



OFFICE OF MAYOR LENNY CURRY

ST. JAMES BUILDING
117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 400
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

PH: (904) 630-1776
FAX: (904) 630-2391
www.coj.net

May 19, 2020

Chairman Diamond,

Jordan Elsbury said that you had requested information and a timeline regarding my co-founding of BCSP, LLC given its listing by a bidder as a consultant.

Since 1990s, when I left the United States Air Force, I have offered a variety of consulting services to corporations, non-profits, and political organizations. In that same time, I have also had occasional institutional employment; I have served as a policy advisor in congressional offices, I have been a college professor, and a communications staffer to a previous Florida Governor.

At no time across these decades of professional life has any of my private consultancy business overlapped with my public-sector employment. That is true of the almost two and a half years that I have been an employee of the City of Jacksonville.

As it relates to BCSP, LLC, I offer the following timeline:

November 28, 2016 - Tim Baker and I co-founded a Jacksonville-based corporate and government relations business named BCSP, LLC. (*see attachment 1*)

From that date until December 6, 2017 - BCSP had a variety of clients. None of those clients include ANY corporate entity that public records or news articles identify as ultimately being JEA ITN bidders.

December 1, 2017 - Tim Baker files with the state to remove me from BCSP and becomes the sole owner of the company. (*see attachment 2*)

December 6, 2017 - Mayor Curry announces that I will become his Chief of Staff effective Jan. 2, 2018. In press coverage, I confirm that I have begun a process to divest my ownership in all companies I am a part of and end lobbying contracts. *(see attachment 3)*

December 21, 2017 - According to a social media post with a reporter last week, Tim Baker sent the reporter a document that demonstrated weeks after I departed BCSP, the company took FPL as a client. *(see attachment 4)*

So, to be clear, **AT NO TIME** in my professional career have I been a consultant or employee to FPL or any other corporate entity that has been identified as ultimately becoming a bidder in the JEA's ITN process.

I think it worth noting that in my capacity as a city employee since January 2, 2018, there has been professional consideration of questions surrounding the future of JEA. But of course, City Council members and their staffs have also been involved as would be expected.

Attachment 5 is a news article from November of 2017 that notes a similar review of JEA's potential value in a private market had occurred in 2007. Also noted in this attachment, former City Councilman Matt Schellenberg had a 2012 resolution advocating privatization. He repeated that effort in 2018 when he filed 2018-0242.

Also noted in this article is current City Councilman Garrett Dennis, then the Council's Finance Chairman, said of reviewing privatization, "if it results in paying off debt and making true investments in our city in order to grow, then absolutely I would be open to support the concept."

So, I believe it fair to say many current and former City of Jacksonville officials have spent a lot of time and taxpayer resources contemplating the value of the JEA and the utility's future.

I hope this note and these materials are useful to you, your SIC colleagues, and your outside counsel from Smith Hulsey & Busey as you do your work.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Hughes', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brian Hughes

Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment #1

**Electronic Articles of Organization
For
Florida Limited Liability Company**

**L16000216220
FILED 8:00 AM
November 29, 2016
Sec. Of State
slsingleton**

Article I

The name of the Limited Liability Company is:

BCSP, LLC

Article II

The street address of the principal office of the Limited Liability Company is:

221 N HOGAN ST
#306
JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32202

The mailing address of the Limited Liability Company is:

221 N HOGAN ST
#306
JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32202

Article III

The name and Florida street address of the registered agent is:

TIMOTHY BAKER
221 N HOGAN ST
#306
JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32202

Having been named as registered agent and to accept service of process for the above stated limited liability company at the place designated in this certificate, I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relating to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent.

Registered Agent Signature: TIMOTHY BAKER

Article IV

The name and address of person(s) authorized to manage LLC:

Title: MGR
TIMOTHY BAKER
221 N HOGAN ST #306
JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32202

Title: MGR
BRIAN HUGHES
221 N HOGAN ST #306
JACKSONVILLE, FL. 32202

L16000216220
FILED 8:00 AM
November 29, 2016
Sec. Of State
slsingleton

Article V

The effective date for this Limited Liability Company shall be:

11/28/2016

Signature of member or an authorized representative

Electronic Signature: TIMOTHY BAKER

I am the member or authorized representative submitting these Articles of Organization and affirm that the facts stated herein are true. I am aware that false information submitted in a document to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in s.817.155, F.S. I understand the requirement to file an annual report between January 1st and May 1st in the calendar year following formation of the LLC and every year thereafter to maintain "active" status.

Attachment #2

COVER LETTER

TO: Registration Section
Division of Corporations

SUBJECT: BCSP, LLC

Name of Limited Liability Company

The enclosed Articles of Amendment and fee(s) are submitted for filing.

Please return all correspondence concerning this matter to the following:

Tim Baker, Esq

Name of Person

BCSP, LLC

Firm/Company

221 N. Hogan St. #306

Address

Jacksonville, FL 32202

City/State and Zip Code

bakerlawgroup1@gmail.com

E-mail address; (to be used for future annual report notification)

For further information concerning this matter, please call:

Tim Baker

850

567-1727

at (_____) _____

Name of Person

Area Code

Daytime Telephone Number

Enclosed is a check for the following amount:

☒ \$25.00 Filing Fee

☐ \$30.00 Filing Fee &
Certificate of Status

☐ \$55.00 Filing Fee &
Certified Copy
(additional copy is enclosed)

☐ \$60.00 Filing Fee,
Certificate of Status &
Certified Copy
(additional copy is enclosed)

MAILING ADDRESS:

Registration Section
Division of Corporations
P.O. Box 6327
Tallahassee, FL 32314

STREET/COURIER ADDRESS:

Registration Section
Division of Corporations
Clifton Building
2661 Executive Center Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32301

**ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT
TO
ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION
OF**

BCSP, LLC

(Name of the Limited Liability Company as it now appears on our records.)
(A Florida Limited Liability Company)

The Articles of Organization for this Limited Liability Company were filed on 11/29/16 and assigned
Florida document number 1.16000216220.

This amendment is submitted to amend the following:

A. If amending name, enter the new name of the limited liability company here:

The new name must be distinguishable and contain the words "Limited Liability Company," the designation "LLC" or the abbreviation "L.L.C."

Enter new principal offices address, if applicable:

(Principal office address MUST BE A STREET ADDRESS)

Enter new mailing address, if applicable:

(Mailing address MAY BE A POST OFFICE BOX)

B. If amending the registered agent and/or registered office address on our records, enter the name of the new registered agent and/or the new registered office address here:

Name of New Registered Agent:

New Registered Office Address:

Enter Florida street address

Florida

City

Zip Code

New Registered Agent's Signature, if changing Registered Agent:

I hereby accept the appointment as registered agent and agree to act in this capacity. I further agree to comply with the provisions of all statutes relative to the proper and complete performance of my duties, and I am familiar with and accept the obligations of my position as registered agent as provided for in Chapter 605, F.S. Or, if this document is being filed to merely reflect a change in the registered office address, I hereby confirm that the limited liability company has been notified in writing of this change.

If Changing Registered Agent, Signature of New Registered Agent

If amending Authorized Person(s) authorized to manage, enter the title, name, and address of each person being added or removed from our records:

MGR = Manager

AMBR = Authorized Member

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Type of Action</u>
MGR	Brian Hughes	221 N. Hogan St. #306	<input type="checkbox"/> Add
		Jacksonville, FL 32202	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Add
			<input type="checkbox"/> Remove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Add
			<input type="checkbox"/> Remove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Add
			<input type="checkbox"/> Remove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Add
			<input type="checkbox"/> Remove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Change
			<input type="checkbox"/> Add
			<input type="checkbox"/> Remove
			<input type="checkbox"/> Change

D. If amending any other information, enter change(s) here: *(Attach additional sheets, if necessary.)*

SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
17 DEC -6 AM 7:45

E. Effective date, if other than the date of filing: 12/1/2017 (optional)

(If an effective date is listed, the date must be specific and cannot be prior to date of filing or more than 90 days after filing.) Pursuant to 605.0207 (3)(b)

Note: If the date inserted in this block does not meet the applicable statutory filing requirements, this date will not be listed as the document's effective date on the Department of State's records.

(b) The 90th day after the record is filed.

Dated

Signature of a member or authorized representative of a member

Timothy Baker

Typed or printed name of signee

Attachment #3

Mayor Lenny Curry turns to top political operative as chief of staff

By Nate Monroe

Posted Dec 6, 2017 at 11:44 AM

Mayor Lenny Curry named Brian Hughes his chief of staff Wednesday, a move that formally installs a key figure in Curry's political world into the machinery of city government.

Hughes, who has been a Tallahassee-based political operative since Curry's election, was already operating as a kind of unofficial chief of staff: A common sight in City Hall, oft-advising Curry on a range of policy and political issues and sometimes meeting with City Council members. Curry has been without a chief of staff since May, when Kerri Stewart, a City Hall veteran, resigned in May to take a job as one of JEA's executives.

Hughes has made thousands of dollars since Curry's election in consulting fees — paid out of the mayor's political committee — as well as having represented clients interested in running for City Council long before the 2019 elections take place. He is a registered city lobbyist for Buckeye Partners LP, an energy distribution company, and also signed up to work with the Jacksonville Port Authority.

He has remained one of Curry's closest confidants and has helped push the mayor's priorities through the City Council.

Hughes said he would make his Tallahassee firm inactive and has divested from a Jacksonville-based firm he was also involved in. He said he would de-list as a lobbyist for Buckeye Partners next week.

"I have no plan to have any outside employment and will work with (the Office of General Counsel) and Ethics to ensure all is in full compliance with law and established precedent," he said.

Attachment #4



Christopher Hong ✓

@ChrisHongTU



Within a few minutes of my tweet, Baker sent me a pdf of a letter to FPL dated July 1, 2019. In the letter, Baker said he intended to end his working relationship with FPL, which began Dec. 21, 2017, on July 31, 2019.

3:02 PM · May 15, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Attachment #5

Via FloridaPolitics.com

Exiting JEA Board, Tom Petway renews push to privatize Jax public utility

By A.G. Gancarskion November 28, 2017

The big news out of Tuesday's meeting of Jacksonville's JEA Board wasn't on the agenda.

Board member Tom Petway — one of the earliest supporters of the candidacy of Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry — announced his intention to leave the board Dec. 31. And he revived a major conceptual proposal on his way out.

Petway suggested that perhaps the time has come for the municipal utility to move into a "private sector marketplace" model.

"The majority of people in Florida are served by a private-sector marketplace," Petway said, asking the board to consider where JEA "fits" in that emergent paradigm.

"Would the customers of JEA be better served in the private marketplace?" Petway asked, urging a board report on the utility's value.

Some study was given to the private sector concept in the past.

In 2007, the Florida Times-Union reported that JEA could fetch \$3.1 billion — which is more than 2.5 times the city's \$1.27 billion current general fund budget. However, rates would have gone up by 39 percent, making the concept a non-starter for Mayor John Peyton, especially in light of the annual JEA contribution to the city's budget.

The current JEA Agreement applies between the city and the utility through 2021, with the current contribution set at about \$114.2 million, with minimum annual increases of 1 percent. It also allocates \$30 million of total funding split evenly from JEA and the city for five years for water and sewer projects. And \$2 million a year in water quality trading credits, which will go to stormwater needs.

In 2012, current City Council liaison to the JEA Matt Schellenberg floated a resolution urging the sale of JEA, then pulled it because he didn't have the votes, reported the Florida Times-Union.

However, he believes that the idea "absolutely" could have traction now, he told Florida Politics Tuesday after the meeting.

Finance Chair Garrett Dennis — who hasn't always lined up with the mayor's office — is also conceptually open to the idea.

"If it results in paying off debt and making true investments in our city in order to grow, then absolutely I would be open to support the concept," Dennis said.

Council President Anna Brosche wants to know more, saying she would “need to better understand and fully get what that would mean for the city.”

Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry offered a statement that could be construed as conceptual support, framing Petway's position as “a simple request that citizens and city leaders explore the value of their public assets and how utility customers in our city can be best served. As a reform-minded mayor, I welcome this challenge and will work with City Council leadership to answer these questions.”

Indeed, the ultimate impact of such a move has been the sticking point in previous proposals.

In 2012, City Council Auditor Kirk Sherman noted that while the city would receive an infusion of cash that could be as high as \$50 million in 2012 dollars, it would be offset by variables, such as a loss of jobs, the loss of the JEA contribution, and other factors.

Would a 2018 report read differently?

Petway's tenure was marked by successes, including the utility getting its first ever AAA bond rating while he was chair and the successful ratification of the aforementioned JEA Agreement — setting contractual terms between the utility and the city through 2021.

However, his most audacious play may have been the mic drop at the end.

###