



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Town Council  
**From:** Rafael G. Casals, Town Manager  
**Date:** February 17, 2016  
**Re:** WeatherBug Lightning Detection System

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### REQUEST

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER BAY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO EARTH NETWORKS FOR THE PURCHASE OF WEATHERBUG LIGHTNING DETECTION SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,500.00; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXPEND BUDGETED FUNDS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

### BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The welfare and safety of the residents of our Town is of utmost importance. In an effort to further promote the safety of our residents and Park patrons, Town Staff is requesting the purchase of the WeatherBug Lightning Detection System for Town parks; a public announcement system that alerts Park patrons of threats of inclement weather and cautions them to relocate to sheltered areas. The WeatherBug Lightning Detection System would be an invaluable tool that would be operated by our Parks & Recreation Department.

In September 2015, Town Staff met with representatives from Earth Networks, the sole source vendor of the WeatherBug Lightning Detection System, for a system presentation and the possibility of retrofitting the system at the following Town Parks (Attachment "A"):

- Bel Aire Park
- Cutler Ridge Park
- Franjo Park
- Lakes by the Bay Park



In accordance with Section 3.10 of the Town Charter, the Town Manager has made a written recommendation to the Town Council and the Town Council has determined that it is impracticable to competitively bid items because they are available from only one vendor (*Attachment "B"*), and the Town Council finds that approval of the Vendor for the purchase of the goods is in the best interest of the Town.

Additionally, Town Staff has identified the following agencies who utilize the WeatherBug Lightning Detection System; City of North Myrtle Beach, Savannah Airport Operations and the Volusia County EMA (*Attachment "C"*).

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the adoption of the attached Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to issue a purchase order to Earth Networks (*Sole Source Vendor*) for the purchase of WeatherBug Lightning Detection System in the amount of \$31,500.00.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment "A" - WeatherBug Outdoor Alerting Implementation Proposal
- Attachment "B" – Earth Networks Sole Source Letter
- Attachment "C" – Purchase Order Supporting Documents

