




ORANGE COUNTY MAYOR

Jerry L. Demings

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July 3, 2023

TO: Commissioner Nicole Wilson, District 1
Commissioner Christine Moore, District 2
Commissioner Mayra Uribe, District 3
Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero, District 4
Commissioner Emily Bonilla, District 5
Commissioner Michael "Mike" Scott, District 6

FROM: Mayor Jerry L. Demings 

SUBJECT: Managerial Appointment – Deputy Director, Public Works Department
CONSENT AGENDA ITEM – July 25, 2023

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Van Ussach, P.E., CFM, as a Deputy Director for the Public Works Department. As Deputy Director, Ms. Ussach will oversee the Development Engineering, Engineering, and Highway Construction Divisions, as well as lead various special projects for the Department.

Ms. Ussach has over 24 years of experience in civil engineering, mainly with a private engineering consulting firm and city government. Most recently, she was a City Engineer for the City of Orlando. At the City, she assisted in the development of the division's annual budget and Stormwater Capital Improvement Program. She spearheaded and implemented the public's ability to access their GIS wastewater and stormwater inventory. Additionally, she collaborated in the development of Low Impact Development guidelines, developing capital projects to address flood-prone areas, and oversaw Community Rating System compliance. Ms. Ussach was previously employed with HDR Engineering Incorporated for 14 years, where she served as Water/Wastewater Engineer from 2005 to 2011 and then advanced to Senior Water/Wastewater Engineer from 2011 to 2013. As part of this organization, she gained experience in transportation, site development, drainage, water, wastewater and roadway design practices. Additionally, she managed and mentored junior engineers to strengthen their potential.

Ms. Ussach has a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Central Florida. She has been a registered Professional Engineer (PE) in the State of Florida since 2006, has Advanced MOT certification, and is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). She also serves as the Treasurer for the American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter Central Branch.

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Ms. Ussach's appointment will be effective on August 7, 2023, contingent upon Board confirmation. Her annual starting salary will be \$162,240. Her resume is attached for your reference.

ACTION REQUESTED: Confirmation of the Mayor's managerial appointment of Susan Van Ussach, P.E., CFM as Deputy Director, Public Works Department.

Attachment: Resume

cc: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Deputy County Administrator
Dr. Yvette M. Best, Director, Human Resources Division

Susan Van Ussach, PE, CFM

1021 Buckwood Drive • Orlando, FL • 32806 • Mobile: (407) 252-7189

Email: Susan@Ussach.com

Professional Summary

A self-motivated, team spirited and performance driven engineering professional with an exemplary blend of managerial and professional engineering experience • Ability to communicate, motivate and bring the best out of team members in order to maximize their potential • Experienced in staff management, budget management, capital improvement program management, construction management, floodplain management, utility coordination, stormwater, wastewater, and roadway design • Experienced in interpreting Federal, State, and Local Codes and Standards to assist development within the City of Orlando (the City) • Ability to be flexible and provide solutions that are amenable to both the City and the developers/constituents • Provided guidance and recommendations for technical review committees • City's Emergency Coordinating Officer and Community Official for Floodplain Management

Technical Skills

- Project Management
- Staff Management
- Post Design Services
- Site Engineering Design
- Project Scheduler
- Budget Review
- PowerPoint
- Utility Relocation Design
- Utility Coordination
- Cost Estimator
- Floodplain Management
- CIP Review
- Word
- Excel

Work History

City of Orlando – Public Works Department:

- City Engineer June 2021 - Present
- Assistant City Engineer Oct 2019 – June 2021
- Site Engineering Review Manager May 2019 – Oct 2019
- Engineering Design Manager Dec 2013 – May 2019

HDR Engineering, Inc.:

- Sr. Water/Wastewater Engineer Jan 2011 – Dec 2013
- Water/Wastewater Engineer Jan 2005 – Jan 2011
- Design Engineer May 1999 – Jan 2005

Transportation Consultant Group:

- Engineering Intern Dec 1998 - May 1999

Work Experience +24 Years of Experience in staff management, project management, design, development review, budget review, capital improvement program review, utility coordination, construction administration, and construction inspection. Notable accomplishments are identified below:

- **City Engineer – Policy, Project and Staff Management.** Utilized professional engineering expertise to provide guidance and recommendations for engineers, planners, Real Estate Division, Legal Department, Commissioners, Mayor, and constituents. Supervised the Engineering Design Section, Survey Section, and Streets and Stormwater Division. Authorized signatory for platting, FEMA, Water Management District and Department of Environmental Protection permits. Managed planning and site engineering review of permits on behalf of the Public Works Department. Review legal documents (i.e. Right-of-Way, Drainage, Utility, Maintenance Agreements, etc.). Prepared Council Agenda items for projects related to the Public Works Department. Designated the Emergency Coordinating Officer for

emergency disaster. Given direct authority to revise the City's Engineering Standards Manual. Committee member of the Baldwin Park Town Review Committee and various planning review teams (i.e. Master Plan, Zoning, Plat, Variance etc). Assisted in the development of the division's annual budget, including capital, operating, maintenance and labor needs. Provided assistance in the development of the stormwater capital improvement program. Spearheaded and implemented the ability for the public to access the City's GIS wastewater and stormwater inventory. Took the lead and provided guidance to IT and the Legal Department to obtain software for professional licensures to digitally seal documents. Currently assisting in the stormwater rate study, development of Low Impact Development guidelines, developing capital project to address flood prone areas, and Community Rating System compliancy. Mediator for grievances. Worked under the direct supervision of the Public Works Director and was the go to person when they are away.

- **Assistant City Engineer - *Project and Staff Management.*** Utilized professional engineering judgement to provide guidance and direction for junior engineers. Supervised the Engineering Design Section in the production of in-house construction plans and technical specifications. Supervised the Site Engineering Review Manager. Demonstrated considerable independent judgment and initiative in carrying out the daily operations of the Section. Duties also involved communication and coordination with various Departments and Divisions within the City, constituents, developers, and engineering firms. Provided assistance to the Deputy Public Works Director – City Engineer on his daily duties. Work was performed under the direction of the Deputy Public Works Director – City Engineer.

- **Engineering Design Manager/Site Engineering Review Manager - Project, Staff, and Permit Management.** Utilized professional engineering judgement to provide guidance and direction for junior engineers. Supervised the Engineering Design Section in the production of in-house construction plans and technical specifications. Supervised the Site Engineering and Right-of-Way permit reviewers to ensure the permits conformed to the Federal, State, and Local codes and specifications. Demonstrated considerable independent judgment and initiative in carrying out the daily operations of the Section. Implemented a standardized process for the Site and Right-of-Way permit reviewers to follow. The submittal checklist for commercial, residential, pool, and right-of-way permits were created and made accessible to the public during the time under my direction. Worked also involved communication and coordination with various Departments and Divisions within the City, constituents, developers, and engineering firms. Assisted the Deputy Public Works Director – City Engineer on his daily duties as needed. Work was performed under the direction of the Deputy Public Works Director – City Engineer. FYI, Engineering Design Manager was reclassified to Site Engineering Review Manager.

- **Project Manager/Engineer of Record - Orange Center Boulevard Sanitary Sewer and Roadway Improvements Project.** Served in the role of both Project Manager and Engineer of Record to upgrade the aging 8-inch and 12-inch vitrified clay (VC) sanitary gravity sewer line along Orange Center Boulevard between South John Young Parkway and South Tampa Avenue. The existing 8- and 12-inch VC sanitary gravity line that serviced the northern and southern properties along the project limits were replaced with either PVC or DI pipes. The laterals servicing the owners were either reconnected or replaced. Approximately 200 LF of existing 8-inch sanitary gravity line directly east of South John Young Parkway were cured in place lined. The roadway within the project limits, from curb to curb, were milled and resurfaced and the curb ramps were re-constructed to meet ADA standards. In addition, the signalized intersection at Ohio Avenue and Orange Center Boulevard were replaced from a loop system to a video detection system.

- **Engineer of Record - Gaston Foster Road Speed Table Rehabilitation Project.** Served in the role of Engineer of Record for the replacement of two speed tables along Gaston Foster Road. One located north of Andrea Boulevard and the other

north of Haylock Drive. The existing speed tables were sitting on top of muck that was from the previously removed island separator. The muck was never removed which resulted in the sinking of the speed table. The design provided direction on limits of muck removal and installation of the two new speed tables. The project was necessary for the improvement of traffic safety in the immediate area.

- **Engineer of Record - *Westmoreland Drive Safe Route to School Path Project.*** Served in the role of Engineer of Record for the design of porous pavement along the east side Westmoreland Drive between West Miller Avenue and Colonial Drive. Scope of work entailed the installation of porous pavement, roadway regrading to allow for positive drainage, re-construction curb ramp to meet ADA standards and acquisition of easement agreements for those paths that fell within private property. The project had an aggressive timeline which was met and allow the students safe passage to school during the first day of school.
- **Engineer of Record - *North Bumby Avenue Drainage Improvements.*** Served in the role of Design Manager and Engineer of Record for the design of the stormwater drainage collection and conveyance system along North Bumby Avenue between Colonial Drive and Corrine Drive. In addition, the shared-use trail was installed on the east side of North Bumby Avenue to allow both bicyclist and pedestrian safe usage of the trail, away from oncoming traffic. Scope of work also included lining of the existing sanitary forcemain, installing the fiber optic innerduct with trace wire, replacing sidewalk and driveways where impacted by construction, constructing curb ramp to meet ADA standards, installing the boarding and lighting area at the bus stops, replacing of various sections of the existing sanitary gravity line with DIP, and milling and resurfacing the roadway.
- **Engineer of Record - *Lift Station Replacements for Nos. 08, 30, 47 & 77 Project.*** Served in the role of Design Manager and Engineer of Record for the lift station replacements of LS 08, 30 and 47, and decommission of LS 77. Scope of work included the abandonment of the existing dry-well at lift station at LS 08 to a submersible lift station, the relocation of the existing wet well at LS 30 away from the road to the edge of travelway, the relocation of the existing wet well at LS 47 away from the road to the SE corner of Hazelhurst Avenue and Slover Avenue, and the decommission of LS 77 and installation of an 8-inch gravity line to redirect flow towards the sanitary sewer manhole located at

the intersection of Silver Star Road and Eunice Avenue.

➤ **Project Manager/Engineer of Record - Continuing Services for Large and Small Pipeline Projects for the City of Cocoa, FL.** Served in the role of Project Manager/Engineer of Record for the evaluation, preliminary design, final design, and post design related to the City's large and small pipelines for potable water, reclaimed water, and sanitary sewer facilities since HDR began providing these services in 2003. The managerial and coordination skills provided to the client made the projects listed below a success.

- **SR 5 (US 1) Utility Relocations Project.** Managed and provided utility work by a highway contractor with FDOT. These projects (3 segments) involve the relocation of water, reclaimed water, and adjustments of sanitary manholes and valves along approximately 7 miles of SR 5 in Brevard County under a JPA between the City of Cocoa and the FDOT. The segments include:
 - *Rockledge (Park Avenue to Rosa L. Jones)* - Relocation of 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16-inch potable water mains for approximately 14,000 LF and design of new 8 and 12-inch reclaimed water mains for approximately 9,200 LF. The project also includes construction plans, technical specifications, a potable water permit, construction inspection services, and coordination with FDOT, their contractors, and their roadway consultant.
 - *Central (Rosa L. Jones to Brunson Avenue)* - Relocation of 6 and 8-inch water mains for approximately 6,200 LF and design of new 6 and 12-inch reclaimed water mains for approximately 4,300 LF. The project includes construction plans, specifications, a potable water permit and coordination with FDOT and its roadway consultant.
 - *North (Brunson Avenue to Cidco Road)* - Relocation of 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-inch water, reclaimed water and sanitary force mains for at least 35,000 LF. The project also includes design of new 16-inch FM from Michigan Avenue to the north end of the project and coordination with the City and FDOT's roadway consultant.
- **Barnes Boulevard Utility Relocation Project.** Managed engineering services to evaluate and relocate the City's existing potable water system along Barnes Boulevard within

and immediately adjacent to a FDOT right-of-way. (ROW). Performed data collection, provided utility relocation design and permitting services to include the FDEP potable water permit. The project was a JPA project with FDOT. Also provided utility coordination with FDOT and its roadway consultant.

- **SR A1A Design.** Managed engineering services to identify and design the most cost effective method in rehabilitation/replacement of the existing 10-inch CI water main along SR A1A and South Atlantic Avenue between 9th St. and Minutemen Causeway and 12-inch CI water main along Minutemen Causeway between Brevard Avenue and SR A1A. Prepared and submitted an application for the FDEP Potable Water and FDOT ROW Utilization Permit. Successfully managed the Design and Post Design Services for the rehabilitation/replacement for a total of approximately 6,000 LF of 8-inch DIP Water Main.
- **Design Engineer, SR 43 (US 301) Utility Relocation - North, Hillsborough County, FL.** Designed and prepared construction contract plans, technical specifications, special provisions, permits and documentation for the added lanes and rehabilitated pavement for approximately 10 miles of SR 43 (US 301) in Hillsborough County. The North portion of US 301 included approximately 12,300 LF of 24-inch and 1,300 LF of 36-inch water transmission pipelines.
- **Project Engineer, South Interceptor Force Main (SIFM), Omaha, NE.** Provided technical support in designing and writing technical memos, design briefs, design memos and specifications. This project was part of the Omaha Combined Sewer Overflow Control Program. The SIFM Project consists of the proposed 4, 8, 10, 36, 42, 48, and 64-inch SIFM and 27, 36, 54, and 144-inch gravity sewers. The existing and proposed SIFM is the primary conveyance of sanitary flows from the Missouri River watershed to the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant (MRWWTP). The proposed SIFM replaced the existing SIFM beginning at a connection point just north of the existing valve vault and ending at the MRWWTP.

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| Education | University of Central Florida Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering | 1995 - 1999 |
| Professional Registrations | Professional Engineer, Florida, No. 63823 | |
| Memberships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tau Beta Pi – Engineering Honor Society • American Society of Civil Engineers • American Public Works Association – Treasurer • Association of State Floodplain Management Florida • Floodplain Managers Association • Florida Stormwater Association • Florida Water Environmental Association | |
| Certifications/ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certified Floodplain Manager • Advanced MOT Certification | |
| Accomplishments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor’s Executive Leadership Certification • NPDES Erosion and Sedimentation Certification • City’s Green Works Academy Certification • Valencia’s Horizon Scholars - Take Stock In Children Program Mentor (2019 – Present) | |