

Since LUS employees who speak out publicly about this have been threatened with having their employment terminated for insubordination, I am writing this anonymously.

First a little background. LUS has a division, 7086 Network Engineering, that supports the IT needs of LUS. I'll get to more of the dedicated systems they support in more detail further in. The department consists of 3 PE Network Engineers, 11 Programmers, 1 System Analyst, 1 Engineering Spec 1, and 1 Engineering Aide 3, and 13 members of drafting. The engineers, programmers, analyst, Spec and Aide are IT support. Drafting supports GIS- mapping of electric, water, sewer, and fiber lines.

There are 17 people that comprise the IT support for the LUS billing system, network connections, wireless connections, network user logins, Cares phone system utilized by customer service, network security, storage, backups, OMS, smartmeters, Cityworks, programming of the LUS Billing system, help desk support, dispatch, switches, routers and servers that are all dedicated LUS resources. The head of Network Engineering reports to LUS. Network Engineering also supports fiber computers and fiber logins. Fiber also has its own programmers and engineers that support specific LUS Fiber needs, including the NOC, that handles LUS Fiber customer issues.

LCG, through Josh Guillory, wants to take over both of those and move them from LUS and LUS Fiber to LCG IS&T management. The rationale is creating an "Innovation" department. The reality is it is talent and power grab to support the 311 connected City initiative. Stripping LUS and LUS Fiber of their dedicated support personnel risks the security of their networks, customer information, and the reliability of the LUS and LUS Fiber infrastructure. The consequences are the leaking of data, customers not being able to pay their utility bills for months due to a security breach, the call center going down, or OMS not showing outages. They are real.

Collaboration on the 311 initiative has happened in the past and can in the future without removing critical support from the oversight of LUS and LUS Fiber. There is no reason to move control.

The initiative is currently going through legal review and Civil Service. I cannot speak out without losing my job and pension that I've worked years for, but someone needs to.