment to the settlement agreement:

<https://stjohnsclerk.com/minrec/agendas/2020/081820cd/08-18-20CON24.pdf>

Sincerely,
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