

**CITY OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT
ELECTED OFFICIALS LOBBYING DISCLOSURE FORM**

- *Must be completed by the Mayor or City Commissioner when lobbying activities occur outside City Hall or Administrative Offices.*
- *Must be filed with City Clerk within ten (10) business days of the lobbying activities.*

**NOT NECESSARY TO FILE WHEN LOBBYING ACTIVITIES OCCUR WITHIN
CITY HALL OR CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

Mayor/Commissioner Sandy Johnson Date: 1/25/13

I. Name and title of the lobbyist:

Ron Bergeron

II. Name of Entity by which lobbyist employed/retained:

Sun Bergeron

III. Date of Meeting 1/22/13; Time of Meeting: 11:20 am

IV. Location of Meeting:

a. If meeting in person, identify name of location if applicable (for example, name of restaurant, park, etc.), and street address:

b. If telephonic meeting, check here _____. State location where you were at time of call:

c. If electronic media, check here: . State nature of the media (electronic mail, social media site), and location where you were when reviewing such communication.

At home

V. Disclose the specific purpose and subject matter of the meeting:

see attached e-mail

Signature of Elected Official: Sandy Johnson

Date: 1/25/13

Received 1/22/13

Subj: **Cash for Trash, Company Offering Contract Signing Bonuses Outside of A Competitive/Negotiated Procurement**

Date: 1/22/2013 11:20:36 A.M. Eastern Standard Time

From: info@sunbergeron.com

Sun Bergeron felt it important that you see this news article featured in Sunday's Sun-Sentinel.

[Suzann Boisvenue's letter to Attorney General Pam Bondi](#)

sun-sentinel.com/fl-cities-bonus-solid-waste-20130115,0,4081664.story

South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

Trash companies offers 'loyalty bonuses' to cities that sign up for its service

By [Lisa J. Huriash](#), Sun Sentinel

3:14 PM EST, January 17, 2013

"Loyalty bonuses" offered by a giant garbage company trying to keep its chokehold in [Broward County](#) have some cities signing up for the cash while others question whether they are legal or ethical or benefit taxpayers.

Coral Springs jumped Wednesday night at a whopping \$829,220 signing bonus offered by Wheelabrator, the Waste Management subsidiary — that disposes its garbage.

While cities are thrilled to have the extra funds to use at their discretion, critics argue that residents aren't receiving enough of a benefit, and the competition argues it's bribery.

For the first time since 1987, Broward's cities have a choice: Wheelabrator, at \$42 a ton with a "loyalty bonus" in a one-time check, or Sun Bergeron, for \$45.25 a ton — with a \$2 rebate per ton to each city.

Among those who chose the signing bonus: [Broward County](#) for its unincorporated areas (a \$116,190 bonus); Cooper City (a \$205,970 bonus); Wilton Manors (a \$102,220 bonus); Margate (a \$311,520 bonus) and North Lauderdale (a \$224,530 bonus).

Other cities are still considering their contracts, with bonuses ranging from \$5,170 in Sea Ranch Lakes to more than \$1.5 million in Fort Lauderdale.

The dollar amount fluctuates based on the tonnage of their garbage, said Tony Spadaccia, Waste Management spokesman. Cities must sign the agreement by Jan. 31 to receive the full amount. If they sign by June 30, the bonus will be cut in half.

But Ron Bergeron, owner of Sun Bergeron, accuses Waste Management of "buying" their contracts, effectively shutting out competition.

"To me, it's like buying back their monopoly," he said. "The loyalty that has come out now is because they were losing. When these contracts come up in five years, I'm not sure who will want to be competing if you allow something like this outside of a proper bid process to come in the back door and say 'I want to be loyal to you now.' "

Nonsense, said Waste Management attorney Dennis Mele. He said the only difference between the signing bonus and Bergeron's \$2 discount is the Wheelabrator check is being mailed within 30 days of signing.

"I don't know how one is good and the other is not," he said.

Coral Springs City Manager Erdal Donmez said he's OK with Wheelabrator offering loyalty bonuses now: "We're looking out for the best interests" of residents, he said.

"Think about it, how would we not accept that?" he said.

His commission Wednesday night was the first city to choose a sampling of both companies. Wheelabrator will dispose of household garbage for \$42 per ton (an amount less than the \$67.93 that had been previously charged), while Sun Bergeron will dispose of bulk trash, yard waste and demolition debris at a lower cost than Wheelabrator.

"We have the option of picking the best," Donmez said.

In Plantation last week, city council members gave tentative approval to continue its garbage disposal contract service with Wheelabrator — and get a \$500,300 signing bonus in the process. The council agreed to a five-year contract with five-year extension option. Like in Coral Springs, the money will be allocated to the general fund.

"The city has a proven relationship with [Wheelabrator] and everybody knows what they're getting at the end of the day," said Plantation Councilwoman Lynn Stoner.

But Councilman Bob Levy voted against the contract renewal. He said it was a "rush to judgment. It affects everybody in the community."

And, he isn't happy the money goes into the general fund where "it can be used in any way possible," instead of benefiting residents directly.

Levy is also town manager in Pembroke Park, where commissioners didn't jump at a \$47,130 signing bonus offer. He said the town is still negotiating with three companies, including Sun Bergeron, and no vote is scheduled yet.

"Just because they're holding that carrot doesn't mean you have to eat it," Levy said.

On Wednesday night, Oakland Park commissioners decided not to jump at the \$325,440 loyalty payment they were being offered by Wheelabrator.

The commissioners voted to wait a month, wanting to see what offers Fort Lauderdale receives next week in response to its request for proposals.

Some commissioners said they were concerned about the ethics of Wheelabrator's loyalty payments: Commissioner Suzanne Boisvenue has requested opinions on the legality of the loyalty payments from Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, Broward State Attorney Mike Satz and Broward Inspector General John Scott.

Recently, both Miramar and Davie selected Sun Bergeron. In response, Wheelabrator unsuccessfully

sued Miramar. Southwest Ranches initially decided to go with Sun Bergeron as well, but after the lawsuit "concerns over potential litigation" made them change their mind, said Southwest Ranches Town Manager Andy Berns. The town will now review all the options and vote within the next couple months, he said.

Staff writers Larry Barszewski and Brittany Wallman contributed to this report.

lhuriash@tribune.com or 954-572-2008

Cities and their bonuses

Other cities are considering garbage contracts. Here's a look at their possible bonuses.

Coconut Creek: \$319,450

Deerfield Beach: \$503,370

Fort Lauderdale: \$1,544,850

Hillsboro Beach: \$14,590

Hollywood: \$793,710

Lauderdale-by-the-Sea: \$64,310

Lauderdale Lakes: \$187,710

Lauderhill: \$352,370

Lighthouse Point: \$76,220

Sea Ranch Lakes: \$5,170

Sunrise: \$623,240

Tamarac: \$286,550

West Park: \$58,650

Copyright © 2013, South Florida Sun-Sentinel

Information Officer @ Sun Bergeron

Visit Our website @ SunBergeron.com