

## CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Friday, August 16, 2019

TIME: 9:02 a.m. - 11:18 a.m.

PLACE: Lynwood Roberts Room  
First Floor  
City Hall at St. James Building  
117 West Duval Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lindsey Brock, Chairperson  
Ann-Marie Knight, Vice Chairperson  
Jessica Baker, Board Member  
Charles Griggs, Board Member  
Chris Hagan, Board Member  
Emily Lisska, Board Member  
Nelson McCoy, Board Member  
Celestine Mills, Board Member  
Betzy Santiago, Board Member  
Hon. Matt Schellenberg, Board Member

### ALSO PRESENT:

#### CRC STAFF:

Cheryl L. Brown, Council Secretary  
Carol Owens, Chief of Legislative  
Services  
Jessica Matthews, Legislative Services  
Supervisor  
Paige Johnston, Office of General  
Counsel  
Louis Marino, CC IT Systems Manager  
Anthony Baltiero, Research Assistant

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Good morning, everyone. It is August 16, 2019, just a little after 9:00. And we are here for the second meeting of the Charter Revision Commission.

A couple of things housekeeping-wise: Make sure you have your cell phones silenced, please. Also, I was reminded -- and I may not be doing it myself, but please make sure you're speaking into the microphone when you are talking so that we can get all of the audio down and so that it's streaming properly.

Louie, did I do that right?

MR. MARINO: (Indicating).

CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So remarks from the chair.

Our first item: We are going to try to begin to set our regular Commission meetings where all of us will meet together.

So last time I asked if folks would give their unavailable dates to Carol Owens so that we can add the schedule down. As some -- some folks didn't and, unfortunately,

1 Scott Shine had to resign from the  
2 Commission because those meeting dates  
3 conflicted with dates on his calendar that  
4 he previously had scheduled.

5 So, again, if there are dates that you  
6 know you're not available or certain times,  
7 please get that to Carol Owens because, as  
8 we begin to set our schedule, we want to  
9 make sure that we have as many folks here as  
10 we can.

11 You know, we're doing our listening and  
12 prioritizing here through the end of  
13 September. Our goal is to -- you know, by  
14 the end of September, to identify those  
15 priorities, and then we'll have our  
16 subcommittees and break up. And those  
17 subcommittees will be doing the work,  
18 bringing in folks to testify, doing the  
19 fact-finding, and making those specific  
20 recommendations on those priorities that we  
21 have.

22 We've had a lot of inquiries in through  
23 different folks in the media, and just so --  
24 and I believe Commissioner Baker had  
25 mentioned this the last time.

1           Our goal is not to go back to items that  
2           have been proposed by previous Charter  
3           Commissions and just revamp that and spend  
4           the time studying on that. As recent  
5           developments have shown, those  
6           recommendations are out there, and the  
7           Legislature or the Council can take the  
8           action that they feel appropriate as to  
9           those recommendations.

10           So, again, unless, you know, we say,  
11           Well, we think -- we're going to work on  
12           this section of the Charter that they did  
13           before but we're going to do something  
14           different, okay, if we have a different  
15           proposal.

16           But we're not going to go back and just  
17           kind of underline and say, We like what they  
18           did; we don't like what they did. They're  
19           out there, and they're available for the  
20           Council and the Legislature to act on. So I  
21           just wanted to make sure that we're all  
22           clear on that.

23           We are beginning to get legislators and  
24           some of the other electeds to come in, and  
25           we'll be sending around a schedule of those

1           that are already responding to fill up our  
2           slots for our meetings throughout the rest  
3           of September and our next one in two weeks.

4           I think Chris Hand will be coming on  
5           September 6th; and the goal is that we will  
6           all have copies of the 50th Anniversary  
7           Edition of The Quiet Revolution, which will  
8           also have certain recommendations and ideas  
9           in there for Charter revisions, some areas  
10          that could be possibly tweaked in there. So  
11          I'm looking forward to hearing him speak on  
12          those items.

13           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: September --

14           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That will be  
15          September 6th. He and I spoke last on that.

16           I have the list from Commissioner  
17          Schellenberg of additional people, and I've  
18          been reaching out to a lot of those folks on  
19          your list.

20           As we go into the next one of updates  
21          from commissioners -- I've spoken with the  
22          staff, and we're going to go back through  
23          the transcript from the last meeting and  
24          begin to get our list of issues that we all  
25          spoke about, that we all said were

1 priorities and things that we thought that  
2 we could be looking into. So we're going to  
3 develop that, and before the next meeting,  
4 we're going to have that circulated.

5 But I wanted to kind of go back around  
6 the room, and we'll begin here with  
7 Commissioner Santiago. And two questions:  
8 One, is there anyone that you think we  
9 should be hearing from as we begin to  
10 develop our priorities; and, two, have you  
11 thought about any of the areas that we could  
12 be working on that we could maybe refine  
13 those issues down?

14 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Does that make  
16 sense?

17 And I know it's putting everybody on the  
18 spot, but --

19 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: A little bit.  
20 (Pausing.)

21 You know, for me, the areas that I  
22 really -- is my mic...

23 For me, the areas that I really wanted  
24 to kind of focus on was, I'd like to hear  
25 more from Safety, something from the Safety

1           -- on the Safety side, I think I'd like to  
2 really revisit.

3           And I think this is contrary to what you  
4 just said, but I'd like to revisit those  
5 staggered terms and maybe revisit -- there  
6 was a recommendation that was made to me by  
7 somebody that I spoke to this past week that  
8 said, with the issues that we're having with  
9 the General Counsel's Office, perhaps there  
10 should be three counsels that make a final  
11 recommendation. So maybe revisiting some of  
12 those issues as well.

13           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. And, you  
14 know, what I said about not revisiting,  
15 again, if we look at it and there's -- and  
16 we say, Hey, here's a different way to do  
17 staggered terms, then I think that that's  
18 something -- I think that's something good  
19 for us to -- you know, to go into, because  
20 then there are two options in dealing with  
21 that issue.

22           That's my main thing, is for us to -- we  
23 have an opportunity to do something  
24 different, and that was the main point on  
25 that.

1           But, yeah, I've heard some other  
2 proposals on staggered terms as well that I  
3 think will be coming to us.

4           All right. Commissioner Lisska.

5           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Good morning all.  
6 I haven't really thought about this, other  
7 than the last -- well, I have, in some  
8 regards, but more immediate --

9           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's your  
10 homework. You're supposed to be thinking  
11 about this 24/7.

12          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Was that my  
13 homework? So often is, in public schooling,  
14 I forgot to write that down.

15          Anyway, what I will say, I'd like to  
16 hear from as many people that the time  
17 affords who have institutional knowledge.  
18 And I think it would be helpful to hear  
19 from both.

20          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I'm sorry; who was  
21 the first one you said?

22          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Oh, no. Hearing  
23 from individuals with institutional  
24 knowledge, people who've been very close to  
25 government in one way or another. I mean,



1 including the constitutional officers, I  
2 think we need to hear from them. Former  
3 constitutional officers as well. I think we  
4 need to take a look at that. Elected  
5 officials and former elected officials would  
6 be helpful. Anyone close to the situation.  
7 I was very pleased to see that Chris Hand  
8 would likely be scheduled.

9 I think as far as you ask about  
10 additional participants, as I recall,  
11 Mr. Chairman, you had given us the six weeks  
12 to vet that a little bit. So I guess I  
13 haven't taken my six weeks yet.

14 So I'm not giving you names, but I am  
15 suggesting hearing from people who really  
16 have experience in government. So,  
17 therefore, staff members in significant  
18 positions, I'd certainly like to hear from.  
19 And Chris Hand would be an example of that,  
20 a former staff member.

21 I'd also like to -- as far as  
22 refining -- that was the other half of your  
23 question -- not at this point; if you can  
24 give us a couple more of those six weeks, I  
25 would be grateful.

1           I do think reading this -- it's not a  
2           sequel to the Quiet Revolution, but it is an  
3           update with a sequel. That's sort of it --  
4           that Chris Hand has just finished, will be a  
5           tremendous help to this Commission, and I'll  
6           look forward to everybody reading that,  
7           because it will -- it will provide the  
8           compromises that were made initially with  
9           the Charter, and I think that's going to be  
10          insightful. And it might even produce -- it  
11          could produce a series of interesting  
12          reactions; such as, Compromise is good;  
13          compromise maybe wasn't good; and I think  
14          it's going to give us a lot of room for  
15          thought and reflection once we have that  
16          available as well, because it gives us a lot  
17          of the history dealing with the creation of  
18          the original Charter.

19                 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And I agree with you  
20                 a hundred percent. And just so everyone  
21                 knows, my goal during this -- these meetings  
22                 coming up here through September is that  
23                 we're going to begin with this same process  
24                 of I'll --

25                 COMMISSIONER: (Inaudible.)

1           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. It's going to  
2 be, Who do you think we should be hearing  
3 from -- who do you think we should be  
4 hearing from, and what are some of the  
5 issues as we begin to refine it down?  
6 That's our goal in there. We'll be doing  
7 that every meeting from here on out, so...

8           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: And one more thing  
9 to mention. Once Mr. -- I believe you said  
10 you're going to review the tapes and all, so  
11 Mr. Schellenberg is working on the list as  
12 well.

13           I know that I did write down notes from  
14 the suggestions. If you would like me to  
15 turn those over to staff, I will have some  
16 of the names that were suggested. And I  
17 think once those names are brought up again,  
18 adding to that would be a little easier than  
19 recreating what we did last meeting.

20           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Absolutely.  
21 We're --

22           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you.

23           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. We're working  
24 on getting those.

25           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Griggs.

2 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Chairman.

4 My first question is going back to your  
5 remarks. I know that you talked about  
6 Mr. Shine's resignation, and my question  
7 would be, given that that's going to give us  
8 an even number now, do we plan on replacing  
9 with a new commissioner?

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The email that I saw  
11 in response from Council Member Bowman is  
12 that we can have up to 15. All of the  
13 districts have to be represented, and they  
14 are still all represented. So, according to  
15 the code, we don't have to have a  
16 replacement.

17 If we end up in a tiebreaker situation,  
18 maybe we'll just go back to Jerry Holland's  
19 method of picking numbered ping pong balls  
20 and flipping a coin --

21 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: That was my --

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- to see which way  
23 the vote goes.

24 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: That was my  
25 concern.

1           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Hopefully --  
2           hopefully, we will not be dealing with  
3           topics that are that close, because if  
4           they're that close, I think our chances of  
5           getting any kind of action by the City  
6           Council, the Legislature, is probably slim  
7           to none.

8           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Yeah. Thank you.  
9           That was my concern.

10          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No, no. I  
11          appreciate -- yeah. That was brought up,  
12          and I'm glad that it was so that I had an  
13          answer for you.

14          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. Thank you.  
15          So I have been sort of -- I don't want  
16          to say bombarded, but I've gotten a  
17          significant amount of input from people in  
18          the community, and so I have a list.

19          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

20          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: And I'm going  
21          to -- I've tried to condense the list, you  
22          know, against the Charter versus -- you  
23          know, try to educate -- be as educated as I  
24          can and try to educate constituents,  
25          people -- citizens who would have concerns

1 about how they can have input here.

2 I've tried to invite as many people to  
3 the meetings as possible; but, you know,  
4 9:00 is sometimes going to be not very  
5 advantageous to the public to be here.

6 So the first item is in the spirit of  
7 Downtown Investment Authority. I know the  
8 last time we were here I talked about how we  
9 could do things to remedy some of the  
10 neglect that's gone on in the urban core  
11 through consolidation.

12 I've had ideas about, you know, how do  
13 we address things, maybe by standing up in  
14 the Urban Core Investment Authority. We  
15 have -- the Charter allows for authorities  
16 to be put in place to address certain  
17 issues. And so, you know, some folks  
18 would -- recommended that we do something  
19 like that.

20 It's been my experience in working for  
21 the Department of Health that we haven't  
22 had -- I don't think we've sort of operated  
23 really in the spirit of how the County  
24 Health Department function is supposed to  
25 really run.

1           The way it was supposed to run is that  
2           the City -- or the County was supposed to  
3           assist in funding, providing resources for  
4           the County Health Department to satisfy the  
5           state statute 154.

6           And I was looking at the old chart, and  
7           it has the County Health Department function  
8           under judicial section. I don't know how it  
9           got there, but it just seemed kind of odd  
10          that it was there.

11          But there are three main areas that the  
12          County is supposed to provide for through  
13          the County Health Department, and that is  
14          clinic services, disease control, and  
15          environmental services.

16          In most counties those have a -- those  
17          areas are funded, dedicated, for those areas  
18          in most counties. And I was hoping that  
19          maybe we could find -- or refine or define  
20          the structure in the Charter that allows  
21          for -- because there's a lot of old language  
22          there -- that allows for dedicated funding  
23          through each administration for those basic  
24          services to be provided for through the  
25          County Health Department.

1 I had some questions. I saw some of  
2 these authorities that are now sort of maybe  
3 defunct, and folks asked about what happened  
4 to the Hospital Authority? What happened to  
5 the Sports Development Authority? Does that  
6 still exist? If so, what are they doing?  
7 If not, you know, what would be the -- what  
8 were some opportunity to see them, you know,  
9 maybe sort of re-stood up here?

10 And we've had some -- you know, one of  
11 the hot topics really has been the function  
12 of the Office of General Counsel. I've had  
13 people tell me that they felt like that this  
14 process didn't allow for independent thought  
15 in here, regarding independent counsel  
16 services and the way they function. I had  
17 recommendations that maybe the independent  
18 -- the Office of General Counsel should have  
19 staggered terms, and so they would cross  
20 over between administrations.

21 In the Charter it says that they're  
22 supposed to be appointed; that the Mayor has  
23 the authority to appoint those general  
24 counsels, and that -- you know, that allows  
25 them to make their choice. There may be



1           some opportunity there to look at how that  
2           would function if those terms were staggered  
3           and maybe give us a little more autonomy --  
4           or perceived autonomy to the public in the  
5           way the OGC operates.

6           This one was a wild one: City Council  
7           president being an elected position for a  
8           four-year term. That person would be  
9           elected countywide -- or citywide as an  
10          at-large member of the City Council and  
11          serve a four-year term and staggered against  
12          the mayoral term, and that would give the  
13          City Council president an opportunity to  
14          plan and be strategic about how they  
15          approach City business, and not be one term  
16          and have to -- you know, have to deal with  
17          the -- by the time I get to the budget, my  
18          year is over. And that was an idea that  
19          someone gave me.

20          And there was some -- a lot of questions  
21          around authorities and constitutional  
22          officers and what types of options that they  
23          have regarding binding legal counsel;  
24          because someone told me that if I go to my  
25          lawyer and I don't like the advice my lawyer

1 is giving me, I have the option to fire that  
2 lawyer and go get another one.

3 In this case, under the Charter, the  
4 authorities and other constitutional  
5 officers don't have an option other than to  
6 seek judgment from a judge, where they have  
7 to have permission from the General  
8 Counsel's Office, or wait for a ruling from  
9 the AGC -- from the Attorney General.

10 So those were -- those were on my list,  
11 and I think that when we get into  
12 subcommittees maybe we can get more  
13 information about how some of these ideas  
14 can be vetted out --

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: -- and maybe if  
17 there's some opportunity to see how we can  
18 make some changes around those areas.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I'm going to  
20 break from how our agenda was going because  
21 I see Mayor/President Delaney is here, and I  
22 had asked him to come and speak, and  
23 probably right on to a perfect segue given  
24 Commissioner Griggs' last topic there on the  
25 Office of General Counsel.

1           So I've got a chair here so that we can  
2           get the video and everything going.

3           MAYOR DELANEY:   Either one?

4           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:   It doesn't matter;  
5           either one.

6           And so for those of you that don't know,  
7           which I can't imagine, but --

8           MAYOR DELANEY:   You've got some young  
9           people up here.

10          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:   -- Mr. Delaney has  
11          served as -- you know, in a lot of different  
12          roles in our government, from General  
13          Counsel, Chief of Staff, Mayor, all through  
14          the gamut.

15          So we really appreciate you being here  
16          today and, you know, speaking to us about  
17          your experience and where you see some  
18          different things that could be tweaked.

19          MAYOR DELANEY:   Sure.   Well, great.

20          Well, thanks for the invitation, and  
21          thanks for the time you-all are spending on  
22          this.   Every 10 years when these groups are  
23          appointed, I don't know if everybody  
24          understands how much time goes into this.  
25          And there's always some good suggestions

1           that have come out of these, and not all are  
2           acted on. And I think most of them I would  
3           have loved to see have been acted on.

4           First, a quick response to one of the  
5           things Mr. Griggs said, and then we can get  
6           into the General Counsel's discussion a  
7           little further.

8           Personally, I've always sort of resisted  
9           the idea of a dedicated funding source for  
10          an entity. Libraries often want them; fire  
11          departments, in some places, want them.

12          When -- in Florida the state's always  
13          going to grow. So when a governmental  
14          entity knows that every year they're going  
15          to have more money next year than the year  
16          before, and it goes up, my fear has been it  
17          isn't managed particularly well in that it  
18          doesn't allow the central government to  
19          really manage that and set some priorities.

20          And so I've always been hesitant on  
21          that. Every now and then there's some that  
22          you go, Hey, that makes some sense. So I  
23          just have some caution on it as sort of  
24          somebody that's sort of lived political  
25          science.

1           I know you've heard the history, and I  
2 know that Ms. Lisska knows it very, very  
3 well, that -- what led to the consolidation  
4 of the government.

5           In the early 1960s, late 1950s, the  
6 Sheriff was indicted. Early 1960s the  
7 School Board lost its accreditation, and  
8 then there was a wave of indictments of City  
9 Counselors and County Commissioners.  
10 Roughly half of the total of those were  
11 indicted.

12           And the business and community leaders  
13 sort of threw their hands up and said, We  
14 want a do-over. We want to start completely  
15 over. We've got a -- the rest of Florida  
16 was starting to grow well beyond where  
17 Jacksonville was. And at the time the  
18 discussion, and kind of political science  
19 circles, was that perhaps consolidating into  
20 a central government, that maybe the idea of  
21 a city and a county separate government, or  
22 cities within a county, maybe that wasn't  
23 the most efficient way to be able to  
24 administer.

25           If you go to Dade County, for example,

1 Miami-Dade County, there's three dozen  
2 cities with their own governments in Dade  
3 County. And if you think of trying to  
4 manage economic development where you may be  
5 going to three different cities, plus having  
6 to deal with the county, there's a massive  
7 overlap.

8 And so there was a series of concepts on  
9 why this was to merge together. A lot of it  
10 was efficiency. You've got two police  
11 departments: a city police department, a  
12 county sheriff. You've got two sets of  
13 permitting; you've got two sets of  
14 environmental regulators; et cetera. So the  
15 idea was to put them all under one umbrella.

16 One key premise was the idea of what was  
17 known as central services. All these  
18 various governmental entities bought their  
19 own copy machines and ordered their own  
20 paper and had their own H/R and human  
21 resource offices, their own payroll systems.  
22 I don't even know if computers were much  
23 around then, but their own computing systems  
24 or IT systems. And also had their own  
25 lawyers. They would all hire their own

1 lawyers, and outside.

2 And so you had a lot of private law  
3 firms who were doing a lot of work for City  
4 and County governmental entities, and it  
5 wasn't particularly efficient.

6 No individual entity really had the  
7 ability to have enough resources to hire an  
8 array of lawyers with different experiences  
9 or backgrounds to handle particular practice  
10 areas.

11 So one of the key components of this was  
12 to centralize purchasing and procurement.  
13 The idea would be that you could get a  
14 massive discount on copy machines, paper, et  
15 cetera, if you had that all consolidated and  
16 the purchasing power would allow that to  
17 really trim it up.

18 And in the early years of consolidation  
19 there was massive savings as you merged  
20 these two departments together. I mean,  
21 millions, tens and tens of millions of  
22 dollars.

23 Well, one key threshold that the  
24 Chairman asked me to sort of speak on is the  
25 Office of the General Counsel. And in this

1           the City fathers and mothers sort of  
2           borrowed from a couple of different places.

3           One was a corporate governance model  
4           where, you know, major corporations sort of  
5           have two checks and balances within their  
6           system. First you've got a board of  
7           directors and they hire the CEO. And then  
8           within that there is an internal auditor  
9           just to check to make sure things are  
10          legitimate and those processes are healthy.  
11          And also the general counsel.

12          Those two positions are joint reports to  
13          the CEO and also to the board. And the duty  
14          really of the general counsel and the  
15          internal auditor is to the corporate entity,  
16          the idea that it's supposed to check it and  
17          make sure laws are being followed; that  
18          there's not illegalities, that the proper  
19          processes are followed, both those  
20          functions.

21          Here, the internal audit function is now  
22          in the City Council Auditor. They're the  
23          ones that kind of check the Executive Branch  
24          and go through to make sure processes are  
25          followed and, you know, federal and state



1 regulations are followed, et cetera.

2 And then it's the Office of the General  
3 Counsel. That had some reforms about four  
4 years ago. Some recommendations were to  
5 tweak that search process. The search  
6 process requires five people, all attorneys.  
7 Two have to be former general counsels for  
8 the City. Those are appointed by the Mayor.  
9 It's, of course, a public search all in the  
10 open, and then they make a recommendation to  
11 the Mayor who to appoint.

12 And there may be some tweaks to that  
13 process that this group may want to consider  
14 that I can talk about a little later if  
15 you're interested in those, but the idea  
16 that you need this office to be independent.

17 Down the years there's often the  
18 perception that this office is more loyal to  
19 whoever happens to be Mayor. There's often  
20 that perception. And I'll go back to when I  
21 was a general counsel under Mayor Ed Austin.  
22 There, frankly, was nobody closer to Ed  
23 Austin than me. He was like a second father  
24 to me.

25 When I was Mayor, I appointed first Fred

1 Franklin and then later Rick Mullaney, who  
2 are two of my best friends -- were then and  
3 are now. But that doesn't mean that I  
4 didn't tell Mayor Austin, You can't do that;  
5 that's illegal; that's improper; that's not  
6 following the right code. And it certainly  
7 happened with Fred and Rick -- Fred Franklin  
8 and Rick Mullaney to me.

9 Those tend to not be out in the public  
10 because they're in private discussions. And  
11 I remember pounding my fist, trying to tell  
12 them, I should be able to do this. And they  
13 say, No, the law's not there on that.

14 When it is the advice is given to a  
15 School Board or the City Council, it's more  
16 in the public where they see that the  
17 General Counsel is sort of checking that.

18 So the General Counsel's Office really  
19 has two functions. One is it is the lawyer  
20 for all of the entities in the government,  
21 he or she, and they hire lawyers that -- on  
22 a permanent basis to be able to help staff  
23 those. On occasion there's either a volume  
24 or an expertise issue that the General  
25 Counsel will hire outside to be able to

1 handle a case.

2 One example was when we passed the  
3 Better Jacksonville Plan in the year 2000,  
4 there was a billion-and-a-half dollars'  
5 worth of roadwork. There was 50 million, I  
6 think, in terms of park acquisition. And so  
7 you needed to condemn some land.

8 And so there was just too much volume  
9 for the one or two lawyers that were in the  
10 office to handle that. So we hired three,  
11 four, five outside lawyers to help with the  
12 land acquisition component of that plan.

13 The other role that the General Counsel  
14 has -- and this is now bothered -- borrowed  
15 a little less from the corporate  
16 environment, although it's close to the way  
17 our federal government is set up and our  
18 state government. It actually -- he or she  
19 acts also as sort of the internal Supreme  
20 Court.

21 The idea had been, prior to  
22 consolidation, is you had these governmental  
23 entities suing each other. And they would  
24 have disputes, and it would cost a lot of  
25 money; and then maybe a court would issue

1 something some years later with a -- you  
2 know, with a bit of finality.

3 But the idea would be that the General  
4 Counsel, who has this corporate  
5 responsibility to the larger entity, the  
6 corporate government, is supposed to be able  
7 to issue a binding, legal opinion to say,  
8 Okay, no more of this; this is resolved,  
9 that you don't have this stuff continued.

10 Perhaps an analogy to stick in -- that  
11 may be the best to stick, and at least it  
12 works in my mind -- is think of General  
13 Motors, which has a number of car divisions.  
14 You can't have Chevrolet suing Buick.  
15 That's just not the way a corporation would  
16 run. And the theory in the early years was  
17 that's exactly what should happen here.

18 You can't -- shouldn't have the JEA  
19 suing the City Council or the Airport  
20 Authority suing the Mayor. The idea was  
21 that those disputes would be resolved  
22 internally and with some finality.

23 In the early years, there was a lot of  
24 these binding, legal opinions as the  
25 consolidation happened and you had to kind

1 of make some balls and strikes. And the  
2 people that have served in that role,  
3 there's a pretty good element of prestige  
4 that's in those positions.

5 The first general counsel was a  
6 well-regarded judge in town. The second  
7 general counsel was later president of The  
8 Florida Bar; the third later became State  
9 Attorney; the fourth had been State  
10 Attorney, Public Defender, later Mayor. And  
11 then I'd spin ahead: Another was a judge.  
12 I was probably the least qualified walking  
13 in there. Several became -- you know, ran  
14 for Mayor. And so you've had a lot of  
15 quality lawyers in that position.

16 Now, are they always right? They're  
17 not. They're not always right. And, I  
18 mean, I've got court opinions right now that  
19 I look at and I just say, That's just a  
20 wrong decision by that judge. But can it  
21 work out?

22 And in this case I think the one that's  
23 probably the hottest or the most topical  
24 would be the issue between the School Board  
25 and the setting of the election. And a

1 judge just ruled in Clay County that -- a  
2 different interpretation than the General  
3 Counsel has on that one. It looks like the  
4 Attorney General, my gut is, is also going  
5 to overrule it. So that process seems to  
6 have worked out down the years.

7 I know that some want to say, Let's  
8 completely change that authority. Let's let  
9 all of the entities start hiring their  
10 lawyers again. And that's really a path, in  
11 my opinion, to some chaos; that it defeats  
12 that core premise of central services. It  
13 would become -- it would be a lawyer relief  
14 act. I'm in private practice now, so maybe  
15 there's money to be made out there. I just  
16 think it's a bad policy to really be able to  
17 go that way.

18 And it's worked well down the years.  
19 You know, occasional decisions people have  
20 disputed. And I argued vehemently -- Fred  
21 Franklin issued an opinion that I couldn't  
22 veto a particular action of the City Council  
23 because of the nature of the bill that the  
24 Council was doing, and I was angry at him  
25 for years. Now, looking back, I think he

1 was right and I was really wrong on it.

2 And so I think in the end those things  
3 resolve themselves. But the importance of  
4 that office I don't really think should be  
5 diminished.

6 The consolidation, this structure, to my  
7 knowledge, every single political scientist  
8 that has studied this and any practitioner  
9 -- city managers, county administrators, et  
10 cetera -- point to Jacksonville to say,  
11 That's the best structure for a government;  
12 that that is the healthiest structure for a  
13 government.

14 Now, going back to a point Mr. Griggs  
15 was making that I do agree with, that I  
16 often say one of the things that it has not  
17 done well was address neighborhoods; that by  
18 now Arlington would be a city; Southside  
19 would be a city; the Northwest would be a  
20 city; Mandarin would be a city; the Westside  
21 would have a city government, and those city  
22 governments then would be more responsive to  
23 the immediate regional needs of that  
24 community. But overall it's healthier to be  
25 able to have this consolidated.

1           I don't think we would have gotten the  
2           Jaguars here if we had a bunch of little  
3           different cities here. It allows economic  
4           development efforts to be healthier. It's  
5           not always perfect. They don't always go  
6           exactly where you'd like them to go, but  
7           those are policy issues that I think we  
8           should push on our elected officials to  
9           address.

10           Well, Mr. Brock, I think I kind of ran  
11           through it and am certainly willing to  
12           debate, defend.

13           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, again, I  
14           appreciate you being here. And one of the  
15           main reasons was, you know, the Office of  
16           General Counsel has been a topic that's come  
17           up in there.

18           Does anyone have any questions?

19           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Through the  
20           Chair.

21           Mayor Delaney, a couple of questions:  
22           Should the General Counsel's -- other than  
23           Mullaney, most of them had not served a  
24           lengthy time. He served the longest.

25           Should we not have some kind of four



1 years and we're going to try somebody new to  
2 give a better perspective about what's going  
3 on? That's one question.

4 And I tend to agree with you with  
5 centralized purchasing. But, you know,  
6 recently, there's a lot of stuff that's  
7 happened in the last two weeks since we last  
8 met, and the -- Central Purchasing just  
9 agreed to a single source contract for  
10 \$120,000 for somebody coming back, which  
11 leads me to the next question I have is: Is  
12 there some kind of ethics that we should  
13 look at that says if you used to work for  
14 the administration and the high level, you  
15 can't come back and lobby or work for them  
16 for a certain period of time?

17 MAYOR DELANEY: I'll go with the first  
18 one.

19 In the -- the City fathers and mothers  
20 in the '60s did envision exactly what you  
21 described for the tenure of a general  
22 counsel. The theory then was that you would  
23 take a well-established, gray-haired lawyer  
24 that would serve a couple years and then go  
25 back to his or her law firm. And that was

1 the theory in the early years.

2 In those days lawyers were far more  
3 generalists and they tended to do whatever  
4 walked in the door. You know, they'd do a  
5 will one day, a criminal case the next;  
6 they'd do a land use thing, et cetera.

7 The law has gotten far more specific  
8 down the years. And I think I could make a  
9 case that having someone with a longer  
10 tenure can stabilize the office. When  
11 you're there longer, you kind of look at the  
12 weaker lawyers.

13 I really had two one-year stents and, at  
14 the end of a year, I had kind of gotten the  
15 sense of the lawyers, and there was a number  
16 that really shouldn't have been in that  
17 office. But I was gone before you really  
18 are able to pull the trigger. The next one  
19 comes in, takes a look at it, looks at it a  
20 little bit differently.

21 So I think it's -- you know, we've got a  
22 process that a committee selects, a Mayor  
23 recommends, and the City Council approves.  
24 And so if the City Council doesn't like that  
25 performance, it doesn't necessarily have to

1 remove that -- it can go ahead and say,  
2 We're not going to approve that individual  
3 for reappointment.

4 There's been one quirk in that where  
5 Cindy Laquidara's tenure -- she was --  
6 somehow issued an opinion that she could be  
7 reappointed without an approval of the City  
8 Council, and I think that probably was a  
9 wrong way to go. But it just sort of went  
10 in the winds.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Well, just  
12 to follow up on that, she opined that it was  
13 okay.

14 MAYOR DELANEY: Correct.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Which  
16 clearly was against the law at the time.

17 MAYOR DELANEY: Well, yeah, you know,  
18 lawyers get blind spots, you know. Jason, I  
19 think, has kind of got one on the School  
20 Board ruling, and I've had some myself, and  
21 what you hope is the process works that out.

22 I think the City Council could have done  
23 something on that if they wanted to.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Well, I  
25 tried. But, again, she opined that you

1           couldn't do anything.

2           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, all right.

3           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: But the  
4 other question --

5           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We're not here to  
6 debate.

7           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I'm just  
8 making a comment. To educate the committee  
9 is what we're trying to do.

10          So how about the single source kind of  
11 issues?

12          MAYOR DELANEY: I don't know enough  
13 about that particular one. I mean, the  
14 Executive Branch and the Mayors often have  
15 some discretion within the budget on being  
16 able to expend monies, you know, below  
17 certain thresholds.

18          And so the single source -- I mean, that  
19 happens on occasion. There's usually rules  
20 for why -- what you've got to go through to  
21 establish why you're going to do the single  
22 source kind of a thing. You know, I tend to  
23 think Mayors ought to have some discretion  
24 in hiring in some of those kinds of deals.

25          I do think that -- you've mentioned some

1 of the ethics provisions, and there's State  
2 ethics and there's a City ethics code. And  
3 it's something that this Commission could  
4 certainly address on who gets hired, how  
5 quickly after serving, and whether they've  
6 got a ban of a certain number of years.  
7 That's certainly something that you could  
8 consider.

9 Some cases -- and most states have moved  
10 in that direction, and it's, I think,  
11 probably a healthy way to go.

12 In some cases though the criticism of  
13 that is that you take away some talent and  
14 expertise that may be able to inform the  
15 process. So, you know, you've always got to  
16 understand the consequences of the decisions  
17 that you make.

18 If I can go one -- one point that I  
19 meant to mention going on -- which was one  
20 of the more egregious things that I think a  
21 government entity did.

22 It was discovered 16, 17, 18, 19 years  
23 ago that the School Board had never bid the  
24 school bus contracts. And this was roughly  
25 a \$40-million contract that went out to a

1 series of bus contractors. And they just  
2 rolled them over every year and gave a  
3 little COLA, a cost of living increase.

4 And the General Counsel gave an opinion  
5 that you've got to follow State and City  
6 procurement laws. You've got to bid these  
7 things out. And the School Board actually  
8 voted four to three to say no.

9 And one of the reasons were that some of  
10 the big campaign contributors at the time  
11 were school bus contractors, and these  
12 contracts had literally been in families for  
13 generations. Some families would give the  
14 route -- the bus route that they had as a  
15 wedding gift to their kids; or when they  
16 died, it was a will to go to their  
17 grandkids. And it took the General Counsel  
18 to issue an opinion.

19 And in that case, the School Board  
20 sued -- much like here a volunteer lawyer  
21 came forward -- and lost, and the Attorney  
22 General ruled that the General Counsel's  
23 opinion was correct, that you had to bid  
24 those damn things out.

25 So if the School Board had its own

1 lawyer, would that have happened? I don't  
2 think so. I mean, I think odds are  
3 internally they would have allowed that to  
4 continue, especially with the strong desire  
5 of the School Board to continue that  
6 process.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Thank you,  
8 Mayor.

9 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I have a question.  
10 I would just add to that: When those  
11 contracts were pulled back in and they were  
12 bid out, a lot of those contracts were  
13 minority bus contractors and they lost --  
14 they lost their bus contracts with the  
15 district, and so a lot of them went out of  
16 business. So that was one of the negative  
17 outcomes --

18 MAYOR DELANEY: Well, they all went out  
19 of business. I mean, you basically had two  
20 or three national chains that came in. They  
21 hired a lot of the drivers and this sort of  
22 a thing. But, you know, the laws are you've  
23 got to bid them out.

24 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Right.

25 MAYOR DELANEY: And as you know, I'm a

1 big supporter of minority contracting,  
2 minority hiring. That was one of the  
3 conditions when we did the procurement.  
4 That was one of the big investments we were  
5 making in the Northwest Quadrant. And so I  
6 get that. But there's other ways to do it.

7 I mean, the school system needs the  
8 cheapest and most efficient way to deliver  
9 that sys- -- the bus routes. And it was  
10 looking literally at saving close to five  
11 percent of their budget, you know.

12 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Yeah. So I don't  
13 think -- I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No, no. Go ahead.  
15 Go ahead.

16 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I don't think --  
17 in my opinion, I'm not concerned with the  
18 autonomy of the General Counsel's Office. I  
19 believe that's a good thing.

20 The part where I think it gives a lot of  
21 citizens heartburn is where they don't feel  
22 like -- they don't feel comfortable with how  
23 the process works in terms of how it  
24 addresses or gives those agencies an  
25 opportunity to be able to provide a service



1 to themselves.

2 You know, so, if I'm -- if I don't agree  
3 with the opinion of my general counsel, I  
4 should have an option to that other than  
5 spending a lot of money. You know, there  
6 should be an option to that.

7 MAYOR DELANEY: Well, that would make  
8 sense if it's an individual like you or with  
9 your particular business; but when you have  
10 a corporate entity of a billion dollars or  
11 so, you just can't have the CEO saying, I  
12 don't like your opinion; I'm going to go  
13 keep shopping until I find the opinion I  
14 like.

15 And that's not the way corporations are  
16 structured, nor governments. The idea is,  
17 is that the lawyer inside there makes --  
18 says what is legal or illegal.

19 And so it's a lot different than an  
20 individual saying, I don't like my divorce  
21 lawyer; I'm going to go hire a new one; or,  
22 I didn't like the way they prepared my will;  
23 I'm going to hire a different one.

24 That's a lot different, because this  
25 role is as an internal Supreme Court, as

1 well as the representations. It's got two  
2 functions. And if you take away that  
3 Supreme Court ability, I mean, it's just a  
4 disaster, in my opinion, 'cause you're going  
5 to have lawsuits going all over the place,  
6 and we're going to spend hundreds of  
7 millions of dollars on lawyers.

8 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I'm going to push  
9 you back on that just a little bit,  
10 Mr. Mayor; because if I work for an  
11 organization and that organization is  
12 represented by legal counsel, if I feel that  
13 the organization has wronged me, then I do  
14 have the opportunity to take some type of  
15 legal action against that organization.

16 You know, if I've been discriminated  
17 against, or what have you, I can take legal  
18 action against that organization. I don't  
19 have to use the organization's attorney. I  
20 mean, they can have an internal process, and  
21 I can use that internal process. If I don't  
22 feel that that process has given me -- made  
23 me whole, then I can take additional action  
24 outside of that process. I think that's  
25 what some of -- some of the discomfort comes

1           here.

2           Now, I don't have a solution for that,  
3           you know. What I'd like to see is, as we  
4           work as a Commission, because it's on the  
5           table, to kind of workshop that and see  
6           where opportunities lie for -- you know, to  
7           remedy that. But that's just my thought  
8           there.

9           But the question I really wanted to get  
10          to is that since --

11          MAYOR DELANEY: Can I make a quick  
12          response?

13          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Yeah.

14          MAYOR DELANEY: I'm not quite sure I  
15          follow the analogy. But the -- I think one  
16          avenue may be to involve the other  
17          governmental entities maybe in the search;  
18          that maybe the independent authorities  
19          rotate a representative on that search  
20          committee for the General Counsel so they  
21          have a bit of a say-so in there. And -- you  
22          know, we made that opportunity -- I chaired  
23          the last search, actually, that recommended  
24          Mr. Gabriel -- that maybe that's something  
25          that this group could consider, to tweak

1           that, and that maybe will help with the  
2           perception.

3           But, you know, if it's an individual  
4           within a governmental entity, there are  
5           internal remedies to that. But where these  
6           binding legal opinions come in is really on  
7           a larger policy call on, Can you veto a City  
8           Council action? You know, can the City  
9           Council pass an unconstitutional or  
10          discriminatory bill? You need the General  
11          Counsel to say, No, you can't do that.

12          And if the City Council says, Well, I'm  
13          going to go lawyer shopping till I find a  
14          lawyer that tells me that I'm able to pass  
15          this discriminatory bill or an  
16          unconstitutional bill, that's the reason  
17          that the General Counsel's position was so  
18          important, and a lot of concentration went  
19          into the creation of that back in the 1960s.

20          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. And I agree  
21          with that. That I do. I think we're on the  
22          same page there.

23          But my -- okay. So I'm going to shift  
24          gears now.

25          My question is, the first thing I asked

1           -- or had on my list was about the urban  
2           core and how the urban core has been left  
3           behind because -- you know, through  
4           consolidation.

5           As a former Mayor, you know, where do  
6           you see possible remedies to address these  
7           issues?

8           It's been, you know, 50-plus years now,  
9           and people are complaining about, you know,  
10          a lot of the infrastructure -- you know,  
11          I've been told that development in certain  
12          areas of the urban core are virtually  
13          impossible. There's no way to attract  
14          businesses there. And I don't think  
15          anything is impossible.

16          I think that maybe through this process  
17          we can identify a way to support -- you  
18          know, within the Charter, to help catch up  
19          these communities that have been left behind  
20          in terms of, you know, development,  
21          redevelopment, infrastructure, and so forth.

22          MAYOR DELANEY: Yeah. One would be a  
23          structural thing. The other is more policy.  
24          My response would be, the first would be  
25          Mayor Godbold created a Northwest Quadrant

1 Economic Development Trust Fund and put some  
2 money into it. As part of The Better  
3 Jacksonville Plan we put money into that as  
4 well.

5 Perhaps that can be given a little more  
6 meat and maybe -- I wouldn't call it a  
7 dedicated source of funding but -- this is  
8 going to be the discretion of council.  
9 That's why that slides into policy -- but  
10 the idea to help be able to invest in  
11 economic development in that particular  
12 region.

13 When I was Mayor, I know you would  
14 recall, I stopped any economic incentives  
15 for any economic development except Downtown  
16 and the Northwest Quadrant. And we wouldn't  
17 incentivise any other development.

18 And America Online, for example, they  
19 were on the Northside. They wanted to move  
20 down out near UNF, and we just wouldn't  
21 participate in that. But they made their  
22 decision that's where they wanted to be.

23 And I think that's more on the policy  
24 area. You know, the Mayors after me did not  
25 stick with that policy, and the Chamber of

1 Commerce didn't like it either. But I  
2 felt --

3 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Well, why would  
4 that? I mean, it seems like that would be  
5 an opportunity, to aggressively attack a  
6 problem that's been a problem over the  
7 years. Why wouldn't administrations want to  
8 seek to remedy some of these issues;  
9 because --

10 MAYOR DELANEY: The argument back --  
11 which I rejected. But the argument back is  
12 that some businesses don't want to move into  
13 that area. And if you do anything that  
14 makes them say Jacksonville's not as optimal  
15 as St. Louis or Nashville, they'll go to  
16 those other cities.

17 At the time, the economy was fairly, you  
18 know, vibrant, and it didn't seem to slow  
19 anything down.

20 And, you know, then there was kind of  
21 the mini recession, 2000/2001; it slowed it  
22 down. I left office in '03. But I stuck  
23 with that policy all the way through. But  
24 that's a policy thing.

25 I don't know structurally how to do it

1 other than to maybe recommend -- much like  
2 there's the Downtown Investment Authority,  
3 that structure, maybe that can be done for  
4 the urban core to try -- you know, try to  
5 help provide economic development there.

6 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: So, in your  
7 experience, you would sort of recommend like  
8 maybe an urban core type investment  
9 authority and recommend that future Mayors  
10 or future administrations and Councils  
11 properly invest in those type of --

12 MAYOR DELANEY: I hadn't thought about  
13 it till you framed it, but I think it makes  
14 sense. If we've got an economically  
15 depressed portion of town, we need to focus  
16 some resources on it.

17 You know, one of the things we also did  
18 was -- I mentioned -- and I think I would  
19 view that Northwest area as a neighborhood.  
20 It's multiple neighborhoods, but, you know,  
21 it's a big umbrella -- is we focused  
22 extensively on neighborhoods. You know, we  
23 funded a neighborhood's department.

24 We focused on first four, then five and  
25 six, what we called intensive care



1 neighborhoods where the Sheriff -- Sheriff  
2 Glover increased his presence. We focused  
3 on infrastructure. We focused on housing.  
4 We focused on affordable housing. We  
5 focused on putting in sidewalks, putting up  
6 streetlights. Not every neighborhood,  
7 frankly, wants sidewalks or streetlights, so  
8 you've got to respond to the local  
9 neighborhoods.

10 But I think there are things like that  
11 that could be structural that could help  
12 focus -- focus those minds. But, you know,  
13 other Mayors -- recessions hit in the -- the  
14 massive recession in 2008 and the resources  
15 went away, and so some of that was  
16 dissolved. Sports Authority was actually  
17 subsumed under the Jacksonville Economic  
18 Development Commission. You had mentioned  
19 that one earlier.

20 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you. I'm  
21 done, Mr. Chair.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Anyone else have any  
23 other questions? Ms. Lisska.

24 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Hello, Mayor  
25 Delaney, President Delaney.

1           MAYOR DELANEY: Hello, Ms. Lisska.

2           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Nice to see you.

3           Thank you for being your usual direct  
4 self. I really appreciate that, and I know  
5 the Commission members do.

6           I'd like -- and I appreciate your  
7 comments about the General Counsel's Office.  
8 It's been largely about that. You've  
9 mentioned a lot about intensive care  
10 neighborhoods.

11          I want you to offer us any very specific  
12 recommendations you may have that you'd like  
13 to see this Commission recommend in regard  
14 to Charter, or changes, and the Charter,  
15 anything. What you would really not like to  
16 see us change or what you would like to see  
17 us recommend.

18          MAYOR DELANEY: Yeah. I wouldn't weaken  
19 the Office of General Counsel. And I do  
20 want to make clear that I have tremendous  
21 respect and regard for Jason Gabriel. He  
22 and I just spoke last night, as a matter of  
23 fact. I think he is as pure in his  
24 decision-making, as the other general  
25 counsels that I'm close to, and has made his

1 decisions independent of other pressure  
2 inside this government. I'm absolutely  
3 convinced of that.

4 When I appeared -- I think I've appeared  
5 every 10 years. In the original set of  
6 recommendations -- there are a number of  
7 those in the -- sort of the Blue Book Task  
8 Force that consolidated the City. A number  
9 of those didn't go through. Some are  
10 probably -- probably for political reasons  
11 as much as policy reasons.

12 The recommendation was to appoint the  
13 Property Appraiser, the Tax Collector, the  
14 Clerk -- who am I missing? The Sheriff --  
15 was the original recommendation that cities,  
16 typically Mayors, appoint the Chiefs of  
17 Police, and I think the Sheriff is probably  
18 untouchable. And people don't like giving  
19 up electing people. So those may be  
20 politically undoable. But those --

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: On the  
22 constitutional --

23 MAYOR DELANEY: The other constitutional  
24 officers are really ministerial in function  
25 -- the Supervisor of Elections I think is

1           one I missed that, you know, should those be  
2           appointed or not. It depends on how brassy  
3           you want to try to be on those particular  
4           ones.

5           But I think Mr. Griggs has raised some  
6           issues on where the government has maybe  
7           lost some of the focus. I do think  
8           neighborhoods has long been a problem when  
9           you've got this big of a government that  
10          there isn't the focus back on that.

11          And maybe I'll make one exception for  
12          dedicated source of revenue for the  
13          Historical Society. That would probably be  
14          a good idea.

15          You're retired now though, so you won't  
16          benefit from it, but...

17          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any other questions?

18          Sir, thank you very much. I appreciate  
19          your time here today.

20          MAYOR DELANEY: Thanks for y'all's  
21          service. Appreciate it.

22          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right.

23          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Thank you  
24          very much, John.

25          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We've got a

1 smattering of applause.

2 (Mayor Delaney exited the meeting room.)

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. We are  
4 going to move -- next we have Representative  
5 Wyman Duggan. And as you know, he chaired  
6 this Commission 10 years ago.

7 And what I asked him to come and speak  
8 to us about were the items in the Charter  
9 Revision Report that they did that they were  
10 not able to get to. What were some of the  
11 things that they identified as issues, but  
12 were not part of their report? Because I  
13 think that is ground for us to look at and  
14 learn from your Commission's experience and  
15 some areas that maybe we can make some  
16 recommendations.

17 So with that, thank you for being here.

18 REP. DUGGAN: Thank you for the  
19 opportunity, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the  
20 invitation. And I want to start by thanking  
21 each one of you for taking on this task.  
22 It's going to entail a lot of time and  
23 effort on your part. And on behalf of our  
24 community, we thank you.

25 So the Chairman has laid out his task to

1 me, so I will start with -- actually, with  
2 the Office of General Counsel discussion.

3 So as Mayor Delaney touched on at  
4 length, this is somewhat of an evergreen  
5 issue. But I think the nature of the role  
6 of the General Counsel's Office, as it was  
7 set up under the Charter, lends itself to  
8 that, because at the end of the day, the  
9 General Counsel makes final decisions. And  
10 there's always somebody who's unhappy with  
11 that final decision. And as a result, it's  
12 continually looked at as something -- you  
13 know, whether or not that's something we  
14 need to change.

15 I will emphasize -- reemphasize a point  
16 he made, which was that, prior to  
17 consolidation, every player, every  
18 stakeholder in government back then, which  
19 consisted of a City Commission, a City  
20 Council, which was the Executive -- a  
21 five-member Executive City Council, a City  
22 Commission, which was the City Legislative  
23 body, and a County Commission, each of those  
24 bodies, plus, you know, the School Board and  
25 the Tax Assessor, everybody had their own

1 lawyer, and anytime there was a dispute,  
2 they just lawyered up and sued each other,  
3 and it went, you know, prolonged through the  
4 courts, and the General -- Office of General  
5 Counsel was designed to avoid that problem.

6 It was designed to -- I remember -- you  
7 know, the corpsman data of consolidation  
8 under the Local Government Study Commission  
9 is to foster the ability of the electorate,  
10 to pinpoint responsibility and  
11 accountability. Everything in our Charter  
12 structure is supposed to be fostering that  
13 goal. That's the key goal.

14 If you go back and you read the Local  
15 Government Study Commission Blueprint for  
16 Improvement, that was their main objective;  
17 because before, with all these different  
18 bodies, you had a very diffuse, very opaque  
19 structure of government, and it was hard for  
20 people to figure out who ultimately owns  
21 this issue. Who can I get redress of  
22 grievances, which is one of our  
23 constitutional rights, for this issue?

24 And so we were -- we -- I say we. The  
25 founders of our consolidated government were

1           trying to get to a place where, you know,  
2           the average citizen, the average voter,  
3           could much more easily pinpoint that  
4           responsibility and accountability.

5           So the Office of General Counsel is  
6           structured to help pinpoint accountability  
7           and responsibility. And while it's unique,  
8           and it's not something that you see  
9           elsewhere in many of our other forms of  
10          government, that's the goal.

11          And so I would emphasize again, don't  
12          lose sight of the fact that at the end of  
13          the day you need somebody to make a decision  
14          so that we can move on.

15          Structurally, as it relates to the  
16          Charter Revision Commission, in our work 10  
17          years ago, there was a lot of discussion  
18          about that issue early on. You know, the  
19          way we worked was the commissioners  
20          self-identified issues that they wanted to  
21          explore during their work.

22          And then I, as the chair -- and I did  
23          not submit any issues because I just wanted  
24          to be kind of the umpire, and then I just  
25          tallied up the number of votes for each



1 issue. And the ones that got the most  
2 votes, there was a clear consensus that we  
3 want to talk about these issues. So the  
4 Office of General Counsel was one of those  
5 issues, and we spent some time talking about  
6 that.

7 Ultimately, we came to a place where I  
8 as the chair wanted to start winnowing down  
9 issues that we were really going to dig into  
10 more. So we would -- we took what I would  
11 call kind of an indicative vote, and it was  
12 split. It was basically 50/50. Some people  
13 wanted to keep looking at it and some people  
14 didn't. Some people were fine with the way  
15 things worked. We had had a lot of  
16 testimony by that point.

17 And, for me, for the way that I thought  
18 the Commission could efficiently -- most  
19 efficiently run was I wanted to move us  
20 toward a final report that everybody on the  
21 Commission believed in and felt good about.  
22 And when there was no clear consensus on the  
23 Office of General Counsel one way or the  
24 other, I said, Let's not keep looking at  
25 that issue, because we as a Commission

1           aren't moving to a consensus on it. And so  
2           we just stopped talking about it.

3           So I offer that up as one model to  
4           follow as you do your work. If you just --  
5           if it's important to you as a body, that  
6           your final report be one that you all can  
7           support and believe in and go out into the  
8           community and advocate for, then, as  
9           frustrating as it might be, if one issue  
10          that you care strongly about the other half  
11          of you don't, that might be a way to kind of  
12          reach some clarity. So I offer that up as  
13          an example.

14          I subscribe to what Mayor Delaney said  
15          about the importance of the Office of  
16          General Counsel as it's currently  
17          structured. And he's also right that during  
18          the five years after the last Charter  
19          Revision Commission, we did the Blueprint  
20          thing -- Blueprint for Improvement II, the  
21          Task Force for Consolidated Government,  
22          which I also served on, and we did recommend  
23          some structural changes as it relates to the  
24          Office of General Counsel, which were  
25          adopted. And this current General Counsel

1 was selected pursuant to that new procedure,  
2 as he outlined. So, you know, it might be  
3 give it a little bit more time.

4 Another issue that we looked at was the  
5 pension which, at the time, was the biggest  
6 issue facing the City. This was, you know,  
7 2009. But that issue was so big that it  
8 could have been all we talked about. And,  
9 in addition, there were already stakeholders  
10 hard at work on that, on that issue. So we  
11 decided to just stay out of that.

12 And, fortunately, Mayor Curry has now  
13 solved that problem, but it was an issue  
14 that could have consumed our entire agenda.

15 And so that was -- we just kind of made  
16 the analysis, Let's tackle other things that  
17 aren't being looked at by other stakeholders  
18 and that are discrete enough that we can  
19 really get our arms around them and maybe  
20 make a difference.

21 Another issue that we looked at had to  
22 do with the JEA which, more particularly, it  
23 had to do with the issue of whether we could  
24 maximize the revenue under the annual  
25 contribution that the JEA paid the city.

1           So this was at a time -- this was 2009  
2           when we started our work. So obviously the  
3           great recession had begun, but nobody quite  
4           understood at the time what a major  
5           restructuring in the development industry  
6           was going to occur.

7           Up to that point in time, the JEA had  
8           been pursuing a business model whereby they  
9           would install infrastructure in  
10          neighborhoods on their own nickel. They  
11          would run water; they would run sewer on the  
12          assumption that development would come to  
13          those neighborhoods. Homes would get built;  
14          businesses would get built; and they would  
15          tie into those utilities, and then the JEA  
16          would recoup their investment and then have  
17          a nice revenue stream.

18          This was also before the revolution and  
19          energy efficiency that has occurred in the  
20          last 10 years on the residential appliance  
21          side and on solar -- solar panels, the  
22          dramatic decrease in price for installation  
23          of solar panels.

24          So back then there was an assumption  
25          that JEA was going to be much more

1           profitable. And was there a way that we  
2           could increase their annual contribution to  
3           the city that they were paying essentially  
4           in lieu of the taxes that they would pay if  
5           they were a private entity?

6           So, you know, we started looking into  
7           that and had a lot of testimony. Jim  
8           Dickinson, who was then the CEO of JEA, came  
9           and testified several times.

10          Ultimately, we were concerned that  
11          adding additional revenue obligations on JEA  
12          could affect its bond ratings and, of  
13          course, you know, the rate payers.

14          And so that was another issue where,  
15          after a fair amount of discussion, we  
16          decided not to pursue that issue any  
17          further. And, you know, as it turned out,  
18          obviously, the long-term economics for JEA  
19          were drastically different -- are  
20          drastically different now than anybody back  
21          then could foresee.

22          So that was -- turned out to be a bit of  
23          serendipity in the sense that we didn't  
24          spend a lot of time trying to come up with a  
25          model that ultimately the real world

1 economics wouldn't have supported.

2 Another issue that we looked at was  
3 around an appointed Sheriff. You know, the  
4 Mayor -- Mayor Delaney made reference to the  
5 fact that the original blueprint for  
6 improvement had contemplated that all of the  
7 constitutional officers would be appointed.

8 And let me just digress for a second to  
9 make the observation that I'm not entirely  
10 in agreement with him that those -- all of  
11 those offices are entirely ministerial. And  
12 I'll give you one example, one note of  
13 caution.

14 If the Mayor appointed the Property  
15 Appraiser, it would be possible for the  
16 Mayor to go into the Property Appraiser's  
17 Office one day and say, I need you to  
18 increase the assessed value of every parcel  
19 in the county by 10 percent.

20 That's a backdoor tax increase. Without  
21 going out and raising the millage, the  
22 millage stays the same, but you just  
23 increase the assessed value, so the millage  
24 generates more revenue.

25 That is, for me, personally -- this is

1           just me talking -- a reason why you might  
2           not want that office to be an appointed  
3           office because nobody would really know  
4           about that discussion. Other offices may be  
5           suitable.

6           With respect -- coming back to the  
7           Sheriff, our discussion at that time had  
8           everything to do with budgetary tensions.  
9           It had nothing to do with, really, policing,  
10          or with the job that Sheriff -- then Sheriff  
11          Rutherford or his predecessors had done. It  
12          had to do with the fact that at budget time,  
13          the Mayor, who's the chief budgetary officer  
14          of the City, is not always able to get the  
15          budgetary result that they desire where  
16          life's public safety is concerned, because  
17          the Sheriff, as an independent elected  
18          officer, has the ability to go in and lobby  
19          for more money.

20          Again, ultimately, we decided to move  
21          away from that discretion as it relates to  
22          the Sheriff per se.

23          We did make a recommendation that's in  
24          the report that the Mayor's budgetary  
25          authority be enhanced. Right now, of course

1 the Mayor has a line item veto over the  
2 budget as passed by the Council, but the  
3 Council can override that line item veto by  
4 simple majority, 10 votes.

5 We had recommended increasing that to a  
6 two-thirds override threshold to try and  
7 address that issue as to the Mayor's  
8 budgetary authority. That was never  
9 adopted. It's still a simple majority.

10 But that's an issue where -- we talked  
11 about it as it relates to the Sheriff, but  
12 the real broader issue we ultimately adopted  
13 a recommendation on.

14 So, really, those were kind of the four  
15 biggest issues that I would say that we  
16 touched on, that we moved away from for some  
17 reason, that, you know, might still have  
18 some relation to issues facing the City  
19 today.

20 But what I want to leave you with is, on  
21 all these issues, we had -- we, the  
22 Commission, had a clear agreement on how to  
23 move forward even if the agreement was to  
24 not move forward, because we felt strongly  
25 that we wanted to have kind of unanimity, or



1 a high degree of consensus, on the way we  
2 approached the issues.

3 So I just have a few closing thoughts,  
4 and then I'm happy to answer any questions.

5 I begin by thanking you for agreeing to  
6 do this. I say this in all seriousness: I  
7 want you to be prepared for that to be the  
8 last time anybody thanks you for doing this  
9 job. You are going to be subject to  
10 scrutiny and criticism. You're going to be  
11 -- potentially, you may be, I should say,  
12 pressured to take up an issue, and you may  
13 be pressured not to look under certain  
14 rocks.

15 And I want you to not be afraid to  
16 disappoint either group. Don't feel  
17 obligated to pursue any agenda but your own.  
18 Under state law, you are now public  
19 officials, even though you're appointed. I  
20 want you to be bold; I want you to follow  
21 the data where it leads; I want you to not  
22 be afraid to draw logical but unflattering  
23 conclusions; and don't be afraid to make  
24 recommendations that upset the status quo.  
25 This is a great privilege. Relish it. Be

1 proud of your work product at the end.

2 Our consolidated government, as both the  
3 Mayor and I touched on, is a unique and  
4 valuable inheritance. And I knew that when  
5 I participated 10 years ago, and my  
6 appreciation for it has only been  
7 strengthened by my service in Tallahassee so  
8 far.

9 And, again, always remember, the core  
10 mandate of consolidation is to foster the  
11 ability of the electorate to pinpoint  
12 accountability and responsibility.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you for the  
15 closing comments. I appreciate them. I  
16 know everybody else here does, especially  
17 given your experience in this role.

18 I wanted to ask a couple of questions on  
19 the ones that -- the topics that you said  
20 that Council Member Brown, Reggie Brown --

21 REP. DUGGAN: Yes.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- put in there at  
23 the end.

24 REP. DUGGAN: Right.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Did you have an

1           opportunity to look at what the impacts  
2           would be, specifically with 4(b), the idea  
3           of residency requirement for employees of  
4           the City? Did you guys have any  
5           opportunities to look into that in any  
6           depth?

7           REP. DUGGAN: Unfortunately, we did not.

8           So Councilman Brown reached out to me to  
9           come speak at the second-to-last meeting,  
10          and that's when he put these issues on the  
11          table for us.

12          So we were at the place where the report  
13          was in draft form.

14          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

15          REP. DUGGAN: People were reading it to  
16          finalize it and vote on the final product.

17          So I put it in there because it was  
18          important, you know, that it be part of the  
19          record, and that they were serious issues  
20          that a future CRC could take a look at.

21          I recall that after -- sometime after  
22          this, maybe in his first term, maybe in his  
23          second. I don't remember.

24          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: First.

25          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

1           REP. DUGGAN: So he proposed legislation  
2 to this effect, and my recollection is that  
3 -- it was withdrawn? Right. I'm not sure  
4 that it even got a final vote. But it's  
5 certainly a legitimate issue.

6           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

7           REP. DUGGAN: In my opinion.

8           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So then  
9 -- and I guess that means, yeah, with (c) as  
10 well, you didn't have a chance to really --  
11 I didn't realize how late it was in the  
12 process that those came about.

13           So with that, open it up, the floor, for  
14 any questions.

15           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: It would be  
16 easier, if you wanted to speak, to turn your  
17 name this way so it would be easy for you to  
18 walk up -- to see that I would like to  
19 speak.

20           I think it would be easier. At least  
21 that's --

22           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

23           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: It's like pressing  
24 a button.

25           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

1           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Through the  
2 Chair to Mr. Wyman, for both of you.

3           He applied for the General Counsel's  
4 Office and was -- unfortunately, wasn't  
5 picked.

6           REP. DUGGAN: Well, let me just correct.  
7 I never actually applied.

8           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay.

9           REP. DUGGAN: I was invited to apply --

10          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Yes.

11          REP. DUGGAN: -- and I considered it,  
12 but --

13          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay. Well,  
14 I don't want to bring up -- do you want me  
15 to go there?

16          REP. DUGGAN: Well, I just wanted --

17          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Let's be  
18 clear.

19          REP. DUGGAN: I don't want there to be a  
20 misapprehension of the public record.

21          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: We'll look  
22 at it slightly differently. I'll ask the  
23 question differently.

24          Did anybody else apply other than Jason  
25 Gabriel?

1           REP. DUGGAN:  Yes, Patrick Krechowski,  
2           an attorney then with, I believe, Gray  
3           Robinson.

4           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG:  And this  
5           happens a lot -- and I'm just really letting  
6           the committee know.

7           There's a lot of times that people don't  
8           apply because of inside baseball.  And I  
9           think this is one of the problems we have  
10          with a lot of things with Jacksonville, and  
11          I think it's something that we should  
12          address; that people see that a designated  
13          person is ready to go, and some people that  
14          are surely qualified, see the handwriting on  
15          the wall and do not do it.  Maybe it didn't  
16          happen in your case, but it happens a lot.

17          So my question would be, do you think  
18          that a General Counsel should serve more  
19          than four years and at the same time the  
20          Mayor is, or something to that effect?

21          REP. DUGGAN:  So there is now, pursuant  
22          to the change that was made following the  
23          Task Force on Consolidation, the obligation  
24          in the Ordinance Code for the General  
25          Counsel to be reappointed when the Mayor

1 gets reelected or when there's a new Mayor.

2 So I would say structurally the ability  
3 to make that change is in place with the  
4 Council.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: You don't  
6 have to comment on my comment; but the  
7 question is, in my experience, very few  
8 people that came between the -- went to the  
9 Rules Committee ever got denied; either --  
10 it would be withdrawn beforehand and it  
11 would never see the light of day. And  
12 almost everybody, to my knowledge, came to  
13 Rules and always got approved.

14 So I understand the process, but it  
15 doesn't happen as transparent as you might  
16 believe. I will leave it like that.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, I think the  
18 question, having a four-year term, to where  
19 if they're appointed -- 'cause that was one  
20 of the items I believe that was brought up,  
21 you know, before our -- I mean, one is a way  
22 to tweak the selection process, if we were  
23 to look into that; and then the other is an  
24 extended term so that there is certain  
25 independent -- an independency of that

1 office regardless of the initial appointing  
2 Mayor.

3 Any thoughts on that about how that  
4 would -- how we could structure that or how  
5 that -- is that kind of like, Commissioner  
6 Schellenberg, sort of one of the ideas --

7 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: My point  
8 is --

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- that you were  
10 looking at? I know what your point is; but  
11 I'm thinking about a solution and what we  
12 can look at structurally in the Charter.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: If Mr. Wyman  
14 -- if Wyman doesn't have a -- Representative  
15 Duggan doesn't have a thought -- does he  
16 have a thought? That would be great.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

18 REP. DUGGAN: There was definitely  
19 attention over the duration of Rick  
20 Mullaney's tenure at the time we were  
21 meeting, and there was a school of thought  
22 that there should have been some turnover  
23 along the way.

24 The counterpoint to that though was he  
25 had been confirmed four times by the



1 Council. And so, at what point does the  
2 obligation fall on the Council to do its  
3 check and balance? And if they -- if they,  
4 the Council, corporately felt like a change  
5 needed to be made, there was an opportunity  
6 for the Council to send that message, either  
7 publicly or privately.

8 And so, you know, I am sensitive to the  
9 reality that people who put themselves  
10 forward for a public service, whether in an  
11 appointed or an elected role -- but in this  
12 case an appointed role, you know, their  
13 confirmation shouldn't be a blood sport.  
14 And if there's some private analysis of  
15 whether or not somebody wants to step into  
16 that arena, based on the likelihood of  
17 success, I don't begrudge them that.

18 And so, we have a system; every four  
19 years the General Counsel should be looked  
20 at. The Council has a role to play. And if  
21 somebody decides, I'm not going to pursue  
22 that role because -- for whatever reason, I  
23 don't see that as a system that's broken.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Commissioner  
25 Baker.

1           COMMISSIONER BAKER: Through the chair.  
2 Thank you, Representative Duggan, for being  
3 here today.

4           My area of -- one of my areas of  
5 interest is staggered terms for City  
6 Council. And 10 years ago you did recommend  
7 doing staggered terms, but in the Task Force  
8 it was not recommended, and you were also a  
9 part of that. It says, potentially  
10 detrimental effect for continuous campaign,  
11 for policy reasons potentially.

12           And one of my questions was, I think  
13 potentially staggered terms could lead to  
14 better accountability for City Council  
15 members, holding them accountable to the  
16 people.

17           So I wanted to get your opinion of why  
18 it was there 10 years ago; why it was taken  
19 out in the Task Force; or if you have a  
20 differing opinion to it, if you could speak  
21 to that.

22           REP. DUGGAN: Thank you. So the Task  
23 Force worked on a different model than the  
24 Charter Revision Commission did, but it was  
25 much larger.

1           The Charter Revision 10 years ago, we  
2           worked as a committee as a whole. So we  
3           didn't break up into subcommittees with  
4           separate task lists that they would come  
5           back and report on. And my recollection is  
6           that -- and the Task Force under  
7           consolidated government has separate  
8           subcommittees that took up different issues.

9           And I, candidly, don't recall why the  
10          issue of staggered terms was not a -- an  
11          item of recommended action in the Task Force  
12          report. And it may be because -- and I just  
13          don't remember now, at this point in time,  
14          if I was on the committee that looked at  
15          that -- the subcommittee that looked at  
16          that.

17          As we -- the Charter Revision Commission  
18          felt, part of the structural reality now is,  
19          as has just happened, you can get an influx  
20          of more than a -- you know, a substantial  
21          portion of the Council, sometimes even a  
22          majority of the Council, coming in on July 1  
23          and then they get the budget on July 15.

24          And so part of the concept behind  
25          staggering the terms is you make that pool

1 of neophytes smaller each time that happens.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Explain -- Mr.  
3 Griggs was leaning over here, and I think  
4 it's good. Explain what staggered terms  
5 are, for those of us that may not be  
6 familiar, and exactly how that looks.

7 REP. DUGGAN: So it would simply be  
8 instead of, you know, everybody or one-half  
9 or a certain percentage all starting at the  
10 same time, they would start at different  
11 dates.

12 So, for example, at the federal level we  
13 have a 100-member Senate and approximate--  
14 and one-third of them are up every six  
15 years. So they're not all up at once,  
16 unlike the House of Representatives;  
17 everybody is up at the same time.

18 So that's what we're trying to get at.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

20 REP. DUGGAN: And so -- you know, so I  
21 would say you now have two policy menus you  
22 can choose from. If that's an issue that  
23 you want to pursue, you can decide between  
24 the two of them.

25 But it's a legitimate policy question,

1           you know, and I can see the arguments on  
2           either side. But I think they are laid out  
3           in each document.

4           COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you.

5           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Griggs.

6           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I wasn't -- I  
7           wasn't -- sorry. Thank you for being  
8           here Representative.

9           REP. DUGGAN: Sure.

10          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I wasn't going to  
11          ask you any more questions about the General  
12          Counsel; but I did want to -- just because  
13          you were having that discussion -- get your  
14          opinion on staggering the terms of  
15          General -- appointment of General Counsel  
16          against the Mayor's office.

17          So the Mayor would get elected. He  
18          would be -- he would inherit a General  
19          Counsel; then two years into his term that  
20          G/C would be up for reappointment, and then  
21          the Mayor gets to appoint his G/C in the  
22          middle of that term.

23          What are your thoughts on that, and do  
24          you believe that helps with the perception  
25          of, you know, this fairness, is what I

1           should say, for the public to kind of sort  
2           of see that the General Counsel is not  
3           really operating at the whim of the Mayor's  
4           office?

5           REP. DUGGAN: Right. That's a very  
6           thoughtful question, and one I've never  
7           really spent a lot of time thinking of. So  
8           I don't have a thoughtful answer for you,  
9           which that question deserves.

10          On the one hand, I would say, you know,  
11          the new Mayor coming in would certainly be  
12          able to staff up their administration. In  
13          other words, you wouldn't necessarily think  
14          to impose that limitation on the Mayor on  
15          staffing up any of the other appointed posts  
16          that the Mayor gets to fill.

17          To your point though, I mean, it could  
18          lend itself more toward a notion that the  
19          Mayor doesn't just get to come in and pick  
20          their lawyer; but, on the other hand, we  
21          have a strong Mayor form of government, by  
22          design. I mean, it's not an accident. It's  
23          designed to be that way. The Mayor is  
24          designed to be the CEO, and the Council is  
25          designed to be the Board of Directors. But

1 the ball is supposed to be in the Mayor's  
2 hand.

3 And so if we want to continue to  
4 facilitate the successful and efficient  
5 operation of the structure as it was  
6 designed, then the Mayor ought to be able to  
7 pick their attorney.

8 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Yeah. I think  
9 that we've -- you know, Mr. Mullaney was  
10 here last time and, of course, Mayor Delaney  
11 was here this time. And I think it's pretty  
12 clear that the General Counsel is there to  
13 serve everybody, to kind of keep order.  
14 Like you said, all the opinions like the --  
15 like he said, the sort of Supreme Court of  
16 opinions across all the independent agencies  
17 and the constitutional officers.

18 So independence is important. The  
19 perception of independence is important. I  
20 don't think anybody would have an argument  
21 with the Mayor picking his person, but to  
22 give an opportunity for the public to feel  
23 that that is -- that person would be acting  
24 independent of all of the agencies, you  
25 know, I think I'm struggling to look for

1           some additional support there to make the  
2           public feel better that these decisions are  
3           being made independent of anyone else, even  
4           the Mayor.

5           So that is -- and that's the only reason  
6           why that was the recommend- -- you know, my  
7           thought there; because if you have someone  
8           who you have to work with coming in, you  
9           know, they're going to be still independent,  
10          or at least the perception is they're  
11          independent. They're not loyal to who you  
12          are; they're loyal to the office. That's  
13          the only thing I struggle with now.

14          I have another question just real quick,  
15          unless you want to respond with that.

16          REP. DUGGAN: I will respond just  
17          briefly because, again, that's a thoughtful  
18          question, and I'm certainly not at all  
19          trying to suggest that it's somehow an  
20          invalid question. That's an issue to look  
21          into.

22          I would say, also, though, you know,  
23          Mayor Delaney went through a recitation of  
24          the history of that office and the people  
25          who have held it. And, you know, those are



1 all fine public servants who did a host of  
2 different forms of public service throughout  
3 their career, both before and after. And  
4 while in the -- you know, in the crucible of  
5 the job, the heat of the moment, while you  
6 are the General Counsel and you're calling  
7 the balls and strikes, as I said earlier,  
8 you're going to upset people. There's  
9 always going to be somebody who's upset.

10 With perspective, looking back -- I  
11 mean, okay, so one general counsel went to  
12 prison, Dawson McQuaig. With that one  
13 exception, looking back over the people  
14 who've held that, I don't think anybody  
15 would say any of them were political hacks.

16 And so, again, I just want to remind  
17 people that, ultimately, there's -- you  
18 know, ultimately, there's going to be some  
19 distance. And I would hate for structural  
20 changes to be made based on the heat of the  
21 moment, when really the system has worked  
22 very well for 50 years, and the people who  
23 have held it are among the folks in our  
24 community who've got the highest reputations  
25 even today.

1           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Yeah, I agree. I  
2 think that this is a moment in time where  
3 people are struggling with the decision  
4 that's being made, and there's some -- you  
5 know, there's plenty of heartburn around  
6 that decision. But I still think that  
7 people need to be -- they feel comfortable  
8 that they have alternatives, or that the  
9 structure is working, the process is working  
10 the way it's supposed to without, you know,  
11 blowing it up and starting all over again.

12           So I'll get to my last question so that  
13 we can move on, real quick.

14           I was kind of struck by your comment  
15 about when you-all were looking at the --  
16 the previous Commission was looking at the  
17 Sheriff's -- issues around the Sheriff's  
18 position. And it almost sounded like your  
19 motivation was that the -- you didn't feel  
20 like the Mayor's office or the  
21 administration of the Council had a lot of,  
22 you know, perceived authority over the  
23 Sheriff's budget. They didn't really --  
24 they didn't really feel like -- they just  
25 kind of felt like the Sheriff's Office were

1           able to strong-arm an opinion on how that  
2           money should be spent outside of the Mayor's  
3           office. Did I read that right?

4           REP. DUGGAN: There were definitely  
5           people on the Commission who had kind of  
6           that subtext, yes. And some of it related,  
7           at the time, to the pension problem. And,  
8           in other words, the issues over the pension  
9           problem were bleeding into this notion of  
10          the budgetary relations between the  
11          Sheriff's Office and the Council and the  
12          Mayor.

13          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: And so you-all  
14          didn't have that feeling about the other  
15          offices -- the Tax Collector, Property  
16          Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections --  
17          because they -- you know, the budget process  
18          is the same for all of them.

19          REP. DUGGAN: Correct, we did not.  
20          You're right, it's the same and, correct, we  
21          did not with those offices. It was more  
22          about -- because, you know, the Public  
23          Safety budget is among the largest line  
24          items in the budget, and so it had more  
25          relevance.

1           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Interesting.

2           Okay. Thank you.

3           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Hagan.

4           COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Representative,  
5           thank you for being here today.

6           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Get closer to the  
7           mic.

8           COMMISSIONER HAGAN: I appreciate -- let  
9           me not get in trouble here.

10          I appreciate all your wisdom with all  
11          the many hats that you've worn, and I thank  
12          you for your service as well.

13          You know, Mayor Delaney brought up  
14          something on his way out the door, which  
15          actually got me thinking, but because of  
16          your insight, it completely changed my mind.  
17          Why not have appointed constitutional  
18          officers? But because of the point you  
19          brought up -- that's an incredible point.  
20          And I would also question the Supervisor of  
21          Elections. I don't know how it would  
22          conflict, but I'm sure there's probably a  
23          way that it would conflict just as much as  
24          the Property Appraiser.

25          And so a lot of what I'm going to say is

1 more of a statement, but it's -- I don't  
2 know the legal system like you do and -- or  
3 many people on this Commission do. So my  
4 statements may be with a question mark at  
5 the end of it just for clarification.

6 But I would tend to agree with you --  
7 and everything that I've heard today -- a  
8 lot of what I've heard today and at the last  
9 meeting, and which we've read in the paper,  
10 I would tend to agree that a lot of this is  
11 -- and I think Mayor Delaney mentioned it --  
12 is that, you know, there's times where you  
13 get an opinion and you don't like what you  
14 hear, and so now we -- it's kind of like a  
15 reaction to it, and the system could be  
16 flawed.

17 I agree with you to the fact that it's  
18 worked well for so many years. I mean, I  
19 get opinions on things that I don't agree  
20 with, and I'm like, Oh, we need -- that  
21 needs to change, inside the government,  
22 outside the government. And so -- and  
23 that's just a natural reaction to it.

24 But I would agree with you in your  
25 statement in saying that, you know, because

1           it -- we're not happy with the response that  
2           we got, then let's not all of a sudden think  
3           that -- throw the baby out with the bath  
4           water and say that everything has to change.

5           When I heard you speak, you brought up a  
6           good point, and I wanted to make sure that  
7           this is kind of what you were saying and I  
8           heard it correctly. And one of the things  
9           that I want to focus on on this Commission  
10          is streamlining government.

11          What's really important to me is that,  
12          you know, we're not getting bogged down in  
13          government; but it's also important to me  
14          that the checks and balances are in place,  
15          to make sure that we vet everything that  
16          goes through government. But streamlining  
17          is very important.

18          But what I kind of understood was -- and  
19          maybe it was part of Mayor Delaney's  
20          comments too -- was if you put an attorney  
21          on every independent authority and the  
22          School Board and every other place that the  
23          General Counsel is supposed to be, then you  
24          wind up in the position where if this -- if  
25          we were today, and the School Board had

1           their own attorney, then they would be suing  
2           each other; it would go to court; and no  
3           matter what side of the issue that you're  
4           on, it would probably be held up in court  
5           and probably -- you know, it could be five,  
6           six years before it ever got on the ballot.

7           So is that kind of what you were  
8           alluding to, to the point that I'm trying to  
9           make, and just making sure that that was --  
10          that you clear that up.

11          REP. DUGGAN: Yes, that's exactly the  
12          point I'm making. And there's a recent  
13          precedent where exactly that happened. And  
14          it was the tension between the City and the  
15          Police and Fire Pension Fund about five, six  
16          years ago. There were at any one time I  
17          think three or four different pieces of  
18          litigation going on in both state and  
19          federal court between the City and the PFPF  
20          over a host of issues as it related, you  
21          know, to the pension problem.

22          And that's exactly the result that I  
23          think would pertain in this issue and in a  
24          host of other issues; that if we didn't have  
25          this model in place, you know, we can avoid

1           that.

2           Now, again, strong Mayor form of  
3           government. The Mayor came out and solved  
4           the pension problem, and all those court  
5           cases became moot. You know, they went  
6           away.

7           So that's the way we -- that's the  
8           policy choice that was made at the time of  
9           consolidation. You know, we want a strong  
10          Mayor form of government; we want to  
11          streamline government; we don't want parties  
12          bickering with each other. Frankly, we  
13          don't want taxpayer money being spent by  
14          every actor in government featherbedding  
15          their lawyers, you know, by all of this  
16          litigation. All of that was taxpayer money  
17          that was being paid to the lawyers, in some  
18          cases some who were then funneling it back  
19          to the politicians.

20          So that's kind of what happened that  
21          helped lead to consolidation. I'm not  
22          saying that's happened since consolidation,  
23          but that's the result. We made a policy  
24          decision we wanted to avoid.

25          COMMISSIONER HAGAN: And the independent



1           authorities and School Board and everybody  
2           else, they had the option to go outside and  
3           get their own outside counsel. I mean, that  
4           was part of a -- they can go -- take their  
5           part of their budget and go, you know, hire  
6           outside counsel and then have an opinion,  
7           which is what we're seeing today. And is  
8           that kind of like their way of having their  
9           own general counsel or their own opinion  
10          basically?

11           REP. DUGGAN: Are you talking about  
12          today, in the state of play today, they can  
13          go outside?

14           COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Sure. Yes.

15           REP. DUGGAN: It's my understanding they  
16          have to clear that with the General  
17          Counsel's Office.

18           COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Okay.

19           REP. DUGGAN: They can't just go  
20          independently and get their own. They're  
21          supposed to check with the General Counsel's  
22          Office and -- as Mayor Delaney said. And in  
23          more than a few instances, that's  
24          authorized, because whatever the issue of  
25          law is is specialized and unique, and

1           although the General Counsel's Office itself  
2           is one of the -- if they were a standalone  
3           law firm, they would be one of the best in  
4           town. They don't have every expertise under  
5           roof. And so that is not infrequently  
6           authorized.

7           There was something else I wanted to  
8           say, but I've forgotten. Go ahead.

9           COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Okay. Those are  
10          all my points. Thank you.

11          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any other -- I don't  
12          see any other name tags up on end.

13          All right. Oh.

14          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I would like --  
15          thank you, Chairman.

16          And I think you've had every opportunity  
17          to cover this and, again, thank you for  
18          being here, Representative. I just will ask  
19          you the same sort of questioning I asked  
20          Mayor Delaney.

21          Is there anything at all you want to  
22          leave with this Commission? Any suggestions  
23          for us to pursue to include in our report,  
24          an area you wish that your Commission had  
25          spent -- had ended up with a recommendation?

1           I mean, I followed your four primary  
2 ones. I know there was a fifth major one in  
3 Ethics as well. Has that panned out the way  
4 that it had been envisioned by your group?

5           REP. DUGGAN: So the Ethics  
6 recommendation was adopted by the Council at  
7 the time. That was the only one of the  
8 recommendations in the report that was acted  
9 upon. It restored the Ethics Code back into  
10 the Charter where it had been originally and  
11 then taken out and put in the Ordinance  
12 Code. So, you know, obviously, that was  
13 something we recommended and believed in,  
14 and so we were glad to see that happen.

15           Thank you for the invitation. I  
16 don't -- I do not want to get in the way of  
17 your work. This is y'all's ball to carry,  
18 and you're going to have plenty of other  
19 people who are trying to convince you to  
20 carry their issue.

21           All I want you -- again, I've said it  
22 before, and I beg your indulgence if you'll  
23 let me say it again: It's about fostering  
24 accountability and transparency. That's  
25 what it should be about.

1           Everything that you do, everything that  
2           you look at, everything you recommend, it  
3           should be about making sure that the voter  
4           sees who's responsible for an issue, and  
5           making sure that whoever is responsible has  
6           the authority to act on it. That's my  
7           personal hobbyhorse.

8           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you.

9           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. With  
10          that, Representative Duggan, thank you very  
11          much.

12          REP. DUGGAN: Thank you.

13          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I appreciate your  
14          time.

15          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: A smattering  
16          of applause.

17          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: A smattering of  
18          applause.

19          (Representative Duggan exited the room.)

20          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So we  
21          interrupted our updates to get our speakers  
22          in here. I wanted to be respectful of their  
23          time.

24          So, again, we were -- everyone was just  
25          kind of giving, you know, an updated view.

1 Is there anybody that you think we should  
2 make sure we're inviting? Have you thought  
3 about any issues that we want to make sure  
4 we're getting on our list of considerations?

5 And Commissioner Hagan had stepped out,  
6 so we'll hit you, and then we'll go.

7 COMMISSIONER HAGAN: Okay. Well, I kind  
8 of mentioned it in my last statement.

9 Streamlining government is pretty  
10 important to me. I want to make sure  
11 that -- you know, governments are very  
12 important to our community; but I also want  
13 to make sure that it's not something that  
14 gets in the way of opportunities, especially  
15 coming to Jacksonville.

16 I think Mayor Delaney made a great point  
17 that without consolidated government we may  
18 not have the Jaguars, and obviously they're  
19 a big part of our community.

20 You know, I think, you know, what's kind  
21 of -- paying attention to what's happening  
22 with the School Board, that's pretty  
23 important, and how we shake that out is  
24 important.

25 The one person that, you know -- and as

1 I tag onto that, the one person that I  
2 would, you know, think we may -- it would be  
3 good to invite -- I don't know if this  
4 person could do it, but it would be Speaker  
5 Commissioner Richard Corcoran. I would love  
6 to hear from him, have his insight. I mean,  
7 just from his knowledge and standpoint, if  
8 we could invite him, I think it would be  
9 great to have him.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Commissioner  
11 Knight.

12 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: All right. So as  
13 I listen and as I've been thinking about, I  
14 think the same thoughts you have around  
15 staggered appointments. I really would like  
16 to take in and understand that a bit more.  
17 I hear the --

18 (Adjusting mic.)

19 COMMISSIONER KNIGHT: Excuse me. I just  
20 realized. Thank you.

21 You know, I hear the pros and cons and  
22 the legacy and our expertise, but that's  
23 heavily on my mind.

24 There's advantages for a person to pick  
25 their team; but, obviously, as we know

1           today, there's also the concerns that come  
2           along with it. So that's one of the things  
3           that's heavily on my mind today.

4           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right.

5           Commissioner Baker.

6           COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you.

7           Yes, again, staggered terms are an  
8           important issue for me to relook at as well.

9           The Office of General Counsel, whether  
10          there are things that need to be changed or  
11          maybe there are no things that need to be  
12          changed. I think that's an area of interest  
13          for me as well. I'm an attorney too.

14          Other issues -- I'm still formulating  
15          some things, honestly, and I'm not ready to  
16          bring more detailed specifics to a couple of  
17          recommendations. But I do have some  
18          thoughts that I will be sharing further down  
19          the road.

20          As far as speakers, I think Ms. Boyer.  
21          I think she's already on your list.

22          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: She will be.

23          COMMISSIONER BAKER: She's going to be a  
24          really great insight for us.

25          Can we email you -- like the whole

1 board, potentially, if we come up with ideas  
2 of like a couple of other people we want to  
3 add to the list of speakers?

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Those should go  
5 through staff, like Carol Owens --

6 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Okay. It goes  
7 straight to staff, not like --

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Right.

9 COMMISSIONER BAKER: -- reply all?

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. Go through  
11 that --

12 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Okay. We'll just  
13 go through staff.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- and then we can  
15 do -- 'cause just so everybody is aware,  
16 we've sent out letters of invitation to all  
17 of the constitutional officers, all of the  
18 independent authorities, and our full Duval  
19 delegation. So those letters have gone out.  
20 Those invitations have been made.

21 So if there are people that you think we  
22 should be hearing from, get those names to  
23 Carol, and then we can prepare the letters  
24 and get them scheduled to come in here.

25 Again, my goal is that we finish -- we



1 identify our issues by the end of September  
2 so that we have enough time to do the real  
3 hard work of listening, getting testimony,  
4 doing the fact-finding, and that we have  
5 enough time.

6 In my independent conversations with  
7 Representative Duggan, that was one of the  
8 issues that -- in fact, it was one of the  
9 recommendations, is that they extend that  
10 time period out to 12 months for the CRC to  
11 do their work.

12 So trying to learn from how they did it,  
13 that's why I wanted us to give ourselves  
14 enough time. But that said, I don't want to  
15 rush us if we don't feel like we have fully  
16 understood what it means of going into this  
17 issue or if there's some other ones.

18 So, you know, this is -- it will be  
19 somewhat fluid; but that's what my goal is,  
20 for us to really start doing the work on the  
21 fact-finding and making specific  
22 recommendations by the end of September.

23 And I would encourage everyone -- part  
24 of your packet that you have now is the  
25 Blueprint for Improvement II. Look through

1           that.  And, you know, again, this work has  
2           been done, and these opportunities are out  
3           there for action by the council.  They don't  
4           have perhaps the same emphasis as coming  
5           from the CRC, but my hope is that if we have  
6           something different, identify the issue; but  
7           we have a different solution, then let's  
8           pursue that.

9           But going back and simply rehashing  
10          solutions that have already been proposed  
11          and not acted upon, I don't think it's  
12          productive for our group.  So that will be  
13          my encouragement on that.  Go.

14          COMMISSIONER BAKER:  Yeah.  I just want  
15          to add, I do believe in transparency,  
16          accountability, checks and balances, and  
17          also streamlining, unifying our government.  
18          We have a very big government in the City of  
19          Jacksonville.  I think a lot of our citizens  
20          in Jacksonville think of the City of  
21          Jacksonville as including all of the  
22          authorities.

23          And so there are some issues when  
24          citizens call the city and say, Hey, I have  
25          a utility issue, and they're like, Well, we

1 can't help you; you need to call JEA. They  
2 don't understand that.

3 So there are maybe some unifying, you  
4 know, visions that we can create in the Task  
5 Force, the -- what was it, the Strategic and  
6 Planning Commission, I think, was the name  
7 they called it. That also is a good idea.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Sure. McCoy.

11 COMMISSIONER McCOY: So these  
12 appointments, I guess we're going to be  
13 handling those 'cause I'm another one that  
14 is concerned about these appointments,  
15 especially like the appointments to like the  
16 boards. You know, for the Mayor to be able  
17 to come in and clear it out and staff it  
18 again, I think we need to look at how we  
19 remove people out of positions and make sure  
20 there's a check and balance on that. Make  
21 sure that we're not just moving people just  
22 'cause but for a just cause.

23 And then I would also second that  
24 staggered appointment of the G/C. It  
25 just -- for me it makes sense that if it's

1           supposed to be for the entire City, that it  
2           doesn't -- it shouldn't matter what Mayor's  
3           in that spot because it's for the entire  
4           City.

5           So it just kind of helps -- it brings  
6           that next level of check and balance on it.  
7           It's worked great for 50 years; but, you  
8           know, maybe for the next 50 we need to do  
9           something different.

10          The people that I want to hear from -- I  
11          want to hear from our university experts.  
12          So we have a lot of people who have, you  
13          know, worked it through government. But I  
14          also want to know from the people who are  
15          actually working on a day-to-day studying  
16          it.

17          So if we're looking at the waterways,  
18          you know, we're going to bring in the Marine  
19          Science Department from JU and from UNF, or  
20          from one of the two.

21          If we're looking at education, we're  
22          going to bring in the educational  
23          professionals that have studied this stuff  
24          specifically for our county.

25          So those are some things that I wanted

1 to look at and hear from.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Thank  
3 you. Commissioner Mills.

4 COMMISSIONER MILLS: I don't have  
5 anything right now.

6 CHAIRPERSON: You don't have anything.  
7 Mr. Schellenberg.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: You knew I'd  
9 come -- I think the first thing we should do  
10 is -- (laughter).

11 I think the first thing we should do,  
12 before we start anything, is -- we did a  
13 agenda, and we have minutes. We should  
14 either approve the minutes or not approve  
15 the minutes before we start any meeting.

16 So I think that's the first thing that  
17 we should do before I say anything else, and  
18 then I'll make a comment about the minutes.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's probably --

20 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Right now.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well --

22 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: The minutes  
23 are there, and I think we should either  
24 approve them or not approve them. And if  
25 there's an error, then we should correct the

1 error. So I'll leave it up to you.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No, your -- point  
3 well made and well taken. And I should have  
4 likely pulled that in right after the call  
5 to order, is to --

6 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Right.

7 But my concern is this. I really  
8 disagree with you on this issue.

9 Just because somebody opined about it 10  
10 years ago, why don't we go back 20 years or  
11 30 years? Why are we even here if we are  
12 just going to just basically say that what  
13 they talked about 10 years ago is approved?  
14 That doesn't make any sense to me.

15 We should look at everything in the  
16 Charter and what they did and decide for  
17 ourselves, as a committee, if we're going to  
18 do something; otherwise, throw your iPhone  
19 away, because 10 years ago they barely  
20 existed.

21 There's a lot of things that have  
22 transpired in the last 10 years that might  
23 confirm or deny some of the things that they  
24 came up with.

25 UNKNOWN AUDIENCE: Correct.

1           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: And so I --  
2 please don't opine.

3           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

4           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: But I think  
5 that -- at the last meeting -- and you said  
6 it today -- appointed School Board members.

7           It's been polled many times, and  
8 recently by Jax U.S.A. It came back 70  
9 percent, 80 percent of the people say no.  
10 You're not going to -- they don't want to  
11 give up the right of voting for people.

12           And so for us to affirm it means that  
13 we're basically saying the citizens don't  
14 know. And that might be the case, that  
15 maybe we need to educate them. But I am not  
16 going to be on record that's saying the  
17 appointed School Board members of 10 years  
18 ago, they opined about it, and they  
19 recommended -- they recommended the -- I am  
20 not on that page. We should discuss it.

21           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So  
22 that's fine. We can discuss that, because  
23 here's what --

24           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: But you said  
25 that we're just going to move over -- move

1 forward on it, and I'm not going to do that.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Our charge as the  
3 commission is to look at the Charter. Our  
4 charge is not to go back and say up or down  
5 on any of the recommendations from a prior  
6 Charter Revision Commission. That was the  
7 point of my comments.

8 No one is endorsing any of the prior  
9 recommendations. My point has simply been  
10 those recommendations have been made. There  
11 is the opportunity to act upon them, which  
12 has been acted upon by Representative  
13 Fischer with his J Bill, and the resolution  
14 that has been put forward by Council Member  
15 Carlucci as to the appointed School Board  
16 issue. That's being acted upon.

17 For us to get involved in that one way  
18 or the other is now involving the Commission  
19 into a policy debate that is occurring  
20 amongst the elected bodies. That is not our  
21 role.

22 Our role is not to go back and look at  
23 this Charter Revision or the ones before  
24 that or the ones before that or the ones  
25 before that and vote up or down on all of



1           those recommendations. They're there.  
2           We're not approving them; we're not  
3           endorsing them; we're not saying that  
4           they're good; we're not saying that they're  
5           bad. They are simply there. So those  
6           issues have been tackled.

7           If we want to do something different, if  
8           we say, perhaps, we have part appointed,  
9           part elected, if we want to look at  
10          something like that, if there is a different  
11          solution for the issue, that's where I want  
12          this Commission to look at. But not to go  
13          back and rehash and come up with the same  
14          recommendations that have already been put  
15          forward and either acted upon or not acted  
16          upon.

17          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Well, let's  
18          go back to what actually was done, because I  
19          looked at the audio and video.

20          Ms. Baker said, Don't reinvent the wheel  
21          by ignoring the previous Charter -- I'm just  
22          reading this -- previous research and  
23          recommend it.

24          And you said, except for a few words in  
25          here and there, That's okay. But that's not

1           okay with me, because there are other  
2           solutions. And, in fact, he has other  
3           solutions that were recommended other than  
4           approval of the School Board.

5           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I just said, if  
6           there are other solutions, yes.

7           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay. So in  
8           spite of the fact that Jason Gabriel -- I  
9           mean, Jason Fischer introduced it and Matt  
10          Carlucci did, that will be done. That will  
11          be over with probably within the next two  
12          months. And if you want to postpone the  
13          discussion on appointed School Board,  
14          that -- until after they do all the  
15          whatever, and we can come up with better  
16          solutions, I'd be okay with that. But I am  
17          not in favor of the comments that we are  
18          going to just research and recommend what  
19          happened 10 years ago, which is my point.

20          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. What would  
21          your suggestions be with regards to the  
22          School Board?

23          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: There's a  
24          lot of suggestions. There's a lot of  
25          suggestions. I'm just saying that we should

1 look into not having an appointed School  
2 Board because the citizens as a whole --

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We don't have an  
4 appointed School Board, so --

5 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: But it's one  
6 of the recommended 10 years ago. Anyway --

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Hey. We're not here  
8 to debate what they did 10 years ago.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I know. All  
10 I'm saying is that we should look at the  
11 School Board and saying -- maybe we should  
12 look at it and say that we oppose appointed  
13 School Board members. We can do that.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's not our role.  
15 That's how it exists. I like the Charter.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I mean, are we going  
18 to do that for every provision of the  
19 Charter? And that's my point. Otherwise,  
20 we go down a rabbit hole of feeling like we  
21 have to ratify everything as it currently  
22 exists, and we're not going to waste time  
23 doing that.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: That's not  
25 what --

1           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We don't have an  
2 appointed School Board.

3           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: That's not  
4 what the minutes say. That's not what the  
5 report says.

6           It says we're going to research and  
7 recommend the same thing. That's what was  
8 affirmed in the meeting, was my point.

9           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Then if I -- if that  
10 came out that way, then --

11          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: That's  
12 exactly what was said. Go look at it.

13          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- then that was a  
14 mistake, and that was a miss-wording by  
15 me --

16          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay.

17          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- in that respect,  
18 because we are not ratifying what's been  
19 done by the previous Commission.

20          COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay. A  
21 couple thoughts.

22          I think that all elected officials  
23 are -- have to do a financial disclosure. I  
24 think senior staff of the administration  
25 need to do that too.

1           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:   Okay.

2           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG:   And I think  
3           too we should look at them having to leave  
4           office and come back and immediately lobby  
5           afterwards, or be hired afterwards.   I think  
6           there should be a grace period in which they  
7           have to be out of office for a while.

8           I think that we should look at campaign  
9           financing on how we do elections.   We have a  
10          state law of a thousand dollars per  
11          individual, but we have a lot of pack money  
12          that is thrown in there that overwhelmed  
13          some campaigns.

14          Just the thought -- someone read the --  
15          I get calls all the time.   And I'm not  
16          recommending it.   It's something that I need  
17          to research, and it's called ranked voting.  
18          It's done in Maine and Australia.   I'm not  
19          sure if I'd want to follow either of them,  
20          but someone's mentioned that to me.

21          I did touch base --

22          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:   Can I just  
23          interrupt?

24          Does everybody understand what ranked  
25          voting is?

1 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: No.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I'm not  
4 familiar with it.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. I'll briefly  
6 -- briefly explain, is that if there are,  
7 you know, like several candidates, five  
8 candidates, whatever, you rank them. You  
9 say -- it's going to be pretty much kind of  
10 like what we're going to be doing when we  
11 get to our issues. But you say, This is my  
12 first choice. If my first choice doesn't  
13 win, then this is my second choice.

14 And so what they do is they go back  
15 through, and they'll tally up the votes and  
16 say, Okay. Well, here's our top three.  
17 They didn't get -- or top one didn't get 50  
18 percent plus one.

19 So now we go back and you knock out the  
20 bottom ones and you look at the second  
21 choice, and you add up those and you see,  
22 Okay, we'll do those. When added up with  
23 the first choice, do we now have 50 percent  
24 plus one?

25 What that does efficiency-wise is

1 eliminates the need for runoffs, because you  
2 go through and you have one election, and  
3 then you get the candidate that has the most  
4 people who like them, I guess, to say it  
5 that way. But that's how ranked voting  
6 works.

7 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: (Inaudible  
8 cross-talk) more like a survey.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Great. I  
10 haven't done enough research. That sounds  
11 like it's right. And I heard what you  
12 said --

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: -- and I'm  
15 thinking I'm still confused.

16 Okay. I don't particularly like the  
17 idea, but I've had a lot of people tell me  
18 about the non-partisanship of the election.  
19 Have non-partisan elections.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: For everything?

21 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Uh-huh  
22 (affirmative response).

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I'm not  
25 saying I'm in favor of it. I can't tell you

1           how many people tell me this. And it was  
2           discussed in my other members' elections.  
3           And that is a huge problem.

4                     If we had thought about it, and I  
5           thought that I could get the Council in the  
6           first term to move it into the fall --  
7           because that way they would come in office  
8           in January, and a lot of the budget stuff is  
9           discussed between, you know, March, April  
10          and May. And those are where the Council  
11          people engage the administration and say,  
12          Hey, I got lots of things in my district.  
13          These are my top priorities; put them in the  
14          budget.

15                    But because of the way the election  
16          runs, the new people come in and the old --  
17          they might not like the recommendation of  
18          the guy that -- the guy or woman that  
19          they're replacing, and those priorities are  
20          different.

21                    And so if you had the election in the  
22          fall, and they took the office in January,  
23          it would give everybody a way to feel the  
24          world, and then the budget, and engagement  
25          between administration and the elected City



1 Council people would go forward.

2 And -- I -- this is worthless  
3 information, but about -- and it wasn't my  
4 idea, but I don't object to taking good  
5 ideas and going with it.

6 But Jim Bailey with the Financial News  
7 and Daily Report back at seven -- six,  
8 seven, eight years ago wrote that the Mayor  
9 should meet with a group of people every  
10 quarter, twice a year, to make sure that  
11 they're all on the same page.

12 That means -- right now, actually, the  
13 independent authorities actually all get  
14 together to make sure they don't overlap and  
15 see how four of them can work together to  
16 make five. But I recommended -- and it was  
17 a resolution, though Mayor Brown ignored it  
18 and this Mayor ignores it. But basically  
19 get in a group of independent authorities,  
20 college presidents, which would hit you,  
21 maybe the specific Council President and two  
22 or three other people that I can't remember  
23 who all, but basically sit down -- and it  
24 doesn't necessarily have to be in the  
25 Sunshine, and the President of the Council

1 define, and just sit down in a conference  
2 room and discuss the issues that each of  
3 them are having and see if they can work  
4 together to find a better solution.

5 And, quite frankly, Chris Hagan -- his  
6 partner has done that with City Council -- I  
7 mean Public Works for the City and JTA to  
8 make sure that we have projects that  
9 potentially can overlap; we don't tear up a  
10 road one year and then the City or JTA the  
11 following year has to tear up the same road.  
12 Coordinate efforts so we're being more  
13 efficient with our money and the quality of  
14 life for the City.

15 And that was the concept that I think  
16 Jim Bailey had. I liked the idea, and I  
17 think it's important; to force the Mayor to  
18 meet quarterly or maybe -- quarterly or at  
19 least twice a year to discuss what everybody  
20 is doing and to see how they can better work  
21 as an efficient, transparent organization.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I like that idea.  
23 And I can tell you from personal experience,  
24 there are a lot of different groups in the  
25 transportation and maritime side. And two

1 years ago they formed a group,  
2 Transportation and Logistics Network, which  
3 takes the heads of all of those different  
4 groups, and we meet just like -- we meet  
5 quarterly, and we all talk about issues that  
6 we're hearing in the industry. And we have  
7 several times teamed up and been able to get  
8 a lot of synergy on an issue and put it out  
9 there.

10 So that's -- I think if there's a  
11 structural way to put that into place,  
12 you're right. It certainly works on the  
13 efficiency side.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Yes. And  
15 before I forget, I think that there -- we do  
16 have a strong Mayor, but there's no balance.  
17 And I saw it for eight years. There's  
18 really no balance. It's structured this  
19 way, but I think it's overwhelming, the  
20 power of the Mayor, versus the 19; because  
21 as a 19, we cannot discuss any issues with  
22 Ms. Mills or any of us, but the Mayor and  
23 lobbyists have indiscriminate ability to  
24 talk to each one of us independently, find  
25 out how our votes are and know exactly where

1 anybody is at any particular time.

2 So objecting to various things or  
3 whatever it is, I cannot -- I'd have to have  
4 a committee meeting or a noticed meeting to  
5 talk to one or two, and then go on from  
6 there. It is time consuming and sometimes  
7 inefficient.

8 And I'm not quite sure of the -- how to  
9 find that balance, but I think right now  
10 it's out of whack. There's no balance. And  
11 I'm not quite sure what the recommendation  
12 is.

13 And that's my last comment. And I  
14 apologize if I was too aggressive in regards  
15 to the appointed School Board, and I  
16 apologize.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No. There's no  
18 reason to apologize. We're all -- this is  
19 the work that we're doing. And if I was  
20 stronger in my response than I should have,  
21 then I apologize back. We'll hug it out  
22 later.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay.  
24 That's fine. We're in an arm wrestle.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And that was -- you

1 know, one of the things too, I was --  
2 realized when you mentioned about the  
3 minutes, I forgot that we do have a  
4 transcript. So the approval of the minutes,  
5 we can do it. It's been kind of  
6 ministerial, but we have it down exactly,  
7 what has all been said and done in there.

8 So with that, we've done the  
9 presentations. Do we have any -- oh.

10 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I have a question.  
11 And this is regard- -- because you tweaked  
12 an area of interest of mine, and the area of  
13 interest is campaign financing.

14 But, you know, looking at the Charter --  
15 and I'm going to review -- oh. Can I hold  
16 it --

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: 'Cause we're going  
18 -- yeah. We're going to go back to  
19 commission discussion after --

20 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Oh, I'm sorry.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- we get some  
22 public comment.

23 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I apologize.  
24 That's fine.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: But, yeah. So that

1 we can all talk about some of these  
2 different ideas.

3 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Oh, I'm sorry.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. We have  
5 Stanley Scott --

6 MR. SCOTT: Absolutely.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- wants to talk  
8 about leadership.

9 MR. SCOTT: That's what's on the list.  
10 But after talking to y'all, I'm going to  
11 change some things.

12 Do you want me to sit here?

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, sir, you can  
14 sit right there.

15 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Stanley Scott.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Tell us your name,  
17 and basically we'll follow kind of the same  
18 protocol with Counsel.

19 MR. SCOTT: My name is Stanley Scott.  
20 I'm here to represent the African-American  
21 Economic Recovery Think Tank.

22 First of all, accountability, ethics,  
23 transparency. I hear a lot of people  
24 talking about -- especially today, talking  
25 about the great job that everybody have been

1           doing.  What city are y'all talking about?  
2           Because I've got empirical evidence to show  
3           that you have a leadership problem.  And we  
4           continue to play that game 'cause it used to  
5           be, when I was coming up, it was a Tale of  
6           Two Cities based on race.  Today it's the  
7           have and the have nots.

8           You have administration, ever since  
9           consolidation, where you made promises,  
10          promise to the African-American community.  
11          And not one of them, not one of them -- I  
12          don't want to get started here, but I will  
13          be hoping that my company, the  
14          African-American Economic Recovery Think  
15          Tank, would be invited to this meeting.  
16          This would be the third Charter that I have  
17          participated in, been asked to speak.

18          We got a problem in this City, and I  
19          know a lot of people, especially the  
20          African-American -- I mean the Caucasian  
21          leadership, the Caucasian male leadership is  
22          appalling.

23          This City have no life, no quality of  
24          life.  Look at downtown.  You could come  
25          down the main roads of downtown, coming from

1           Arlington, and you see all that trash in  
2           this city.

3           I go down to Orlando and I can almost  
4           lay on the floor in some -- in parts of  
5           Orlando. But all these years that  
6           Jacksonville have been around, you have  
7           moved -- you have moved the power structure  
8           where you got most the way -- south of Beach  
9           Boulevard, that's a whole different city.  
10          It's disconnected.

11          You've got four areas of Jacksonville,  
12          and you are spending most of the money in  
13          the intellectual capital on the Southside.  
14          You are not engaged with the whole city. So  
15          you've got an issue here.

16          I'm going to call out some quick things  
17          here 'cause I know I'm short on time.

18          But we've got equality of outcome; we've  
19          got equality of opportunities.

20          Now, you -- like I say, when I was  
21          coming up, it was about race. Race is still  
22          an issue, but today it's about the have and  
23          the have nots. We see numerous -- millions  
24          of dollars, going up to billions of dollars  
25          being stole from this City. We have, like I



1 say, empirical evidence of this fact.

2 But leadership continues to play these  
3 games in this City here, and you're causing  
4 a problem in the City 'cause this is one of  
5 the worst cities for quality of life.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Point of  
9 information. Do we have a chance to ask  
10 questions or --

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: To the speaker?

12 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Certainly.

14 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you. Thank  
15 you, Mr. Brock.

16 Just a couple questions: Tell me about  
17 your organization and/or corporation. It  
18 could be one and the same. Do you have a  
19 website? Who are your officers? What is  
20 your IRS reporting status? I just want to  
21 know more about your group.

22 I've heard you speak before, and tell me  
23 a little bit more about your group, The  
24 Think Tank.

25 MR. SCOTT: Well, the African-American

1 Economic Recovery Think is the focus on the  
2 African-American community working from the  
3 bottom up. That means we're looking at the  
4 issue here where most of the time in the  
5 City the issues are dealt from the top.  
6 Very seldom did we look at things from the  
7 bottom here.

8 We have a lot of great people in this  
9 City here, and they are not able to get the  
10 microphone. What I mean about the  
11 microphone, being able to -- their voices  
12 not being heard. You've got an ethics  
13 problem.

14 And with the African-American Economic  
15 Recovery Think, we looking at we are  
16 holistic, meaning we look at everything,  
17 based on all the criterias that's available  
18 in this country, and we see that we still  
19 have the same problem as -- for a  
20 leadership.

21 But when it come to the African-American  
22 community, well, there's a little over  
23 300,000 of us in the African-American  
24 community in the north part of Jacksonville,  
25 what we call the North -- sorry about

1           that -- in North Jacksonville -- I mean  
2           Jacksonville Metro. Sorry about that.

3           And we look at -- and we are nationally  
4           known too. We do more work on our side of  
5           Jacksonville because we have an education  
6           problem in Jacksonville.

7           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I hate  
8           interrupting you, but I'm going to  
9           because --

10          MR. SCOTT: Yes.

11          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: -- what I'm trying  
12          to find out, like do you have officers?  
13          When do you have meetings?

14          MR. SCOTT: Absolutely.

15          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: How many members  
16          do you have, if at all, and what is your IRS  
17          status? I just want -- I want to know about  
18          the organization, not how the organization  
19          works.

20          MR. SCOTT: Okay. I understand. I  
21          gotcha.

22          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Yeah. I just want  
23          to know if it's a formal IRS recognized  
24          non-profit --

25          MR. SCOTT: Absolutely.

1           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: -- or a  
2 profit-making organization or --

3           MR. SCOTT: No. It's for profit.

4           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Yes. Just a  
5 couple of words or two could tell me.

6           MR. SCOTT: Yeah, it's for profit.

7           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: So I can look you  
8 -- then I can look it up.

9           MR. SCOTT: We have over 5,000 people  
10 connected with it.

11          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Members?

12          MR. SCOTT: Absolutely.

13          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: And who are the  
14 officers, may I ask?

15          MR. SCOTT: Oh. We have about 12  
16 officers.

17          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Are you the  
18 president?

19          MR. SCOTT: I'm the owner/president.

20          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Okay. Is it a  
21 501(c)(3)?

22          MR. SCOTT: No. It's for profit.

23          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Okay. Thank you.  
24 That's -- yeah.

25          MR. SCOTT: I apologize for that.

1           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: And can I find a  
2 website.

3           MR. SCOTT: Yeah. I get a little savvy  
4 when I come up in here 'cause there's so  
5 much evil.

6           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Okay. There is a  
7 website that I can look at?

8           MR. SCOTT: Absolutely. Yes.

9           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you. Thank  
10 you.

11          MR. SCOTT: But we are a 100 percent  
12 legit business, LLC.

13          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Okay. Thank you  
14 so much.

15          MR. SCOTT: Yes, ma'am, around 14 years.

16          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

17          MR. SCOTT: Okay. Thank you. I hope  
18 I'm on the list to speak besides public  
19 comment.

20          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Nooney.

21          MR. NOONEY: Hello. My name is John  
22 Nooney, and thank you for the opportunity to  
23 participate. I'm just excited that there's  
24 a stenographer here just to record all of  
25 this and -- you know, the Charter Revision

1 Commission, you know, I participated 10  
2 years ago, and I made almost every single  
3 meeting. And, you know, the Ethics, you  
4 know, that was a recommendation. But you  
5 know what? What was recommended and if you  
6 look at what is there now, it's been gutted.

7 You know, I went upstairs -- let me just  
8 share with you -- and I want this to be part  
9 of the record. I'm going to leave a copy.  
10 But these are the agendas for City Council  
11 meetings. And, hopefully, you know, you can  
12 all look at it.

13 MS. OWENS: That's no agenda; that's a  
14 calendar.

15 MR. NOONEY: But -- pardon me?

16 MS. OWENS: That's a calendar.

17 MS. MATTHEWS: That's a calendar.

18 MR. NOONEY: I know. But I'd like it to  
19 be -- I'll start submitting them. But --  
20 okay. But, anyway, here's another one.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We'll accept --  
22 we'll take the calendar.

23 MR. NOONEY: Okay. All right. It's a  
24 calendar, but, you know, there's a lot of  
25 information on a calendar. You know,

1 meetings that are cancelled, not cancelled.

2 But, anyway, here are the speaker cards.

3 Like I went up; I participated 10 years ago.

4 And I submitted lots of different things.

5 But, anyway, here's the speaker card,

6 you know, from like one of the first ones in

7 June, and then -- my first one that I found

8 wasn't until almost the end in November.

9 And, you know, so, in other words, I was

10 hoping, you know, to go up there and come

11 and be prepared to share with you a lot of

12 the stuff that I did 10 years ago. But

13 thank goodness that you can go and read the

14 record from the stenographer.

15 Okay. So that's -- so, anyway, what I'm

16 here about right now, the biggest thing, in

17 my opinion, should be bringing in Ashley

18 Moody, the Attorney General for the State of

19 Florida. The public trust has been crushed.

20 It's out the window.

21 You know, one of the biggest

22 recommendations from the Ethics last time

23 was the independence. Well, they used to be

24 over in another building. Where are they

25 now?

1           You know, also there used to be a -- you  
2 know, a jail time for violat- -- we took  
3 that out.

4           Look at -- it's up there in the records.  
5 You go and look at Sunshine and then you  
6 look at the codes. In 10 years it's been,  
7 in my opinion, gutted.

8           So, anyway -- so even though you want to  
9 pat yourselves on the back that we did  
10 something with ethics, you're -- it's been  
11 eliminated almost.

12           And so, I only have three minutes and,  
13 you know, my --

14           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You have about 45  
15 seconds left.

16           MR. NOONEY: How many seconds?

17           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: 40.

18           MR. NOONEY: 40. Well, anyway, my  
19 biggest thing is the waterways, you know.  
20 And I'm -- and then, I guess, the Waterways  
21 and Ethics. It has to get back to like  
22 meetings I attend to. And I just have a --  
23 you know, the ethics is gone. And we have a  
24 lot of serious issues there.

25           For all of you that are here, you know,



1           that are left, you know from 15 down to, you  
2           know, to just how many of you are here just  
3           even listening to this -- but go up and  
4           look, 'cause that's what I did, you know,  
5           because I was just aghast that everything  
6           that I thought I did 10 years ago -- that's  
7           why going forward now I feel like it's a  
8           learning curve, especially if you're not  
9           used to it.

10           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

11           MR. NOONEY: And I've been, you know,  
12           threatened, intimidated. I've got dozens of  
13           stories. I mean dozens.

14           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

15           MR. NOONEY: All right. Well, thank you  
16           for listening.

17           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I'm sorry we don't  
18           have a light and the timer and all.

19           MR. NOONEY: Oh. No problem. I hope to  
20           come back and try to share with you more.  
21           But look at the ethics; it's gone.

22           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

23           Any other cards? No. Okay.

24           Now, Commission discussion. And as much  
25           as Commissioner Lisska was about to --

1           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Oh. That's all  
2 right.

3           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No, no, no, because  
4 that's what I was hoping we'd do is -- we  
5 heard a lot from -- we all had the  
6 opportunity to ask questions.

7           And so what were some of the ideas, I  
8 guess, that you had? And we'll all -- you  
9 know, if you want to talk about something  
10 else, turn your card up.

11          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Mine is more of a  
12 -- Emily Lisska, and mine is more a point of  
13 information that I need to move forward.

14          There was a suggestion -- and I have an  
15 interest too in campaign financing; but as I  
16 understand, that is controlled by both  
17 federal and state, and I don't know what  
18 role we can play.

19          I will reread the Charter in that regard  
20 'cause I know there's a whole chapter area  
21 on elections, but I don't think campaign  
22 financing is specifically covered. And I  
23 would like to see us have input as possible.

24          I mean, you know, our charge is the best  
25 form of government we can have, and I think

1           that clearly is an area that should be  
2           explored.

3           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  And -- 'cause I had  
4           noted that as well.  One of the areas that I  
5           thought --

6           COMMISSIONER LISSKA:  And then do we  
7           seek help from the -- from counsel on that?

8           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  Well, yeah.  We  
9           certainly -- we could certainly reach out to  
10          General Counsel, because I was wondering if  
11          that were something that would fall under  
12          Ethics, since Ethics is now in the Charter.

13          COMMISSIONER LISSKA:  Okay.  I see your  
14          point.

15          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  That may be  
16          something that we could look at.

17                 And maybe we can get a little more  
18          clarity, Ms. Johnston, on that; as far as if  
19          we were to look at campaign financing, where  
20          would we address something like that?

21          Within the Charter or perhaps  
22          recommendations to the Legislature on that?

23          MS. JOHNSTON:  Okay.

24          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  Any other discussion  
25          items from what we've talked about?

1           COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Yes. Go  
2 ahead, Ms. Mills.

3           VICE CHAIRPERSON MILLS: Thank you.

4           Yes. I wanted to find out -- I know at  
5 the last meeting we talked about making it  
6 more -- making the Charter more visible to  
7 the public so that we would get more public  
8 speakers to come to -- public comments to  
9 come in.

10           I know we do have a website, but have we  
11 worked on anything as far as media awareness  
12 so people could -- you know, would know that  
13 they could come and speak?

14           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So the short answer  
15 is, yes, we sent out a press release that  
16 has the CRC@coj.net.

17           COMMISSIONER MILLS: Okay.

18           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: They received a call  
19 from WJCT, Abukar Adan, I think who  
20 interviewed me; and I, you know, told him  
21 about it and thanked him and said, We really  
22 want to get that out.

23           I spoke with Carla Miller about the  
24 idea. During our last meeting I said, I'd  
25 really like to try and use social media and

1           those sorts of things, and she essentially  
2           said that, While, yes, that does get the  
3           information out there, it creates  
4           opportunities for a lot more problems for us  
5           with regards to Sunshine violations. So my  
6           view was we don't want to go down that  
7           route.

8           And so what I would encourage all of us  
9           to do is -- to the extent you have your  
10          social media, is to put that out there, and  
11          to let people know that you can be an avenue  
12          for them; but also encourage them to use the  
13          CRC@COJ.net email address because we're  
14          going to have those emails circulated to all  
15          of us as they come in.

16          And, you know, again, to the extent that  
17          I'm going to be, probably next week, on the  
18          radio, reaching out to some of the other  
19          television stations and radio to get on  
20          there and promote that, to get people aware  
21          so that if they're not able to come here to  
22          the meetings, they can at least send an  
23          email of, Hey, I would like to see these  
24          issues dealt with. And then we'll all get  
25          it, and it will all be part of our record

1 and our list of things that we're working  
2 on.

3 So that's kind of -- I probably should  
4 have given that update in the very  
5 beginning. But that's how that is playing  
6 out, that the email address is going to be  
7 the best way for folks that can't make it to  
8 these meetings.

9 Anything else from anyone else?

10 Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Yes, a  
12 couple things.

13 Lisa Green, the Inspector General, might  
14 be some help. You know, she investigates  
15 issues within the City and maybe she might  
16 make -- have some recommendations on how we  
17 should -- anyway.

18 And the other one that -- she came 10  
19 years ago was Nina Waters, who runs the  
20 Community Foundation. She might be good.

21 My only other comment is that -- I was  
22 keeping track of the people here. So we  
23 have 10 people here. Now we only have nine.  
24 We had 15; one dropped off.

25 So I'm kind of concerned if the date's

1 correct. And if the date's correct, we only  
2 have two-thirds of the people here. And I  
3 don't think that's a healthy environment for  
4 this Committee going forward.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No. And we're going  
6 to be working on that.

7 We had excusals from -- four was it?  
8 I've got the email. But we had several that  
9 said they weren't able to make this first  
10 one, but now that we have the schedule out,  
11 that they're going to be -- that they're  
12 going to be working on that.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Okay. Good  
14 enough.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And the one that  
16 said they couldn't was Scott Shine.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Right.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Everyone else --  
19 folks had vacations scheduled up in this  
20 time, but everyone has made a commitment  
21 that they're going to be here for the  
22 remainder of them.

23 Yes, sir.

24 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: You've been doing  
25 a great job at taking everyone's ideas, and

1 I'm just a little -- I'm wondering about the  
2 process.

3 So, we've sort of dictated a bunch of  
4 ideas to you, and then we're going to be,  
5 you know, inviting speakers or making  
6 recommendations for speakers to come and  
7 present.

8 How are you -- are you the one vetting  
9 all of this? Are you using staff to do  
10 this?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We are using staff.

12 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: And how can we  
13 make this easier? Because I'd like to --  
14 the recommendations that I made earlier or,  
15 at least the points I made earlier, I'd like  
16 to be able to, you know, sort of formally  
17 submit those ideas with it and perhaps  
18 attach as supporting information or speakers  
19 to go along with it.

20 I send that to staff; but then are you  
21 going to receive it, and does that sort of  
22 screw up with the Sunshine?

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I don't think -- no,  
24 it doesn't screw up with the Sunshine,  
25 because it's in relation to scheduling.



1           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS:   Okay.

2           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:   The issues -- our  
3           goal is, after this meeting, we're going to  
4           go through the transcript from today and  
5           from last week.

6           We're going to get all of our issues  
7           down on paper.  We're going to have those  
8           circulated before our next meeting; and if  
9           there are -- I've got to see what our  
10          schedule looks like for our August 28  
11          meeting.

12          But if there are people that we can get  
13          and invite to come speak to us then on those  
14          topics, we want to do that.  Because I want  
15          to try and maximize, you know, our time in  
16          here while we're doing our prioritizing of  
17          what are the issues out there so that we all  
18          understand how they work and how they look.

19          I think it's fair to say OGC, in some  
20          respect, is going to be looked at in with  
21          their -- the idea of staggered terms.  A lot  
22          of people have mentioned that.  Ethics.

23          You know -- anyway, I'm rambling on, but  
24          I don't want to take up your time.

25          COMMISSIONER GRIGGS:   Okay.

1           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: But, yes, we're  
2 going to get that issue list, and we're  
3 going to have it circulated around so that  
4 everybody can see it.

5           COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay.

6           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

7           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Mr. Chairman, one  
8 more quick question.

9           We've already had Carla Miller come  
10 before us, and I actually had jotted a note  
11 to myself before the public comments, that I  
12 would like Ms. Miller to reappear from the  
13 standpoint of any -- any changes, anything  
14 she'd like to see; because she only  
15 instructed us when she was here, and we  
16 didn't quiz her about this -- 10 years of  
17 the office. And it would be lovely to have  
18 her come back so we could hear what -- her  
19 thoughts.

20           And other than that, I might suggest  
21 that -- unless it doesn't work for the  
22 Chair, that October and November we could  
23 turn our dates in, and we could get those  
24 months scheduled so we can make other  
25 appointments that are needed.

1           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. That was one  
2 of the first things that I had mentioned  
3 there, is for everyone to get us, you know,  
4 dates where you are not available.

5           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Oh. Going forward  
6 even.

7           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Going forward, yeah.

8           COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Okay. Sure.

9           CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Now through  
10 December --

11          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I'll do that.

12          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Let's work now  
13 through December --

14          COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Perfect.

15          CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And everyone -- on  
16 dates that you are not available -- because  
17 we have constraints as far as availability  
18 of rooms. I think once we get through the  
19 budget, it will be a lot easier, and we'll  
20 have more opportunity and flexibility in  
21 scheduling. But we want to make sure that  
22 everybody gets that information out.

23          And, Carol, perhaps we can get an email  
24 out through your office to all of the  
25 members, those that are excused from their

1 appearance here today, so that they know as  
2 well to get us those dates.

3 And it's important -- you know, even if  
4 it's just one date, please send it in,  
5 because we want to make sure that we're able  
6 to get these in here.

7 And I agree. I want to bring Carla  
8 back. And you had mentioned the Inspector  
9 General, because that was one area that I  
10 was looking at and doing a little bit of  
11 homework of, there seems to be perhaps some  
12 overlap, and maybe some ways that we could  
13 structure the Inspector General in with the  
14 Ethics and, you know, look at something  
15 along those ways of streamlining it and  
16 making it more efficient so we have less  
17 overlap in the oversight.

18 Anyone else? Oh, yes. Santiago.

19 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: I just had a  
20 quick question.

21 You just stated that our next meeting is  
22 August the 28th. I just want to verify. Is  
23 it the 29th?

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I'm sorry. It's the  
25 29th.

1           COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO:  Okay.  Just  
2           verifying.  Thank you.

3           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  That's kind of an  
4           inside joke that I had with Jessica.

5           Yes.  Yes.  Whatever -- so it is the  
6           29th?

7           MS. OWENS:  Yes.

8           CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  9:00.

9           MS. OWENS:  Yes.

10          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  Here.

11          MS. OWEN:  In chambers.

12          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  In chambers?

13          MS. OWENS:  Yes.

14          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  Oh, okay.  Oh, yes,  
15          I remember it well.

16          COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO:  Thank you.

17          CHAIRPERSON BROCK:  Thank you.  So very  
18          good, clarification on that.

19          So everybody got that?  August 29th, in  
20          Chambers, at nine o'clock, we'll meet on  
21          that.

22          So Mr. U, I saw you come in.  Did you  
23          want to say anything to us or are you just  
24          here to --

25          MR. U:  Just here to observe.

1                   CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Just here to  
2 observe. All right.

3                   Any other business?

4                   Thank you all very much. We stand  
5 adjourned.

6                   (The Charter Review Commission Meeting  
7 was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.)

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF DUVAL )

I, Ellen G. Watterson, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public, duly qualified in and for the state of Florida, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing Charter Review Commission Meeting; and that the transcript is a true record of the proceedings.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 23rd day of August, A.D., 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_