



# City of Cocoa, Florida

UTILITIES/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
600 School Street Cocoa, Florida 32922  
PHONE (407) 639-7671 FAX (407) 639-7663

**Serving the Community**

---

---

March 3, 1998

Mr. Eber Ohlsson  
VA-verket Malmö  
SE-205 80 Malmö  
Sweden

Dear Mr. Ohlsson:

This letter is in response to your request for information about Cocoa's water tower. Chicago Bridge & Iron Company built the steel elevated tank in 1957 at a cost of \$312,500. Gee & Jenson, Inc., prepared the Plans and specifications.

The water tower has a capacity of 1.5 million gallons (5.7 million liters) and stands 165 feet (50.3 meters) from ground to top of tank. Originally the tank was coated inside with coal tar paint and outside with red lead primer under alkyd.

In 1972 the tank was sandblasted and repainted. The project included minor repairs to welds, replacement of bolts, and replacement of some steel plate. Total cost for repair and maintenance was \$21,200.

In 1976, Royal Painting Company of Merritt Island, Florida painted the American flags on the water tower, at no cost to Cocoa, to commemorate the United State's Bicentennial. Demetrios Dourakos, president of Royal Painting immigrated to the U.S. in 1956 and wanted to express his appreciation to his adopted country on its 200th birthday. Dourakos designed the flags, each of which is 31 feet (9.45 meters) high and 84 feet (25.6 meters) wide.

Sterling Division of Reichhold Chemicals, Inc., Sewickley, Pennsylvania donated paint and materials. The project took 10 days to complete using 120 gallons of paint.

In 1985, Sieg & Ambachtsheer, Inc., from Deland, Florida made minor repairs to the exterior consisting primarily of sandblasting and painting.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

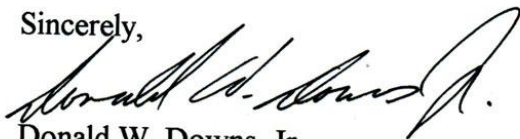
In 1991, the tank received a major overhaul. Much of the tank portion of the water tower had to be replaced due to rust damage. The portion of the tank above the water line required the most extensive repairs due to oxidation. Originally the tank had a primer coat of "red lead" that was very effective in preventing rust. Now considered a hazardous substance, the red lead had to be removed and handled as a hazardous waste. Brown Steel and PAN Construction were awarded the \$604,800 contract to refurbish the water tower.

There were several problems associated with the 1991 project including:

- Failure of the contractor to pay for removal of hazardous waste from the job site.
- Legal claims from 79 automobile owners concerning paint over-spray on their cars.
- Defective clear coating over the American flags.

Back in 1957, when the tank was built, there was very little development around the water tower. By 1991 there were many more people and businesses in the area complicating such a major rehabilitation.

Sincerely,



Donald W. Downs, Jr.  
Conservation/Public Relations Officer