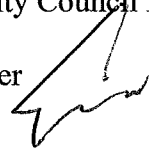


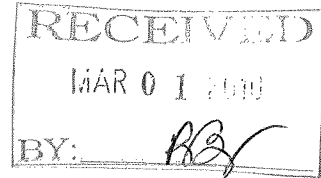
MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor Strickland and City Council Members

FROM: Eugene Miller, Interim City Manager 

DATE: March 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Authorization of Low Level flights for Mosquito Control




Introduction: Annual approval is required by Federal Aviation Regulations for low level flights related to mosquito control. Volusia County Mosquito Control is requesting this authorization from Orange City's governing body.


Background: This authorization is an annual request of all municipalities within Volusia County. This requirement is to make communities aware that aircraft will be making flights under the minimum 1,000 foot altitude for general aircraft operations. Mosquito control aircraft need to fly under 500 feet to inspect for immature mosquitoes, spray for immature mosquitoes, and spray for adult mosquitoes.

Discussion: Should Orange City be in need of aerial spraying for mosquitoes, this authorization must be given in advance. The authorization of these low level flights does not automatically authorize any mosquito spraying. Requests for spraying will continue to be on an as-needed basis and will only occur when duly authorized by the Orange City Public Works Department. If we do not provide the requested authorization, we would be limited to truck-mounted spraying which may be ineffective for a widespread outbreak of mosquito-borne illnesses.

Budget Impact: This action will have no impact on the budget. The only time an impact from mosquito spraying occurs is when the spraying is authorized due to high populations of mosquitoes and those costs have been considered in the Public Works Operating Expense line item.

Recommendations: The City Manager and Public Works Director recommend that Council authorize the Mayor to execute the Letter of Authorization for Volusia County Mosquito Control.

Prepared By: Paul Johnson, Public Works Director 

Reviewed by: Paul Johnson, Public Works Director 



**Public Works Department
Mosquito Control Division**

February 9, 2010

City of Orange City
Attn: Paul Johnson, Public Works Director
205 E. Graves Avenue
Orange City, FL 32763

Dear Mr. Johnson:

It is necessary under Federal Air Regulations of the Federal Aviation Agency for the Volusia County Mosquito Control program to **annually** obtain a written request and authorization from an appropriate official in each incorporated municipality and the Volusia County Government, authorizing the low level flights under 500 foot altitude with helicopters and fixed wing aircraft over congested portions of incorporated municipalities and unincorporated portions of Volusia County. This FAA requirement is to make communities aware that aircraft will be making flights under the minimum 1000 foot altitude threshold for general aircraft operations. Mosquito control aircraft need to fly under 500 feet to inspect for immature mosquitoes, spray for immature mosquitoes and spray for adult mosquitoes.

Populations of both potential disease bearing i.e. West Nile, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and pest mosquitoes will be suppressed by spray flights in all areas where conditions warrant. Inspection flights and aircraft landings will be made for the purpose of finding and treating immature stages of mosquitoes in their breeding sites. This is our primary defense against large populations of mosquitoes.

We realize some people want to be notified prior to an adult mosquito spray operation. Our office will notify people on our call list, from your area, who have requested prior notification before aerial spraying. We will also post a map of our aerial residential spray areas prior to spraying on the www.volusia.org website.

All such flights will be made in the public interest at such times as are considered necessary, and under such conditions as are considered effective and safe, for the purpose of providing comfort and public health protection for residents and visitors.

We are concerned about communication towers in areas where we perform aerial spraying. Please involve us in the planning of these towers to insure continued mosquito service to our citizens.

801 South Street • New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168-5864
Tel: (386) 424-2920 • Fax: (386) 424-2924

www.volusia.org/mosquito

A Public Notice will be published in Volusia County newspapers.

Enclosed is an authorization form for your governing body signature. Please sign this form or one like it and return it to us no later the February 28, 2010.

If there are any questions you may wish to discuss, please call me at (386) 424-2920.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonas Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonas Stewart
Director

JS/km
Attachments

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION

We hereby give authorization to Volusia County Mosquito Control to perform low-level flights over our city/town in connection with their inspection and aerial application of insecticides for the control of mosquito larvae and adults in compliance with FAA regulations explained in a letter from Volusia County Mosquito Control during calendar year 2010 through March 31, 2011.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Name (Typed): _____

Title: _____

City/Town: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____