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**CIVIC COUNCIL TO CITY LEADERS:**

**TRANSPARENCY AND ACTION NEEDED ON JEA**

**Jacksonville Fla. –** Based on emerging revelations regarding the conduct and misrepresentations of senior leaders at JEA, as well as the utility’s board members, the Jacksonville Civic Council Executive Committee voted unanimously today to approve the following requests.

**On behalf of our members and the taxpayers of Duval County, the Civic Council requests the following immediate actions:**

1. That, in the spirit of transparency and full disclosure, Mayor Lenny Curry and the Jacksonville City Council direct the JEA Board of Directors to (1) engage the City Office of Inspector General, an appropriate City Council committee, or other external entity, to conduct an investigation into the actions of JEA CEO Aaron Zahn in the execution of his duties as a public employee; (2) make the results of the investigation available to the public and the City Council; (3) reconsider its vote and move to terminate JEA CEO Aaron Zahn for cause.

Further, that the JEA Board should not execute or agree to any severance package, waiver, or other covenant of confidentiality with Mr. Zahn before the conclusion of the investigation. Releasing him without cause is not enough. Mr. Zahn should not be able to profit in any way from his actions as JEA’s executive leader.

1. That the JEA Board of Directors initiate a search for a highly qualified CEO; considering only candidates from outside the organization with proven records of success in the utility industry.
2. That the Jacksonville City Council convene a Special Investigative Committee, fully utilizing its subpoena power to conduct a transparent investigation on the actions of Mr. Zahn, other JEA executives, and board members, with regard to efforts to sell JEA, as well as the utility’s recently-abandoned “performance unit plan”.
3. That State Attorney Melissa Nelson convene a grand jury to investigate the actions of the JEA Board and senior management with regard to the legality and appropriateness of: the decision to conduct the ITN and potential sale of JEA; the conduct of city officials, employees, contractors and lobbyists involved in the potential sale or recapitalization of JEA; the performance unit plan; and any related matters which may lead to actions by the grand jury, including a presentment or report on the behavior of public officials and others engaged in the matters involving JEA.
4. That the current ITN bid process be halted completely, and all activity to sell JEA be stopped, until the above-requested investigations are complete and a new CEO is in place.

As the Civic Council has previously stated, JEA is in no immediate danger of collapse or insolvency, and there is time to strategically evaluate the options and take action in a thoughtful, transparent manner.

# About the Jacksonville Civic Council

*The mission of the Jacksonville Civic Council is to promote a fiscally responsible, economically vibrant, thriving community that offers opportunity for all its residents. Our members accomplish this mission by supporting a safe and healthy city, great schools, a dynamic economy featuring a varied base of growth industries, a high standard of operational excellence at all levels of government and an exceptional quality of life including a strong downtown and thriving arts, culture, recreation and sports institutions.*