

Hillcrest Bay - Underground Utility Project

April 7th, 2010

After two judicial hearings and Two Open meeting hearings over three years, the last on April 1st, 2010, the five Corporation Commissioner's (one attended by phone) had these comments:

- 1) "Hillcrest Bay's utility system was worse than any he had seen, worse than those in some of the lowest income, most run down communities", according to Paul Newman, Commissioner and former State Legislator.
- 2) Paul Newman expressed dismay that Max Dunlap the developer of Hillcrest Bay was granted an exception that allowed the utilities to be located overhead in the first place. He said that this never should have happened and out of curiosity, asked Judge Harpring for the names of the Commissioners who in 1972 allowed this to happen.
- 3) Commission Chairman Kristin K. Mayes acknowledged Hillcrest Bay's unique location and beauty saying due to the blight of existing wires and poles "something has to be done to get the system underground".
- 4) Commissioner Newman felt that UCSA statute needed to be rewritten by the Legislator, as it did not address funding and was much too difficult to implement as written.
- 5) Chairman Mayes suggested to attorney Thomas Mumaw who was speaking for APS that APS should consider including the under grounding of Hillcrest Bay in APS's next rate increase.
- 6) Commissioner Kennedy was interested in how many full time residents ? (48), how many opposed the project? (30), how many favored it? (10) with (8) no replies.
- 7) In the end by a 4 to 1 vote the Commissioners who according to Chairman Mayes said that they were torn in a tough decision, with the thought of some losing their homes, voted against the UCSA on that basis.

The under grounding committee wishes to thank the 62% of the owners who by signing the petitions in 2007 gave our community an opportunity to fix the grave error made by the Commissioners in 1972.

We wish to thank those generous owners who pledged and signed financial commitments to help owners less fortunate to pay to convert their old electric panels to accommodate the new system.

And we want to thank those who saw the vision, supported and worked silently for this project in an effort to greatly improve Hillcrest Bay.

This effort is now concluded.

John Sears, Chairman UCSA