



CITY COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Commission

DATE: May 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Motion to approve forwarding the matter to the Broward County Office of the Inspector General, to request a review and investigate into the circumstances and facts surrounding the decision to heavily discount volleyball rental rates, resulting in the loss of over \$150,000 in public funds. – **Commissioner Shrouder**

RECOMMENDATION:

Commissioner Shrouder is requesting Commission approval to have the Broward County Office of the Inspector General review and investigate the circumstances and facts surrounding the decision to heavily discount volleyball rental rates.

BACKGROUND OF ITEM:

Pure Energy LLC, a for-profit company, has been renting the City's volleyball courts at a significantly discounted rate—thousands of dollars below the published permit rental fee. In a March 10, 2025, written explanation, Director Weiss stated the discount was granted because Pure Energy had agreed to assume all court maintenance responsibilities. However, during the April 22, 2025, Commission meeting, Director Weiss contradicted her prior statement, denying that maintenance was ever cited as the basis for the reduced rate.

This inconsistency is further compounded by evidence that it was not Pure Energy, but rather the Optimist Club—where the principal of Pure Energy also serves as head of volleyball—that had historically covered the maintenance costs. This raises serious concerns that the Optimist Club, a nonprofit entity may have been inappropriately leveraged to justify or subsidize a discounted rental rate for the for-profit company. Moreover, the same principal appeared before the Commission, on behalf of the Optimist Club during the budget hearing and requested City funding for court maintenance—without disclosing that his for-profit company was receiving a reduced rental rate in exchange for supposedly covering those very cost. The Commission granted the request to use public funds for the maintenance of the court. Despite the entire property now being owned and maintained with public funds, Pure Energy continues to receive heavily discounted permit rental rates, and Pure Energy has branded/placed its logo and marketing material all over the public property.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Commissioner Shrouder's Inquiry

2. Email regarding false statement
3. Email regarding criteria needed to set fees
4. 12-12-23 Minutes – regarding City taking over Sand and Maintenance costs for Volleyball
5. 9-24-24 Minutes – Budget hearing on Sand and Maintenance
6. 10-24-17 Minutes – Mayor Curran requests to convert additional courts, Commissioner Mallozzi requests payback