

Points to consider

Happy to know the Mayor voted for the RTCW, as his initial understanding of what the measure was about was actually the correct one. It *does* have to do with drinking water, and it *is* about improving Titusville's quality of life. Not sure who he's talked to since then, or what his motives are in flip-flopping on what he believes, but it sounds like he's clearly misinformed on the facts. For example:

- *"That the amendment doesn't cover drinking water"* where, in fact, it specifically includes "underground waters," which is how Titusville gets most of its drinking water – from wells. Don't you want the right to protect these wells from toxic pollution? Well, without a Right to Clean Water, you can't – you just have to trust in the politicians to know what's best for us.
- Connors also uses the word, *"perceives,"* when raising fear and concern about what it takes to bring a lawsuit against a polluter. Everyone knows that you can't bring groundless or frivolous lawsuits; no attorney would take the case and no court would entertain it. A plaintiff who wishes to stop pollution from harming the waters of Titusville would have the experts and evidence at the ready, so why shouldn't polluters be held accountable again?
- *"That it's going to bankrupt the city"* in restoring the *entire* Indian River Lagoon. Connors throws out big, irrelevant numbers of what the County is doing to fund restoration projects, but fails to mention that the Right to Clean Water helps to stop pollution at its source so no one has to pay these millions in the future to clean up and restore what's being damaged today, on our watch.
- Connors states he will *"explain what injunctive relief is" by not explaining anything about it*, but instead walks us through an unbelievable scenario where lawsuits would be launched against the City for allowing rainwater into the Lagoon, demanding dams for each outflow. What he doesn't mention, for reasons unknown, is that when courts review cases "in equity" – i.e., fairness – (where injunctive and declaratory relief are permitted), all presented evidence will be considered, to include whether or to what extent the City is doing its best to prevent harm to waters. The Right to Clean Water is actually a Right of Self Defense – a Right to Expect Responsible Governance on matters as critical as clean water is for the people of Titusville.
- Similarly, he misinterprets the amendment language regarding the phrase, *"a pre-damaged state,"* where the plain meaning of this provision is obviously to hold polluters accountable for the pollution damage *they caused*. The burden is on the plaintiff to show what water conditions were before the polluter damaged Titusville's waters, but if the evidence is there, what's fair is fair. The pollution has to stop, and the taxpayers should not be the ones to always be on the hook for polluters' foreseeable and preventable damages to Titusville waters.
- *"Nobody can define what pollution is,"* except for the fact that the amendment clearly defines pollution in the amendment itself, paralleling to a great degree the same definition found in Florida law.

Connors attempts to cloak himself in credibility, using the official logo of Titusville and his position as Mayor, claiming that he wants to do what's best for the residents of Titusville, but seems to play on their trust for him to explain how things really work – when it is apparent that he doesn't understand it himself.

Instead of opening up this important community discussion during a City Council meeting, he keeps the lid on things and uses official platforms to unilaterally echo the (tired and disproven) talking points given to him. It's truly a shame, because Titusville needs good leadership for the people of Titusville, which Mayor Connors could still be if he did the right thing in this case.

Let the experts and the voices of the people of Titusville in, Mayor, and stop letting the other voices we can't see so well dictate your platform. Lead in the truth and for the safety, health, and wellbeing of the residents of Titusville.

(Previously created summary explainer [here](#).)