

Bankruptcy will stall, but won't stop the power shut down in Veranda Park

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ORLANDO - The recent bankruptcy filing by MetroWest developer **Kevin Azzouz** means that the lights and power won't get turned off at the Residences of Veranda Park until Aug. 21.

Orlando Utilities Commission spokesman Sheridan Becht said that the July 8 bankruptcy filing put a 30 day hold on taking any action on the property, so the original July 21 shut-off date is extended into the first week of August.

The bankruptcy also puts a hold on any current collection efforts of the \$141,000 owed in utility bills on that building.

But going forward, someone must put money up front as a credit to any future bills, Becht said, if the power is to stay on.

Otherwise, the power and water will be turned off.

Becht said that the utility will require a deposit of twice the average monthly bill for the building.

And pending shut downs of water and power in other Veranda Park properties will also go forward as schedule unless the bills are paid.

More than 100 people live in the condo building at Hiawassee Road and Lake Debra Drive. Renters and/or condo owners who have their own meters and are current with their bills won't be able to remain in the building.

Orlando's code enforcement office said that if the power and water go off in the common areas, shutting down the elevators, sprinklers and fire alarms, then the building must be closed for safety reasons.

Azzouz, who has filed three bankruptcies for Veranda Park properties owes OUC more than \$378,000.

He couldn't be reached for comment.

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