

ITEM #74

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 18, 2024

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
4800 WEST COPANS ROAD
COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA 33063

SHEILA N. ROSE
CITY MANAGER

June 17, 2024

Monica Cepero, County Manager
Broward County Commission
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 409
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

RE: Monarch Hill Proposed Expansion

Dear Ms. Cepero,

The City of Coconut Creek has historically opposed any expansion of the Monarch Hill Landfill because of the deleterious impacts on our community. In the last several years, we have moderated our position and have become fully focused on supporting a plan that is beneficial to the entire county. We recognize that we all have a Solid Waste Crisis. Based on this, we joined the Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Processing Authority ("Authority") as a partner with Broward County and most other Broward cities. We are firmly committed to the mission of the Authority and want to see it succeed, not just for Coconut Creek, but also for the entire county. We respectfully request to be part of the team working with the County Attorney on the referenced ordinance. Our intimate knowledge of the landfill and its impact on surrounding communities will greatly benefit the process.

The Authority's vision to provide a regional solution to Solid Waste is based on a hierarchy of; 1) Source Redirection and Reduction; 2) Recycling and Composting; 3) Energy Recovery; and 4) Treatment and Disposal, in that order. As you know, Coconut Creek objects to the expansion of the Landfill and, more precisely, we object to providing an opportunity to increase landfilling when we have not addressed items such as recycling, composting, and vegetation reduction. These are the priorities and they must be handled first.

The concept of moving forward to expand the height of the landfill without ensuring recycling, vegetative waste, and construction demolition debris are dealt with to the same degree of urgency makes no sense. If the County Commission insists on going forward with this ordinance, addressing the critical issues should be included as conditions of any expansion. More appropriately, we urge the County to work with the Authority to complete the Master Plan and then develop a comprehensive solution to

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solid waste in Broward County. As part of this process, we hope that you will allow the City of Coconut Creek and the other impacted cities to participate in the drafting of this ordinance.

Monarch Hill Landfill began disposing of waste in an unlined cell (CDSL1) at a base depth below the groundwater table in 1965. Since the landfill is designated as an existing facility it only has to meet the groundwater statutes and rules in place at the time of creation which are half a century old. Any increased fill over CDSL1 will exacerbate the current groundwater contamination. A County ordinance that increases the height of the landfill must include the necessary requirements to monitor and comply with current groundwater statutes and regulations for the site as a whole. Furthermore, Countywide limitations that mandate recycling and preclude the use of a landfill until the other priority issues referenced above are addressed should be part of the equation. We stand ready to work through these issues with your County Attorney.

While we have taken this opportunity to outline our concerns, we deeply believe that a comprehensive and inclusive approach to this process is necessary to achieve Countywide success. To this end, the City of Coconut Creek is choosing to move beyond the local focus, and respectfully requests to participate with the County and other municipalities in the drafting of this ordinance related to the A-6 Zoning.

Sincerely,



Sheila N. Rose, ICMA-CM, AICP
City Manager

cc: Coconut Creek City Commission
Broward County Commission