

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Friday, October 25, 2019
TIME: 9:05 a.m. - 12:23 p.m.
PLACE: Jacksonville City Council Chamber
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
Frank Denton, Board Member
Charles Griggs, Board Member
Nick Howland, Board Member
Heidi Jameson, Board Member
Emily Lisska, Board Member
Celestine Mills, Board Member
Betzy Santiago, Board Member
Hon. Matt Schellenberg, Board Member
Hon. Ronald V. Swanson, Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

CRC Staff:

Jessica Matthews, Chief of Legislative
Services
Jessica Smith, Legislative Assistant
Anthony Baltiero, Council Research
Paige Johnston, Office of General Counsel
Melanie Wilkes, Information Systems
Administrator.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Let's go ahead and
3 call the meeting to order. And you know
4 what, I left something off the agenda that
5 is on -- so you got two agendas, one -- oh,
6 they did? They took the old one, okay.

7 Well, the one thing that I forgot to add
8 onto this agenda was the approval of the
9 meeting minutes. So our first order of
10 business will be to approve the minutes from
11 October 15 and --

12 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: So moved.

13 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Second.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All in favor?

15 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any opposed?

17 Thank you. Those meeting minutes are
18 approved.

19 Now we will go into our public comment.
20 And I have one card here from Cindy Pearson.

21 Mr. Griggs, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Do we need to
23 amend the agenda to reflect that we approve
24 the minutes?

25 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: You just

1 did.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah, we did.

3 MS. PEARSON: It looks like my time is
4 running.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. We'll reset
6 your clock.

7 MS. PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.

8 Do you want my name and address?

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, please.

10 MS. PEARSON: Cindy Pearson, 3907
11 Barcelona Avenue, 32207, is my address.

12 In looking at the items that you'll
13 consider today, I'm addressing item E, which
14 affects the School Board. I urge you to
15 support a plan that provides for the -- an
16 elected school board by district and who are
17 empowered to appoint the most qualified
18 superintendent that we can find for Duval
19 County.

20 I have many concerns about the J1
21 proposal from Representative Fischer, but
22 I'll distill them kind of into two
23 categories. The first is the trend among
24 large urban school districts, like ours, is
25 to an appointed school superintendent.

1 Moving to an elected superintendent may pull
2 us or eliminate the most qualified
3 candidates from consideration for our school
4 system, which would put us at a
5 disadvantage.

6 The second is that campaigns are
7 expensive and they're time consuming. The
8 person who is qualified to run the school
9 district may not be the same person who has
10 the skill set to run a campaign and do
11 campaign finance, fundraising for that,
12 which means that not only -- I think this
13 would be a very expensive election. And I'm
14 concerned that we may end up with a
15 candidate who is either able to sell --
16 finance the campaign and would really not be
17 accountable to anyone in real terms, or
18 someone who is heavily financed by special
19 interest and then would be beholden to those
20 people as well.

21 And I don't think either situation is
22 what we're looking for in Jacksonville. I
23 really think the best way to continue going
24 for us is with an elected school board,
25 elected by district, and an appointed

1 superintendent. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I have a
4 question.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Oh, yes.

6 Mr. Schellenberg, has a question for
7 you, ma'am.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Through the
9 Chair.

10 I forgot you name. I'm sorry.

11 MS. PEARSON: Pearson, Cindy Pearson.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Great. So,
13 in reality, someone like you could run for
14 the School Board and actually win; is that
15 correct?

16 MS. PEARSON: That is.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Anybody over
18 21 can run and win; is that correct?

19 MS. PEARSON: That is true. I would
20 also tell you that I have a master's degree.
21 I have three children in the school system:
22 two in high school, one in middle school.
23 And I am a native of Jacksonville, Florida,
24 and a product of Duval County Public
25 Schools. I would not put myself in that

1 election because I don't think I have the
2 educational and professional background to
3 run for School Board Superintendent.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I guess my
5 point is that anybody, especially in a race
6 of ten people running as elected, you never
7 know what's going to happen, and someone
8 could get there at age 22 and win an
9 election who is completely unqualified.

10 MS. PEARSON: Yes, or someone who is 49
11 who has other qualifications could win and
12 still not be qualified.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Great.
14 Thank you very much for coming.

15 MS. PEARSON: Sure.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. We now
17 have our next speaker queued up.

18 Apologize for that Mr. Schellenberg.

19 Next we have John Nooney. I believe
20 this document that everyone has here is from
21 Mr. Nooney. I'll let him explain that.

22 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: By the way, to
23 Councilman Schellenberg's point, same
24 applies for School Board seats or City
25 Council seats or any elected position.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: We can
2 discuss it after this thing, Nick.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

4 In fairness to you, we'll reset your
5 clock.

6 MR. NOONEY: Well, thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Name and address,
8 please.

9 MR. NOONEY: My name is John Nooney. My
10 name and address is also on file with the
11 Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council.
12 It's no longer the Planning Council; it's
13 the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

14 But before I start, again, here is our
15 agenda, the Charter Revision Commission.
16 And I just wish we would have had the Pledge
17 of Allegiance on the agenda. So I'm going
18 to just use some time.

19 I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
20 United States of America, and to the
21 Republic for which it stands, one nation,
22 under God, indivisible with liberty and
23 justice for all. Thank you for that.

24 Also, I am just excited for our court
25 reporter. Gosh, you know, I swear the

1 testimony that I am about to give is the
2 whole truth and nothing but the truth and
3 not a Charter Revision Commission fib.

4 And, you know, when this thing is over,
5 we need to take you out. I mean, you know,
6 you like the Golden Corral? They have some
7 good specials there.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: This is not
9 a dating service.

10 MR. NOONEY: It's -- you know, I'm just
11 down to a minute 30. Fortunately, there are
12 two sections for public comment.

13 Again, you know, the Pledge of
14 Allegiance, I am still -- I'm working with
15 the Council on Elder Affairs to seek a
16 resolution from them, you know, which,
17 again, the greatest generation. I don't
18 know if that's in our Charter. We probably
19 should put it in our Charter, just that we
20 have it on an agenda, you know, especially
21 in our Council Chambers.

22 You know, I will be talking about the
23 water access and what I have presented to
24 you, you know, is -- and I'll be discussing
25 and probably I should just tee it up, I only

1 just have like 50-some seconds yet. But
2 I'll come back to this.

3 And, you know, look at this, you know,
4 again, the City Council with zero
5 discussion, this was ordinance 2019-698
6 regarding Chapter 500, community
7 redevelopment, policies and procedures.
8 Amend the redevelopment trust funds,
9 ordinance code, to update the code language
10 based upon statutory changes made by the
11 Florida legislature in 2019. This is going
12 to be, you know, the subject of CRAs and
13 DIAs. And this was just passed, just three
14 days ago.

15 So what was in it? What are the
16 policies and changes? Because, again, this
17 is going to be ten years before you will
18 even relook at some of these changes. There
19 are 67 counties in Florida.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

21 MR. NOONEY: Well, thank you for
22 listening.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Just so that we're
24 understanding, the courts have ruled that
25 you cannot mandate and compel the Pledge

1 because there are those folks who have
2 religious reasons for not doing that.

3 So I don't see any other public comment
4 cards and looking around -- I know that
5 Ms. Mills is en route.

6 I see Mr. Gentry on the queue. Yes,
7 sir. The white button there, the mic
8 button.

9 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Oh, the one that
10 says m-i-c. No wonder I couldn't find it.

11 Mr. Chair, before we get started, I just
12 wanted to, with all deference to your
13 efforts to move us along, I notice that, as
14 we get into the priorities, which is why
15 we've been doing this for the last three
16 months, that you allocate two minutes per
17 member to talk about it.

18 And after being here for two months,
19 three months and going through hell and back
20 to be here this morning, within reason, I
21 think there shouldn't be limitation. We
22 have two and a half more hours to talk about
23 this. And this is what this is all about.
24 I understand the intent. And I think we
25 shouldn't go on forever, and some of us are

1 more prone to do that than others, but --
2 and if we want to shoot for four minutes or
3 something, that's still less than an hour
4 for the whole body, but I think two is just
5 a little too short for this important
6 matter.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And that's fair
8 comment. My concern was, in doing the math,
9 if everybody speaks for 3 minutes, with 15
10 members, that's 45 minutes. But you're
11 right. Since this is really the only thing
12 on there, then I will simply time everyone,
13 and if I -- yeah, I'll just say, you know,
14 time to wrap up in there.

15 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So I will not limit
17 the discussion per member to two minutes.
18 So thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So now
21 remarks of the Chair on the procedures for
22 ranking our priorities.

23 I know that Ms. Mills is en route. She
24 is not feeling well, but she wants to be
25 here because it's important, and she

1 indicated that to the staff.

2 Do we know Mr. McCoy's status?

3 MS. MATTHEWS: No.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We knew that
5 Mr. Hagan is out, but he has sent in his
6 ranked priorities.

7 Then I think what I will do is adjourn
8 us for the moment until Ms. Mills arrives,
9 because I don't want to go into the
10 discussion on --

11 MS. MATTHEWS: You want to take a break?

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Take a break, we'll
13 pause, whatever the official language is for
14 us to stop.

15 MS. MATTHEWS: Recess.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Then we will recess.
17 Is that the word? Recess, yes.

18 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chairman,
19 Mr. McCoy?

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I have not heard
21 from Mr. McCoy, so that's going to be
22 something we're going to do as well, is
23 ascertain his status, because I do want to
24 make sure that we have participation from
25 everyone we can.

1 So we will be recessed until we get our
2 other members. Thanks.

3 (Brief recess.)

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Ladies and
5 gentlemen, we will call the meeting back in
6 session. We have all the chickens in the
7 coop.

8 So for Ms. Matthews, you will be
9 receiving an email shortly from Mr. McCoy.
10 I was able to reach him. I had forgotten
11 that he had told me he had a family
12 situation and he was not going to be able to
13 be here, so that was my error not
14 remembering that.

15 But we will be getting his rankings,
16 he's going to send them in by email, so
17 please look for those. And then we will
18 tally everything up including his votes and
19 Chris Hagan's. So we will have votes from
20 everyone on the Commission for our ranking.

21 So let's talk about that. We were on
22 item number three on our agenda. You have
23 the latest topics copied and stapled in an
24 interesting fashion, but, nonetheless, we
25 can read them. What I wanted to do is -- I

1 mean, obviously, as we've talked about the
2 small bullet points that are under the main
3 ones are not meant as limitations; they're
4 just simply meant as guidance so that we
5 know when we're talking about preserving
6 institutional knowledge of public officials,
7 which is the first one, that these are the
8 areas that we've primarily been looking at
9 in there.

10 And since one of the issues was with
11 regards to whether or not we could make
12 recommendations involving partisan versus
13 nonpartisan elections for City Council,
14 Ms. Johnston did a bit of research on that.

15 And so, if you would, please give us a
16 brief recitation on that.

17 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Yes, a
18 question had come up about the recent Orange
19 County case that was decided earlier this
20 year, what impact that may have on your
21 ability to make any recommendations on
22 partisan or nonpartisan-type issues. And
23 the Office of General Counsel looked at that
24 and concluded that specifically that case
25 referenced constitutional officers and

1 county officers.

2 Our Charter, as set up, is a municipal
3 corporation, and the Council members, for
4 instance, are considered municipal officers
5 for purposes of that. So the case itself
6 would not preclude you from looking at the
7 issue of nonpartisan or partisan elections;
8 however, if you did make that
9 recommendation, that would ultimately need
10 to be something that would be approved by
11 the legislation as an amendment to the
12 Charter. But you are free to look at that
13 issue if you want.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So I wanted
15 to make sure everybody was clear on that.
16 And --

17 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Mr. Chair.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Ms. Jameson.

19 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you. I see
20 on here -- and I think you just mentioned
21 it -- but we do have a couple suggested
22 changes. Could we reference on here who
23 those changes came from?

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The most recent ones
25 that I added were under Revive Urban

1 Services District, I put in the
2 infrastructure. And those -- the additions
3 that I made were from the --

4 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: No. Sorry.
5 Like, under Office of General Counsel, there
6 is modify Article 7 to the Charter to do
7 these changes. Who did that come from?
8 Will we be able to reference which of our
9 guest speakers recommended some of these
10 changes?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I don't know that
12 this one -- I believe this came from --
13 Mr. Gentry, did this one come from you?

14 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Or a Commission
15 member or wherever that came from? Because
16 I don't think those are recommendations of
17 the Commission yet; correct?

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No, they're not
19 recommendations of the Commission yet. And
20 let me kind of explain: The first iteration
21 of these topics came from staff in reviewing
22 transcripts and the minutes and going
23 through there. And so we began to compile
24 all of these different topics.

25 At some point, and I can't remember

1 exactly when, I went through them and
2 categorized them under some of the general
3 topics that we had discussed as a group, and
4 began to take those individual items and put
5 them into buckets. Those buckets are the A,
6 B, C, Ds that we have here.

7 So I don't have them linked to any
8 specific speaker or person. But, as we
9 would receive emails of suggestions and
10 additions throughout the process, added
11 those all in.

12 The latest one was to add in those items
13 that we wrote on the big board during our
14 town hall meeting and inputting those. And
15 that was the infrastructure, I believe,
16 under government structure, you'll see the
17 last one is include citizens advisory
18 boards, Shadco, Sheriff's Watch, and CPAC in
19 the Charter, because that was one that we
20 heard some comment from in the public and
21 put it up on the board.

22 So that is what I tried to do, was those
23 items that we heard in our town hall, we
24 were able to -- we put those into our topics
25 so that we know -- we're getting all that

1 public input and trying to get it in the
2 right spot. Does that make sense?

3 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Yes. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Can I respond to
5 the question?

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Mr. Gentry.

7 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I think that the
8 last bullet point was -- over time I sent
9 you a number of emails as we've left
10 meetings trying to summarize things and
11 hopefully to be helpful to the Chair, as
12 you've done that. And these all came out of
13 different meetings we had where people
14 raised issues such as how do we choose the
15 General Counsel, should we change the
16 process, that was one of the
17 recommendations; should we limit the term or
18 have expanded terms; should the General
19 Counsel be not the attorney for the Mayor.
20 And all those different things that people
21 recommended, I tried to summarize and I sent
22 them to you.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. All right.

24 Thank you.

25 Mr. Griggs.

1 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
2 Mr. Chairman. I think I tried to address
3 this during the town hall meeting
4 regarding D, the dedicated funding Health
5 Department. I think what that should say,
6 or at least it should be summarized in a way
7 for there to be a dedicated funding source
8 for services mandated through Florida
9 Statutes Chapter 154. And that covers
10 public health services, indigent care
11 services that's provided by UF Health as
12 well.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So for
14 mandated -- I'm just writing this down so
15 that if we -- if it becomes a priority.
16 Does everyone understand?

17 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Can you say that
18 again?

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: For mandated
20 services, under --

21 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Identified in the
22 Florida Statutes, Title 11, Chapter 154.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: 144?

24 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: 154.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: 154. So Florida

1 Statutes, Chapter 154.

2 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Title 11.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So I've written that
6 down on mine and so that everybody has that
7 understanding along that.

8 D, item D. Next up, Ms. Lisska.

9 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
10 Could you answer the following question for
11 me, please: Is the -- are the revised
12 commission topics that were given out this
13 morning the same as the ones emailed
14 approximately two days ago?

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Judge Swanson.

18 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I just --

19 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Mic.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Big white button.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: It's the
22 lawyers who don't -- -

23 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: We got to dumb it
24 down a little bit here.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Educated beyond our

1 usefulness.

2 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Speak for yourself.

3 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Low tech guy in a
4 high tech world.

5 We're going to rank at some point today
6 what we -- and you have Sections A, B, C,
7 and on, and with multiple subsets. Do you
8 anticipate that we would rank just by the
9 major section, A, B, C, or the subsets, or
10 you haven't decided that yet?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That is it, I hadn't
12 gotten to that. I made the mistake of
13 opening the floor. I will be getting to
14 that, but I wanted everybody to -- you know,
15 ask their questions and everything so --

16 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I can wait.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. The answer
18 is --

19 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: You're going to
20 answer my question later, that's fine.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- I will answer
22 your question.

23 Mr. Schellenberg.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Well, chair,
25 I'll wait until after you've opined. But I

1 do want to go back on the -- I apologize,
2 that on your -- the agenda, the first thing
3 was done was the approval of the October 17,
4 2019, agenda. And I'm conspicuously absent
5 on being here or excused. So if I could add
6 I was excused from that meeting, I would
7 greatly appreciate it.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Absolutely.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: And then
10 I'll wait to hear from you before I opine
11 about really what I wanted to talk about.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Ms. Mills.

13 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Yes, thank you. I
14 wanted to find out -- I know you were
15 working on making sure our -- not making
16 sure, but ensuring that the Council would
17 vote on the recommendations that we're going
18 to be prepared to put together. Have you
19 gotten any update on that?

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I do not have any
21 update on that. But that is under the items
22 that I was going to take on as Chair, to
23 require -- you see the second little
24 sub-bullet point there on Charter Revision
25 Commission is require action on report item.

1 And that's, I believe, when we had talked
2 about it, that's one of the items that I
3 believe all of us have consensus that
4 hopefully we can do that for the next
5 Charter Revision Commission so that they'll
6 know that what they have spent their time
7 and efforts in will get some sort of action,
8 up or down.

9 It will be our responsibility once we
10 get our final report. I'm hoping that all
11 folks will help lobby the Council members so
12 that we can get these things done.

13 I see Mr. Baltiero.

14 MR. BALTIERO: To Mr. Schellenberg's
15 point, actually, we only approved the
16 minutes from the 15th; we didn't approve the
17 minutes from the 17th yet.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Oh. Well, I had
19 said it for both at the time, yeah. I had
20 said, yeah. So we can reflect that change
21 to the minutes that he had requested.

22 Okay. I don't see anyone else.

23 So here is what I was hoping we could do
24 for the Charter Revision Commission topics
25 ranking. As we've said, the major bullet

1 points are the topics. The subpoints
2 underneath there are recommendations,
3 issues, suggestions that have fallen under
4 that category. It is not a limitation once
5 the subcommittees are working on those
6 items, but it is guidance that these are the
7 issues that have come up under this major
8 topic. So it is guidance for those
9 subcommittees.

10 I would like, when we do the rankings,
11 is for everyone to go through and right
12 beside the letter, put -- or you know what,
13 this actually -- one of the suggestions is
14 to take a separate piece of paper and for
15 everyone to -- we all have this, is to put
16 one through nine on the left. And then A
17 through, what is it, E?

18 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: A through I to the
20 right of that, and then sign your name. And
21 then it will be easier to tally up the votes
22 rather than flip them back and forth on all
23 the different papers.

24 So I guess let's talk about that. Is
25 everybody good with writing it down on a

1 separate sheet?

2 Mr. Gentry.

3 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Do we put our
4 name?

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry.

6 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: I think it's fine
7 writing down on a separate sheet. The
8 only -- I sort of brought this up last time.
9 As you look through this, for example, A,
10 preserving institutional knowledge in public
11 officials, is really also H, governmental --
12 we have a lot of the same issues and ideas,
13 you know, under different topics as they've
14 come up.

15 And so at some point, maybe towards the
16 end of this, I think we should consider
17 merging that. I mean, the same committee
18 that's looking at A, for all practical
19 purposes, is going to be looking at H as
20 well, and that's just one example. So in
21 terms of trying to figure out what we're
22 doing with our voting, I think we need to be
23 conscious of that.

24 So there is a lot of overlap between the
25 different -- those in particular, those two

1 in particular.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, is that a
3 motion to merge A and H?

4 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Yes.

5 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Second.

7 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Apparently so.

8 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Then we
10 have a motion -- we can do this by raising
11 hands, can't we, Paige?

12 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: No. Point of
13 order, Mr. Chair. There is a motion --
14 there is a motion on the floor, and I would
15 like that discussed. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We can have that
17 discussion.

18 All right. So the discussion -- I have
19 a lot of people on the queue. So the
20 discussion is on the motion to merge A and
21 H.

22 I have Mr. Griggs.

23 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Actually, my
24 question wasn't related to that. I pressed
25 the button before we got to that part. But

1 first, I'll take advantage of it while I'm
2 here.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: If it's on the
4 motion, yes.

5 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Then I'll wait.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Thank you.

7 Ms. Lisska.

8 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Yes, sir. I
9 really am not following the agenda as I
10 thought I was, because I thought we would
11 each have a chance, two minutes per
12 person. And a motion has been made, a
13 motion has been made, that's possible. But
14 it might be tough with the way the meeting
15 is organized for anybody else's thoughts to
16 get out except the person making the motion.
17 I mean, I know that's how a meeting runs,
18 but I just -- I really misunderstood how
19 this meeting was going to work today if we
20 were each going to get two minutes per
21 member.

22 Maybe -- so that's all I have to say,
23 because you gave us homework to do. I did
24 that homework, and it may just be for
25 naught.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The motion for
2 merging the two topics will not affect the
3 time for each Commission member to discuss
4 the items that they feel are the priorities
5 and why.

6 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Well, my problem
7 is I'm going to have a tough time
8 reorganizing my thoughts as time goes on.
9 I'm willing to deal with it, but it's going
10 to take me more time to come back to you
11 with my thoughts on how this should be
12 approached, because suddenly I'm dealing
13 with, you know, different topic -- merged
14 topics. But I'll try to sit here and do
15 that, if it passes.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Santiago.

17 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Thank you. I
18 just wanted to -- I appreciate what we're
19 trying to do by merging them, but I'm afraid
20 that maybe we're making one category a
21 little too big. Those are both very large
22 categories. I wondered if maybe we should
23 just rank our -- how you suggested, the A,
24 B, Cs, and then maybe look at the categories
25 and determine, once we've identified which

1 ones we want to work on, then determine what
2 we expand into. And if there's
3 duplications, then at that time perhaps we
4 decide where it belongs versus trying to do
5 that ahead of time.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay.

7 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Just a
8 suggestion.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Baker.

10 COMMISSIONER BAKER: After what
11 Commissioner Santiago said, I do agree there
12 is a lot of big ideas going into one
13 section. But I also did want to point out
14 that I didn't see this before. One of the
15 sub-bullets under A, assessing the function
16 of OGC, I would like to maybe take that out
17 of A, because that really just belongs in B,
18 so that we're not expanding even more in
19 another big topic that's already in one
20 place.

21 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Me too.

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, that may be a
23 separate motion after we get with this, or
24 do you want to amend it to where --

25 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yeah. Maybe we can

1 amend the motion to take out assessing the
2 function of OGC including
3 possibility implementing staggered terms,
4 what you see.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We have a second on
6 the amendment to the motion. Any discussion
7 on that? I have Mr. Griggs and Ms. Jameson.
8 Are your comments on the amendment to the
9 motion?

10 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: No.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Jameson, are you
12 on for that?

13 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Not to
14 Ms. Baker's.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Not to Ms. Baker's,
16 okay.

17 Ms. Knight, on the amendment to the
18 motion.

19 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: I'm agreeing
20 with Commissioner Lisska on this a bit. I
21 think these are great points. I wonder if
22 we should go around the room, hear all of
23 our individual points as it relates to all
24 topics, and then look at these items to see
25 if we need to collapse or not. I think it's

1 going to happen in other places too.

2 So, for example, if a group is focusing
3 on preserving institutional knowledge in
4 public officials, it would be their duty to
5 look at the list to see if there is overlap
6 and impact in their comments or their
7 suggestions as they do their work.

8 So I'm struggling why we would need to
9 amend right now, realizing that when we sit
10 in our work groups, we're probably still
11 going to have the same quandary with
12 overlap.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry, are you
14 on the amendment to the motion?

15 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Yes, sir. I was
16 just going to say that, in light of the
17 comments made, I think in deference to
18 everyone, it probably makes sense, let's
19 have our general comments, then come back
20 and order things. I think that makes
21 everyone more comfortable and there is no
22 reason not to do it that way.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Is that a withdrawal
24 of your motion?

25 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: If it was my

1 motion -- I think someone else jumped on me,
2 but if it was my motion, I withdraw it.

3 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Point of order.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Baker.

5 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I disagree only
6 because I'd like to know exactly what we're
7 ranking before we then go into discussion
8 and then rank them. So I would like to fix
9 all the technicals maybe before we then all
10 discuss, because then we're going to have to
11 go back and re-discuss merging or
12 technicalities. I would like us all to
13 agree maybe on the paper first and then we
14 can all have our discussions and then rank.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, Mr. Gentry has
16 withdrawn the original motion to which you
17 were seeking to amend; therefore, are you
18 making a new motion to move the OGC out of A
19 and down to B?

20 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I would like to do
21 that, yes. I would like to make that
22 motion.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Second.

24 COMMISSIONER MILLS: I second.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. We have a

1 second. Any discussion on moving the OGC
2 subtopic out of A into B?

3 I still have Mr. Griggs and Ms. Jameson
4 on the queue. Are you on that topic of
5 moving it?

6 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I'm going to make
7 it here, because otherwise the question
8 is -- I won't get to ask that question, it
9 doesn't seem like anyway. But it seems to
10 me that it would be proper to discuss the
11 items we have on the list.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We are.

13 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. Because I
14 had comments that I did not want to put in
15 email for fear of breaking any Sunshine
16 rules. So it would almost behoove us to
17 have a discussion first on each one of the
18 topics before we go combining them.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: This is not a motion
20 to combine. This is simply a motion to move
21 the OGC subtopic out of A down to B.

22 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. I'm good
23 with that.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. I don't
25 have anybody else on the queue. All in

1 favor of moving the OGC subtopic out of A
2 into B, please say aye.

3 COLLECTIVELY: Aye.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any opposed?

5 Motion carries. And that will be noted
6 as moved from A to B. So I want to get
7 consensus, if we can, on just the voting.
8 Do I have consensus on the voting that we
9 write down one through nine and then put the
10 A, B, whatever by those numbers? Everybody
11 good with that?

12 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes?

14 COMMISSIONER BAKER: That was after
15 discussion.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: After discussion.
17 This is procedural. Again, on the agenda,
18 we're talking about the procedures for
19 ranking.

20 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: That's what I --

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And that's all I'm
22 asking is do we have consensus that we're
23 going to put down one through nine, and then
24 put the A through I on there.

25 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yes.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So that
2 is how we will then rank them.

3 And then after we -- after we get our
4 top three or four -- because we said we
5 would look at it. And if the three seem
6 small enough, then we may add a fourth. And
7 we can have that discussion after we do our
8 rankings.

9 So I have Ms. Jameson, Mr. Howland,
10 Mr. Griggs. Are your comments on the
11 ranking procedures? They are, okay.

12 Mr. Griggs -- I'm sorry, Ms. Jameson.
13 I'm sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you. I
15 guess to go back to the conversation from
16 earlier, just so I'm understanding, so we
17 are looking at all of these and we're going
18 to rank those before we consider
19 consolidating two of them together; correct?

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I was going to
21 entertain motions on consolidating any of
22 them together after we go through and
23 everybody has a chance to talk about the
24 topics. And then if we want to consolidate
25 any of them, we can discuss that, because

1 then when people are consolidating, you will
2 know everybody's views on these different
3 topics and we can handle --

4 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: I guess a concern
5 of mine would be, let's just say, we all
6 agree that A is a priority, but H is not a
7 priority, and now we have put H in that A
8 category, and now a whole subcommittee is
9 looking at a portion that no one thought
10 really was a priority, for instance. I
11 don't know if that's the case, I'm just
12 raising that concern.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And I don't think it
14 will be a concern in the sense of we're not
15 going to do the rank voting until we have an
16 agreed list of our topics.

17 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Griggs.

19 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman. I just want to be clear.
21 Once we decide on our topics, topic areas,
22 one, two, three and possibly four, is this
23 going to determine -- this is what's
24 determining how many subcommittees that we
25 have; correct?

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: And once we
3 determine that we have three, maybe four
4 subcommittees, will that also determine how
5 many recommendations we end up with?

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No.

7 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: So we can have
8 several recommendations to come out of one
9 subcommittee to come back to the full body
10 for approval or disapproval?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. I'm trying
13 to do this because I don't want the panel or
14 commission or the public to think that, once
15 we get to these three or four, that we sort
16 of made our minds up on where we're going
17 and that's it. There is plenty of
18 discussion left to be had; correct?

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, because, and
20 just as a for example, on the Office of
21 General Counsel, there could be several
22 recommendations that come out of that with
23 regards to selection process, with regards
24 to term of office, with regards to structure
25 of the department itself.

1 So when I said that there wouldn't be
2 just one recommendation, that is what I
3 meant, is there could very well be several
4 Charter -- pinpointed Charter amendments
5 that would fall within these topics.

6 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: And just as --
7 just to clean it up a little bit more, to
8 Ms. Jameson's point, once we sort of start
9 getting into these subgroups, subcommittees
10 and we're working and we get back to the
11 full commission, is there another
12 opportunity for another recommendation to
13 make its way forward that wasn't workshopped
14 in the committee, in one of the subgroups?

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: There will be -- as
16 I envision it, there will be reports from
17 each of the subcommittees to the Commission
18 as a whole. And that point, other
19 Commission members can make suggestions,
20 recommendations for the subcommittee chair
21 to take up within those subcommittees,
22 because that allows feedback of the entire
23 group into the work that the subcommittee is
24 doing.

25 If you have an issue that another

1 subcommittee is working on and you're not on
2 that subcommittee, you obviously would be
3 free to attend those subcommittee meetings
4 and make suggestions.

5 I would prefer that if you have an
6 interest in some of the work that they're
7 doing, that you go to the subcommittee
8 meetings and participate. Obviously, you
9 wouldn't be a voting member, but you would
10 be able to participate and provide input
11 there so that we're not doing subcommittee
12 work in the thing. But we certainly will
13 have an opportunity for feedback of the
14 entire Commission to the subcommittees that
15 are working.

16 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I think what I'm
17 trying to get at here, I think it makes me
18 feel better if we're -- the process is fine,
19 I don't have any arguments with the process.
20 What I would like to make sure is that all
21 the way to the end of this process, that the
22 public still has opportunity to have input
23 into the recommendations that make it out of
24 us here.

25 And I would think -- I don't think we

1 should feel like we're going to be stuck in,
2 you know, a subcommittee process and that's
3 the only way to get your ideas heard and
4 considered before they make it out of here
5 as a recommendation. I know it's going to
6 put some strain in the order. But if we
7 could, maybe consider having a mechanism for
8 ideas or recommendations to make their way
9 to the full body before we make final
10 recommendations.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: There will be
12 opportunities for public comment at the
13 subcommittee level and at the commission
14 level.

15 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. Well,
16 public comment is one thing, but making sure
17 they're being impartial may become a
18 recommendation of something else.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We will also have a
20 town hall meeting and, from the last town
21 hall meeting, we've added subtopics in here,
22 so.

23 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

1 Ms. Mills.

2 COMMISSIONER MILLS: One of the
3 questions I think I forgot, because I'm a
4 little loopy today. But what I wanted to
5 say is that when we're ranking our topics
6 and I know it may not be important to some
7 of us, but I think we should also take into
8 consideration -- and I know that we will --
9 it's not just about us that's sitting on
10 this panel; it's about the city of
11 Jacksonville. And I don't hear that a lot.
12 I keep hearing everybody say, my, my, I, I.

13 We just have to consider we're affecting
14 a lot of people's lives. And that's why I
15 wanted to be on this commission, because I
16 thought that was my purpose. And if it's
17 not, then I'm not getting the right ideas.

18 I just want to make sure we're
19 understanding this is not just about the
20 CRC; this is going forward and it's going to
21 affect how other Charters are run and how
22 people in the city see what's going on in
23 this particular Charter.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I absolutely agree
25 with that statement, and that is the

1 responsibility of each Commission member to
2 rank priorities that do affect the city and
3 all the citizens, and to have that heart as
4 we're going through this process.

5 I believe we have. I believe that -- as
6 I said, we've had public comment periods,
7 we've had our town hall meeting, we'll have
8 another town hall meeting before we get to
9 our final report for Mr. Griggs' comments,
10 because we do value the input of the public.

11 I for one wish we had more. We do get
12 some emails in occasionally, those have been
13 circulated around. I hope everyone has had
14 the opportunity to read those. And it's
15 incumbent upon each of us to listen to our
16 friends, our neighbors, and vote
17 accordingly.

18 All right. I don't see anybody else on
19 the process. Everyone understands the
20 process?

21 Okay. So now we will open the floor for
22 discussion on these topics. I would like
23 for us to go through with each member once
24 before we make any motions with regards to
25 consolidating or anything like that. I

1 think it's a better process for everyone to
2 voice their opinions. And now that we know
3 that the consolidation of topics is at
4 issue, if you want to discuss why you think
5 one topic should not be consolidated with
6 another, I think that's fine. And
7 explaining why you believe it should be a
8 stand-alone process in that.

9 So with that, I open the floor for
10 anyone who wants to talk about the priority,
11 the next agenda item, discussion on
12 priorities.

13 MS. MATTHEWS: (Inaudible.)

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Do they have any
15 discussion or do they simply have the
16 rankings?

17 MS. MATTHEWS: They only have one
18 ranking.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. The other one
20 was with regards to Chair? Okay.

21 Then, no, I don't think it would be
22 appropriate to discuss those items yet.
23 We'll simply tally the rankings in there.

24 First, Mr. Howland.

25 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: All right.

1 Excuse me real quick. There we go.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 This is the moment I have been waiting
4 for, for weeks, because an opportunity to
5 discuss what I think we've heard from
6 speakers for two months now, what might be
7 topics we can focus and drill down on in
8 order to make substantial and important and
9 critical changes to the Charter that might
10 help move this city forward in
11 consolidation.

12 Looking at the list of topics, there are
13 four areas that I would find to me that
14 would be the most important to study; and in
15 this order: First and foremost would be the
16 topic G, citywide strategic planning. And I
17 put that first simply because almost
18 everything we've been looking at, almost
19 every problem we've heard identified almost
20 comes down to alignment.

21 When you talk about issues of
22 continuity, when you talk about sometimes
23 lack of able to pinpoint responsibility,
24 some of these things could be addressed with
25 a strategic commission.

1 I'm in particular fond of the bullet
2 that says establish a strategic planning
3 commission that meets every five years, as
4 well as some of the recommendations in the
5 Task Force For Consolidated Government's
6 position on setting up a strategic planning
7 commission. I think that can do great
8 things.

9 And whenever I hear Mr. Griggs or other
10 Commissioners talk about areas that we've
11 left behind, you set up a strategic plan,
12 those areas get identified. They get
13 attention, each one of the independent
14 authorities pays attention to them, and
15 maybe we can do a better job addressing
16 those problems that consolidation has left
17 unsolved.

18 My second priority would be School
19 Board. And I think I have made clear coming
20 on this Commission that education is a
21 priority of mine. I'm not necessarily
22 inclined to support an elected
23 superintendent. I am inclined to support
24 at-large elections for school board members,
25 but I also haven't made a final decision on

1 each. And I look forward, if we do have a
2 School Board subcommittee, to having experts
3 talk about that.

4 I did hear and was a bit disappointed
5 when the School Board came and made their
6 presentation that they made a presentation
7 with recommendations that were not
8 necessarily tied to improving student
9 achievement in Duval County. So I would
10 look forward to having speakers on that kind
11 of subcommittee that would give us
12 recommendations that are directly tied not
13 to what large municipal districts do
14 otherwise, because there is a lot of failing
15 school systems in large municipal districts,
16 but where student outcomes have been seen to
17 improve based on structures and other
18 things.

19 My third area would be adjusting the
20 Office of the Attorney General, how they're
21 appointed. I've heard some real good
22 comments about that and would approve it.

23 And my fourth priority area would be
24 reviving the Urban Services District.

25 So those would be the four. Again,

1 strategic planning, School Board, attorney
2 general, and Revive Urban Services
3 district that I would promote.

4 And do I still have a little bit of
5 time?

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. I just had
7 them put the five minutes just for my
8 purposes.

9 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Great. In
10 relation to topic A and topic H and the
11 overlap between them, I'm wondering if we
12 can't keep them separate, but revise topic A
13 to be more aligned with a focus on
14 elections, and topic H to be more aligned
15 with a focus on government structure and
16 what the government does post election.

17 One thing I would also do in the vein of
18 Commissioner Baker's comments, just to clean
19 up a little bit, is there was an area in
20 here, I believe it was under -- let me
21 see -- topic A, she took out the OGC, I
22 believe, in her motion. There is also a
23 topic H that addresses election. If you
24 take that out, you would have two clean
25 separate topics. And that's the end of my

1 comments.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

3 Ms. Lisska.

4 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Thank you,
5 Mr. Chair. Along the lines of beginning to
6 merge categories, that's what I have taken a
7 look at as I prioritize. And I believe
8 every item on the commission topics, on the
9 list, and every detail under the major topic
10 deserves at least a review of some sort, be
11 it five minutes by a committee or two
12 minutes. Every single item listed should be
13 reviewed again by a committee.

14 And as I view this moving forward, and I
15 know this is a lot to throw out and
16 ironically what I was not in favor of voting
17 on earlier, I believe everything should be
18 collapsed into three committees and the
19 priority areas would end up as government
20 structure, not unlike what was just
21 presented, and citywide strategic planning.

22 The third would be a committee to fall
23 under our Chair to clean up the Charter and
24 there are other areas under the -- in the
25 bullet points that would fall to the Chair

1 as well when doing so, just technical
2 aspects, et cetera.

3 So in doing so, I view everything -- and
4 I'll run through this and it may or may not
5 make sense, but for example, A and B, A is
6 preserving institutional knowledge in public
7 officials, B is Office of General Counsel.
8 I view them as both collapsing into
9 government structure, A.

10 So everything can get a quick review.
11 It may not take long per bullet point. It
12 may take many meetings, multiple meetings,
13 hours. I mean, the committees will focus,
14 they'll eliminate right away, but I do
15 believe everything should be looked at
16 again.

17 Then as you move to C, revive Urban
18 Services District, that, I believe, should
19 be moved to citywide planning, the strategic
20 planning. So those are G and H. So G and H
21 would be my priorities with almost
22 everything collapsing into those two.

23 Then you get to D, this is the health
24 department, that would go to strategic
25 planning, and well it should with the 44th

1 ranking that we have statewide.

2 Then we get to E, the Duval County
3 School Board. That would be a combination
4 of just cleanup. That would go to our
5 Chair, the cleanup aspects of that. So that
6 would have to be divided out a little bit.
7 And the rest of it would go to government
8 structure, H.

9 As you move to ethics, let's see, ethics
10 is F, that would go, of course, to category
11 H, which is government structure. Citywide
12 strategic planning stands on its own with
13 the other items that have been collapsed
14 into it.

15 And, finally, here you go, H, of course,
16 stands on its own, that's government
17 structure, with other items continually
18 being collapsed into it.

19 State uniform judicial system, that
20 would go to Chairman Brock, and we also have
21 the other listings for the Chair. I've also
22 pulled out one other bullet point for the
23 Chair -- well, actually, I don't see that
24 now.

25 But, nonetheless, that is what I view,

1 every bullet point gets at least a cursory
2 review by an established committee. And the
3 two committees, if I need to repeat,
4 citywide strategic planning, government
5 structure. And then I'm not sure what the
6 name of the Chair's committee, the cleanup
7 committee, but I'm sure we could get a name
8 a little more sophisticated than that.
9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It appears it's pack
11 mule.

12 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: And I would like
13 to say, as I reviewed these bullet points,
14 and it doesn't mean my fellow Commissioners
15 feel the same way, there were some of them I
16 could dispense with very quickly; others
17 really deserved a lot of time. And I think
18 with two committees, we can do that, it
19 makes the committees roughly an ideal size.
20 We've got great thinkers on this Commission.
21 It gives a real advantage to go into these
22 topics and giving them a fair shake in a
23 committee setting.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: After the conclusion
25 of our discussions, I will entertain any

1 motion that you would like to make in that
2 regard.

3 Judge Swanson.

4 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: My comments are
5 going to be pretty brief. First of all, I
6 agree that we can move I to cleanup. I
7 mean, that's just recognizing the primacy of
8 Article 5. I don't see that as something we
9 need to spend a lot of energy on.

10 I also agree with my compatriot here
11 sitting next to me that we have to listen to
12 the people. And I know that all of us agree
13 with that.

14 And in that regard, I missed the first
15 half of much of the public hearings because
16 I was appointed late in the process. So I'm
17 going to defer to any comments I might have
18 on prioritization until after I've heard my
19 colleagues on the Commission, because
20 they're going to have input that I'm unaware
21 of, haven't heard about. And it would be
22 difficult for me to prioritize only 50
23 percent of the information that's available,
24 or that I've had presented publicly.

25 So my only comment is let's move I to

1 cleanup, Article 5. It's not real
2 complicated. And I'll listen to what my
3 colleagues up here have to say. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

5 Ms. Jameson.

6 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you. Just
7 to focus on Ms. Lisska's comments for a
8 minute, that's an interesting concept that I
9 haven't really thought of, but I think it's
10 something that we should discuss, that way
11 if somebody does have a priority on here,
12 it's not eliminated initially. And so I do
13 think it's a really interesting approach,
14 because I -- my comments were going to be
15 there are a lot that do overlap. And so
16 what committee would have, you know,
17 priority on that so that both committees
18 aren't coming out with separate
19 recommendations, specifically regarding
20 elections. Elections are mentioned several
21 times in here throughout the School Board,
22 throughout the government structure. It's
23 heavily in section A.

24 And so, again, if we are looking at
25 elections, I would recommend that be

1 addressed and looked at by one committee so
2 that there is one recommendation.

3 I'll also say there are a couple things
4 that do overlap in section C, the last two
5 bullets are the same, the last two bullets
6 in section G. And so, again, maybe
7 considering moving that entire section up
8 under G, strategic planning, I think, could
9 be interesting.

10 Again, also fulfilling promises of
11 consolidation is also found under H,
12 government structure. And that's a pretty
13 broad statement, let's say. So I would like
14 to get some more clarification as far as
15 exactly what we should be reviewing with
16 that. And, again, maybe that goes under one
17 category, not to say that others can't maybe
18 mention that, but I would hate to again have
19 every committee come up with different
20 recommendations for the same issue topic.

21 Again, I'd also mention that the
22 elections show up in different places. And
23 I also support moving I under the kind of
24 cleanup category.

25 So those are just some thoughts.

1 Ms. Lisska kind of threw me off my game with
2 her recommendation, but it's very
3 interesting, though. I do think it's
4 something maybe we should discuss so that
5 none of these priorities are initially
6 eliminated.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And just one
8 comment: With regards to sub-bullet points
9 appearing under various different
10 categories, we had discussion. And during
11 the process that we did that, in case one
12 major category did not rank up in the top,
13 so that we were not missing, so there was --
14 it was intentional that there would be
15 overlap with the understanding that, as we
16 broke up into these subcommittees, we would
17 be dividing that up and saying, okay, this
18 is your lane, this is your lane. So that
19 was intentional, it wasn't accidental, for
20 that reason, because we talked about it in
21 here, but noted.

22 Mr. Denton.

23 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman. I want to emphasize C. I
25 spent the last two years doing journalism

1 work on downtown revitalization. And I
2 think it's critically important to the
3 future of the city. And I think it's
4 happening thanks to some large degree to the
5 Downtown Investment Authority.

6 But I quickly add that a much more
7 important problem that Jacksonville faces
8 are the high poverty neighborhoods in the
9 urban core, as we generically call it, there
10 are different parts of it. It's what feeds
11 crime, educational failure, social failure.
12 People don't like talking about it, it's
13 difficult, I think, for elected officials to
14 take it on in an organizational structured
15 way.

16 I believe that it's time for the City to
17 buck up and look at the biggest issue we
18 face, which is structural racism, structural
19 poverty, generation after generation. Go to
20 page two of the Metro section of the Times
21 Union and look at the mugshots, and that's
22 what we're getting for that.

23 It's pervasive throughout the city.
24 It's the tale of two cities thing that we've
25 talked about. And we're tiptoeing around it

1 as a city, and I think we need to take it on
2 with creation of something like an Urban
3 Core Investment Authority.

4 My other votes: I had the same problem
5 between H and A, in that I think they
6 overlap greatly. And in listening to this
7 discussion, I think -- and I hate to make it
8 more complicated, Mr. Chairman, but G,
9 citywide strategic planning has a lot of
10 bullets under it, but that concept by
11 itself, I think, also could be merged into
12 government structure and preserving
13 institutional knowledge. I suggest that
14 after we do our rank order -- our ranking,
15 that it might be a good process to take a
16 meeting and reorder the things under those.
17 I would say three categories of A, G and H,
18 so that we have a rational organized kind of
19 way of looking at it. So I would have given
20 that my second priority.

21 The third priority is B, the Office of
22 the General Counsel. And I would say that
23 given that we now have three governmental
24 bodies who have gone out to hire private
25 attorneys because the Office of General

1 Counsel is not serving them, or disagreeing
2 with them, that we have a big issue there.
3 When I say three, I mean the City Council,
4 the JEA Board has its own set of attorneys,
5 and of course the School Board. So I think
6 that's also an extremely high priority.

7 I hate to mess up the process because I
8 know we have a time limit, but I do think
9 that A, G and H deserve maybe another
10 meeting, another process of sifting and
11 winnowing and prioritizing because they
12 overlap a lot and I think they could boil
13 down to one or two subcommittees. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

16 Ms. Knight.

17 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: So I won't be
18 redundant and talk about the overlap that's
19 been mentioned or Commissioner Mills'
20 comments about we represent the community.

21 The presentations, the communications we
22 received thus far, I know we all had
23 discussions with colleagues and so forth.
24 And our individual knowledge and experiences
25 are based on all of our comments, including

1 mine. So mine are two-fold focused. And I
2 always have to throw it out there, I'm a
3 military gal that's an administrator in
4 healthcare, so there is an influence there
5 that I'm not going to apologize for.

6 So the first is around the focus of the
7 health of our city, our entire city. So as
8 we talk about being the 44th county with
9 health outcomes, we are 50 in length of life
10 in the state of Florida, number 50. If you
11 fraction that number even further, you will
12 find that there is that divide of two cities
13 where the numbers are even more diluted.

14 So we have an opportunity to repair our
15 city, and to repair it for us to leave a
16 good legacy for our children ensuring
17 equity, opportunity and access for each
18 citizen. So you know where I'm going by
19 these comments. There are two, there is the
20 revive the Urban Services District and, of
21 course, the dedicated funding. Let me
22 define that a little bit: funding for
23 mandated health services. So that's a
24 priority.

25 I'll tell you one of the concerns I have

1 with bringing that up or seeing in maybe 30
2 minutes or so how we all rank, this is not
3 an African-American thing, okay. This is a
4 community thing. And so I really think, as
5 Mr. Denton said earlier, when you think
6 about the crime and so forth, it may be
7 concentrated, but the impact is to the
8 greater city. So I think this has to be a
9 priority.

10 My second area of focus is down deep
11 into my military values, good order,
12 discipline, value based decisions that align
13 with our city as defined by the citizens who
14 have elected officials, and then, of course,
15 transparency. So within that bucket of a
16 paradigm, I would encourage us to focus on
17 the preserving knowledge of officials,
18 ethics, I think ethics is pretty huge, and
19 strategic planning.

20 I agree with most all the conversations,
21 there is a significant amount of overlap.
22 And it is going to really be incumbent on
23 the subcommittee chairs and teams to realize
24 and maybe do some cross-conversation
25 somewhere along the process to make sure we

1 aren't either conflicting with each other or
2 we hash that out. But those are the two
3 themes that I think are most important.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

6 Mr. Gentry, square white button.

7 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you,
8 Mr. Chair. It sounds like we have a lot of
9 alignment, I think, among the committee,
10 which is not surprising, as we've all sat
11 here and heard the same things. As I was
12 trying to do this, I try to focus on kind of
13 the overarching themes that we've heard.
14 And, to me, there have been three areas that
15 have come to us repeatedly or are a part of
16 virtually everything that we've talked
17 about.

18 The first one to me, being kind of an
19 organizational nut, is strategic planning.
20 We heard from the very beginning and we've
21 heard over and over again the problems that
22 we have in this community of not being able
23 to follow through, the benefits of other
24 communities where they have continuity. And
25 that's what spawned issues regarding term

1 limits, expanding the number of years,
2 changing things around. And I think one of
3 the major driving forces was the fact that
4 we need to have continuity and be able to
5 carry forward from administration to
6 administration.

7 We all know the problems of getting the
8 electorate to support term limits and making
9 some of those sort of changes. If we have a
10 strategic plan that transcends
11 administration to administration. And we
12 are disciplined and we follow it, that will
13 take care of a lot of the other ways of
14 trying to pick at it around the edges
15 without some of the problems associated with
16 some of those other ways.

17 So to me -- and, of course, it was the
18 number one thing in the Blueprint and was
19 greatly discussed there. So I -- to me,
20 that is something we desperately need to try
21 to create and put within the Charter.

22 And with all respect to Mr. Denton, I
23 think the notion of strategic planning and
24 how to get it right, how to constitute the
25 commission, how to establish the procedures,

1 how to create a system that will assure
2 discipline, which will involve budgeting --
3 and I've talked to people down in Pinellas
4 County who have strategic planning, and they
5 tie your budgeting to whether -- and your
6 priority in budgeting to whether or not it
7 fits within the strategic plan, whether it
8 be an entity or the government or whatever.
9 So everybody is incentivized to stick with
10 the strategic plan.

11 So it's a very complex area. And I
12 think it's going to take a lot of work of a
13 subcommittee just focused on the structure
14 and how to lay out the strategic planning
15 commission and what its duties are. So I
16 would urge that be a standalone.

17 The second thing that has gotten the
18 most attention is the Office of General
19 Counsel. And we've had a number of
20 suggestions putting terms on the General
21 Counsel, reorganizing the General Counsel,
22 having some sort of review of the so-called
23 binding opinion of the General Counsel. And
24 we see it's become very dysfunctional, that
25 office has. And it is a critical component

1 of consolidated government. We just have to
2 get it right and we have to get it better.

3 And so, to me, that's another major one
4 that we've heard over and over again.
5 Virtually every elected official who has
6 come here has had -- when pushed, has some
7 comment or concern about OGC.

8 And then the third one is one Ms. Knight
9 alluded to and others have. And I'm not
10 exactly sure -- I guess it is -- a good name
11 for it is Revive Urban Services District. I
12 think we need a committee to look at that
13 and see if we can put within the Charter at
14 this point, 50 years after it was passed,
15 some provisions that will, to the extent
16 humanly possible, guarantee that the
17 commitments are carried forward. And,
18 again, this will dovetail into strategic
19 planning.

20 But there is no reason why this Charter
21 and 2020 can't specify that by 2025 this
22 will be accomplished, this will be
23 accomplished, this will accomplished. And
24 things like septic tanks, sidewalks, roads,
25 health. The Charter could, at this

1 juncture, set time periods for which certain
2 things have to be accomplished to carry out
3 in the Charter after 50 years.

4 So I think, for the good of our city,
5 that's probably one of the most critical
6 things we can look at. And if nothing else,
7 by putting it out there, it will bring the
8 community's attention to it. And should the
9 City Council determine not to take up our
10 recommendations, at least it will be on
11 their plate.

12 And so I think -- so I think those big
13 three to me transcend everything we're doing
14 here.

15 The fourth one is -- now that you're
16 going to basically be working 24-7 on all
17 the other things, the fourth one is, I
18 think, a number of -- one, your idea, we
19 need in the Charter that the Council will
20 consider these things, will vote, maybe even
21 they have to not propose -- not accept it by
22 a two-thirds majority, something to give
23 some weight to the great work that goes on
24 by not just this Commission but in the past.

25 But in addition to that, there are a

1 number of somewhat technical, fairly simple
2 things that need to be addressed. They may
3 be controversial. The Judge mentioned I,
4 which was my point about Article 5, courts.

5 But there are two things in the Charter
6 that involve statewide entities that are
7 created separately by the constitution that
8 are a part of statewide uniform systems:
9 They are the courts and the school system.
10 Courts are Article 5, school system is
11 article 9, local governments, article 8.

12 But yet we've somehow got them stuck in
13 the Charter. And there are a few little --
14 I need to say I have some familiarity with
15 this area. There are a few fairly little
16 fixes that could be done, or might be
17 considered, that will clean up this tension
18 between statewide responsibilities versus
19 local responsibilities that is creating a
20 lot of problems in our community today.

21 And it may be a matter of proposing them
22 and having them reviewed and then you can
23 vote them up or down, but they need to be
24 looked at. But they may be controversial,
25 but they're simple. And I'm happy to kick

1 them to the Chair, or we have at least three
2 or four or five lawyers on here, if the
3 committee so deemed, let the lawyers look at
4 the proposed legal changes and then make a
5 recommendation, because much of it is
6 technical. So those are kind of my big
7 issue areas. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

9 Ms. Santiago.

10 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Thank you. So
11 my question -- I appreciate all the comments
12 and everything that has been discussed. And
13 I have my own views as well on some of that.

14 Primarily -- well, I have two questions.
15 Actually, this would be for you, the Chair.
16 Number one is the matter of there are
17 certain issues that are being litigated
18 right now. Should we be involved in any of
19 those issues, specifically OGC and School
20 Board?

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, I don't know
22 that there are any, per se, items with the
23 OGC. And I've expressed my views personally
24 of us staying out of issues that are
25 currently being litigated. The supremacy of

1 the Charter to the Constitution as it
2 relates the School Board is a matter of
3 litigation that's going on right now. The
4 issue of an appointed versus elected
5 superintendent is the subject of a J Bill
6 that is being -- will be debated by the
7 Duval Delegation as to whether or not it
8 will be brought to Tallahassee.

9 My own personal view is that we should
10 stay away from those items because they are
11 being handled by elected members of the
12 government, one in the judiciary, one in
13 legislature.

14 We are an appointed board. Yes, we are
15 tasked with reviewing and making
16 recommendations. But, in my view, those
17 issues are in the hands of elected members
18 of government, and that is where they are
19 better resolved than here at this
20 Commission. That's my own personal view.
21 Thank you for the question.

22 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: It's just a
23 slippery slope. I think it's one that we
24 have to really be careful with if those are
25 items that are chosen as priorities.

1 My second question is actually more
2 along the lines of process. As I sit here
3 and calculate, three groups of 4, gives us
4 12, you're 13. Is it going to be four
5 groups of three? How are you -- what was
6 the division and how do we then select -- if
7 we do have three groups, four groups, five
8 groups, or two, what was your thought
9 process on how we were going to divide and
10 who gets appointed to which subcommittee?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: What I was going to
12 do was, after we get our issues, however
13 they are framed up, is that then everyone
14 put on a piece of paper "I would like to be
15 on this subcommittee, I would like to be on
16 this subcommittee." And then I will, over
17 the weekend, look at that and divide
18 everyone up and make the subcommittee
19 appointments and appoint chairs.

20 That was what I was going to do and get
21 it sent out as a memo in an email through
22 staff probably Monday morning. But I want
23 to give myself the weekend to look it over
24 and assign the committee members by -- if
25 you want to rank it, say this is my first

1 one, second one, third one, do it that way.
2 So that I can see and have everybody as much
3 as I can on the areas that they're
4 interested in.

5 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Okay. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Griggs.

8 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. We have our work cut out for
10 us, especially you. Looking at the list, it
11 is kind of hard to believe that we did all
12 this in such a short period of time in terms
13 of recommendations that have been popping up
14 and how everything has been sort of grouped
15 together.

16 But my focus on this process has been to
17 address how consolidation has faired for
18 every citizen of Jacksonville. And that
19 sort of was driving my way of viewing what
20 priorities should be.

21 I'm going to have to move, move during
22 the next time, because Mr. Denton, I don't
23 know if he's stealing my notes or ideas or
24 whatever, but he said it so eloquently
25 regarding his first choice, which is also my

1 first choice, is to address the -- how the
2 urban core has been left behind due to
3 consolidation.

4 We can point to a lot of the misgivings
5 and problems in our community, just by
6 really addressing the quality of life, the
7 attention, the disparities that occur in the
8 urban core by city.

9 While I believe, to Mr. Gentry's point,
10 that a strategic plan would help get us
11 there, I believe the opportunity to start is
12 to embed whatever change is needed in the
13 Charter. Because you go all the way back to
14 where all this started and you're able to
15 address those concerns there where there is
16 infrastructure opportunities for economic
17 development and so forth. Even if it's
18 under the revitalization of an Urban
19 Services District.

20 So I'll be selecting that as my first
21 one. Part of the reason to support that as
22 well is that almost every person has come to
23 us that we've asked who has been presenting
24 have stated there have been issues regarding
25 the urban core and how consolidation has not

1 benefitted or lived up to its promise for
2 the most needy part of our city.

3 My second one, I didn't really hear
4 anyone else kind of put this out there, but
5 I think what I heard when we had these folks
6 up here at the podium was they would like to
7 have a little more teeth to their process.
8 I selected the ethics section for my second
9 one, because I think what we heard from our
10 presenters, both the IG and Ms. Miller, is
11 that while we have a robust process, we
12 don't really have a way -- you know, we need
13 more teeth. I think we started -- what
14 Ms. Miller said is what happened is we
15 started the last time under this review
16 process and got some good legislation out
17 but more can be done. So I would like to
18 see that addressed as well.

19 My third priority would be to address,
20 like I mentioned earlier, a dedicated
21 funding source for -- that each county is
22 supposed to have. We know that most
23 counties have a dedicated funding source or
24 at least they properly fund their commitment
25 to the state statute and Chapter 11 -- I'm

1 sorry, Title 11, Chapter 154, which calls
2 for funding and partnering with the county
3 health department and the funding that takes
4 care of indigent care in the communities.

5 We heard both Dr. Rolle and Dr. Haley
6 talk about the challenges that are presented
7 as they try to serve our community. And
8 like Ms. Knight mentioned, that this is a
9 community-wide piece. It's not -- this is
10 something that would help our community be
11 more attractive to other communities as
12 well.

13 And my fourth priority, sir, and
14 Commission Members, is we've had a lot of
15 discussion around the Office of General
16 Counsel. And this is one that I've heard a
17 lot about in the community. And if nothing
18 else, I would like to have more discussions
19 about it. People seem to have their own
20 take on what we should do.

21 And I don't really know what that is, to
22 be honest. I've heard some conversations
23 around people like the idea of the two-year
24 staggered terms for appointments, but,
25 again, I don't know what that looks like.

1 But I do know the community wants to have
2 more discussion around that. And so given
3 that, I would like to see more discussion
4 around that.

5 I do have a strong 4B for you as well.
6 That 4B would be your section, Mr. Chair, I
7 would like to be able to -- for us to find a
8 way to have an up-or-down vote on the
9 recommendations that come through this body.
10 And that will give future commissions at
11 least the comfort in knowing that the work
12 that they're putting in on this process will
13 be acted upon. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

15 Ms. Baker.

16 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair. I do agree with most of my
18 colleagues that the citywide strategic
19 planning is a broader topic that has been
20 brought to our Commission over and over
21 again. The task force four years ago did
22 look at this issue. And I think there is
23 more that we can do than what the task force
24 did.

25 And they did not put it in the Charter.

1 So the Council maybe didn't agree, I don't
2 know why they didn't. But it was not put in
3 the Charter.

4 I think there is more that we can add on
5 top of what they recommended. I think it
6 also is a segue or leads into other concerns
7 about infrastructure and about downtown. I
8 think that all is kind of incorporated into
9 citywide strategic planning, urban core,
10 et cetera. So that, I think, is a really --
11 is one of the most important topics.

12 And also government structure, I think
13 there is some really good ideas under
14 government structure. I do agree that
15 elections and our other topics under
16 government structure can be put in there.

17 And fourth -- or thirdly, I would like
18 to say -- I don't want to disagree with the
19 Judge, but topic I, I don't know that it's
20 just cleanup. I'm not sure what the impacts
21 of that are because our Charter, under
22 education, specifically is separate from the
23 Constitution. So I'm not sure that that's
24 purely technical or cleanup, that we may
25 need to actually look into that.

1 And then, lastly, on the topic of OGC,
2 the task force looked into this issue nearly
3 four years ago. They had a lot of
4 discussion about OGC. On page 27 and 28 and
5 29 of the Blueprint, there are 16
6 recommendations that the task force made.
7 And all of them passed on a referendum and
8 were put into the Charter.

9 So I just want to say, I don't want to
10 dive into something that merely four years
11 ago this already happened. And while there
12 were speakers that do have concerns, there
13 are people in our Commission that I hear do
14 have concerns. There were also speakers
15 like Rick Mullaney, and John Delaney, and
16 Wyman Duggan who said it is imperative to
17 our government structure that we have one
18 OGC, that it is the function of how we
19 function. It creates efficiency. And so
20 there are a lot of arguments in not changing
21 the structure to OGC. And those are all my
22 points. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Thank
24 you.

25 Ms. Mills. Ms. Mills.

1 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Oh. Sorry. Thank
2 you. I just wanted to make a comment. I
3 keep hearing people say about, we're
4 building on broken promises, what are those.
5 And it really troubles me. If you don't
6 know what those are, then just take a ride
7 through the urban core and see, just look
8 around. You would see what those broken
9 promises are. I believe Stevie Wonder, Ray
10 Charles, if they were here, they could see
11 them. It won't take a rocket scientist.
12 Maybe because it's more close to me that I
13 see it more often.

14 But thank you, Commissioner Denton, for
15 standing up and saying we need to buck up.
16 It's not a topic that people like to talk
17 about, but it's a very real topic that
18 people live in every day. And I'm not
19 making -- I'm not trying to get the City to
20 be responsible for, you know, everything
21 that happens. But when our Commissioner
22 Griggs talked about very little funding, I'm
23 looking at no funding.

24 And in running for City councilman in
25 that district, I was able to get to the root

1 of a lot of those problems over there and
2 talk to people who it really affects. We
3 sit here, but we have no idea what truly
4 goes on in those areas.

5 So I got -- when I received this
6 appointment, I made it very, very clear what
7 I stood for. And I don't want us to throw
8 the baby out with the bath water. That's
9 something my grandmother used to say to me
10 all the time.

11 Education is the root of everything. So
12 we can't just look at the fact of whether
13 the School Board is elected or appointed.
14 And I think someone else on the Commission
15 did say there are other things we could do
16 under the School Board bullet point that
17 could help out the future of Jacksonville.

18 I think when Mr. Weinstein was here --
19 and with all respect to him, his comment was
20 erroneous. And he made a comment about the
21 child's education is determined by the
22 mother. And I wanted to meet with him
23 afterwards and ask him, where did you get
24 that from.

25 I am a product of a family that my

1 mother did not finish high school. She went
2 back and got her GED. I am a college
3 graduate. Most of the people in my family
4 are college graduates, their parents did not
5 go to college.

6 So it's that way of thinking that would
7 drive you to feel like, yes, consolidation
8 is working. That is not it.

9 I was looking at something that Mayor
10 Curry said when he said it's time for
11 Jacksonville to get back to normal. What is
12 the normal? Because the normal is not what
13 we're seeing now.

14 My main priority, and not the only one,
15 but education is very important. If we
16 don't show these kids that they have a
17 future with a good education, I mean, why
18 are we sitting here? What is this white
19 picket fence that we built to say that you
20 go to school, you get good grades, you go to
21 college, you come back, you get this good
22 degree, you come back, you stay in
23 Jacksonville. Most people who graduate from
24 college do not live in Jacksonville. They
25 don't come back, and I don't blame them.

1 So we've got to find a way to make sure
2 that there is more emphasis on education
3 than just the elected. I understand, and I
4 respect the Chair what you're saying about
5 what's in litigation. But there is so much
6 more to do with that. If you stay in that
7 little bubble, you will never get out of
8 that. I can't sit here and stay there. We
9 have to do more, because it's important.

10 We can't replace our public schools with
11 charter schools because everybody is not
12 awarded that same opportunity. So that's my
13 thought on that.

14 When it comes to citywide strategic
15 planning, I'm all for that. I think we need
16 to make sure we have a solid -- everything
17 has to be a solid plan for us to stick
18 together in order to push it through. When
19 you talk about -- that's my -- education is
20 my first one. G would be my second one.

21 I know everybody placed a lot of
22 emphasis on elections and how long should a
23 person stay in election, how long should a
24 person -- to me, I don't care if you leave
25 them there one term, two terms. If you

1 don't do your job, one day is too long.

2 So I just think we need to -- these are
3 my recommendations. And I agree with some
4 of the other Commissioners with things that
5 they say about, you know, what's important.

6 But I just hope, when I look at what
7 Mayor Curry said about he will get rid of
8 people who don't do the right thing, he
9 wants to understand the emotional side of
10 people in this city, ooh, okay.

11 So I'll rate mine, but I definitely
12 wanted you to know what I felt about
13 education, because I hear that, when we say
14 litigation and what's going on with the J
15 Bill, we're kind of like, well, we don't
16 need to touch that. Yeah, we do. There is
17 so much more to do, and please understand
18 that. There is so much more.

19 And just like I say, with the broken
20 promises, just take a ride. I don't know
21 how many of you ride down US1, 45th,
22 Sherwood, all those abandoned homes over
23 there that, you know, people are just doing
24 things that shouldn't be done. The areas
25 around there that are not cleaned up. You

1 go from one side of the city to the next
2 side of the city, and it will blow your
3 mind. But if you don't spend time down
4 there, you have nothing to compare it to.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

7 And, Mr. Schellenberg.

8 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Through the
9 Chair to the committee, I guess -- am I the
10 last person?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I believe you are.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: This is
13 always a good thing. I understand where
14 everybody is on the strategic plan and
15 things like that. But I think it always
16 boils down to the structure of the city.
17 And, in my opinion, a lot of these ideas
18 that I've heard are very thoughtful, very
19 caring and on point.

20 But unless you have -- if you have too
21 strong a mayor government, it impacts
22 everything, because the City Council can
23 propose almost anything for the benefit of
24 the citizens in all areas of Jacksonville;
25 however, the Mayor, whoever the Mayor is,

1 can always veto it so you'll need 13 votes
2 going forward. And the Charter was set up
3 for a strong mayor.

4 But in the early 1990s, the Sunshine law
5 came in effect. And because of that, I
6 cannot meet and none of us can meet
7 individually with each other.

8 So if we have a strategic way to get
9 something done, the Mayor knows exactly what
10 we're doing. This Sunshine Law made the
11 Mayor even more powerful. In fact, he's a
12 super Mayor. Any Mayor right now from the
13 1990s is basically controlling what goes on
14 in the city.

15 And all these ideas that we have,
16 they're great. But they all boil down to
17 the ability of the Mayor to say yes or no.
18 And all these things need to regroup to have
19 the legislator, the City Council, to have
20 more power going forward.

21 And I'm not quite sure -- I think Mike
22 Weinstein basically said a couple good
23 ideas. They're not going to put a budget
24 together, but they need to take back some of
25 the power and money that's available to

1 them.

2 And when Mayor Brown came about in 2011,
3 the budget was about 900 million. It
4 basically stayed there for four years. It
5 creeped up a little bit to about a billion
6 dollars. Right now the budget is just under
7 \$1.4 billion.

8 And the District Council people have the
9 ability in a committee saying to
10 themselves -- and this addresses Ms. Mills
11 and a lot of these things -- we are, in a
12 sense, going to work together as a body, and
13 the at-large can be a part of it, but they
14 don't -- anyway, the District Council people
15 can get together and say, hey, in my
16 district I need \$20 million for roads,
17 sidewalks, and quality of life. And if each
18 one of them said \$20 million, \$10 million,
19 or \$5 million, they have the discretion,
20 with the approval -- by the way, anything
21 over \$100,000 being spent in any situation
22 has to be approved by the City Council. So
23 even though they might want to do sidewalks,
24 they still have to come back to the City
25 Council and get 10 votes and get the Mayor

1 to approve. I think this will change the
2 dynamic of what's going on.

3 And Michael Weinstein, I thought about
4 it ever since he mentioned it, the City
5 Council, literally the district specifically
6 Council people meet every year to say to the
7 Mayor, we want \$15 million for my district
8 and I get to spend, with the approval of the
9 City Council, how that money is being spent.

10 And this will dramatically change the
11 priorities that we have in each district
12 that are on the -- they're walking the
13 districts all the time. They're eating in
14 their district. That's their life. Because
15 of that, all the things that we are
16 concerned about would be addressed.

17 But if you allow the Mayor to completely
18 control the budget, there is no -- no
19 offense to this current one or Brown,
20 because those are the two I have. There is
21 no incentive for him to do anything unless
22 the City Council takes back some of the
23 power that they have, not necessarily
24 relinquish to the Mayor, but allow the Mayor
25 to fill the vacuum.

1 So I hear what everybody is saying. And
2 I think that we need to change the dynamics
3 of the structure and incentivize the
4 District Council people to be more committed
5 to the budget and getting money to the
6 budget without having to have the Mayor do
7 the whole budget. And then basically beg
8 the Mayor after the budget that the money in
9 the parks, or the money in the public works
10 department, allow them to take some of that
11 money for their district. No. They should
12 have their own -- I hate to say this -- own
13 pot of money to prioritize.

14 They have to prioritize how they're
15 going to spend the money. They have to
16 convince at least ten other Council people,
17 too, these are the priorities that each
18 district has in that specific year. And
19 that's how it should be done, because right
20 now, the Mayor and any Mayor has too much
21 power over the budget. And that determines
22 what happens in every district going
23 forward. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you.

25 Ms. Baker, you mentioned about

1 Mr. Hagan. Was he going to be calling in
2 or --

3 COMMISSIONER BAKER: No, I don't know.
4 I was going to see, if he's listening, we
5 can ask, Commissioner Hagan, do you have
6 anything to say?

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: If you're listening,
8 please reach out to us. I feel like an FM
9 radio guy, "Call in with your requests now."

10 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Mr. Chair, can I
11 make a clarifying comment?

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, Ms. Santiago --
13 oh, I'm sorry. I had her on the queue,
14 but -- Ms. Jameson.

15 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: I just want to
16 make a comment back to Commissioner Mills.
17 And I apologize if my comments were
18 perceived differently than they were
19 supposed to be. So I'm not saying that
20 there are parts of town that are not left
21 behind, that we're all in great shape. So I
22 definitely agree with you on that one.

23 My question to the fulfilling promises
24 of consolidation, I specifically I wanted to
25 know are we talking about septic tanks,

1 replacement of pipes, funding. I was kind
2 of trying to nail in the details of that
3 comment -- I'm sorry, that topic. But I
4 fully agree with you, there are parts of
5 town that really need help.

6 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Santiago, were
8 you still on the queue?

9 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: I just had one
10 quick question. Were we supposed to be
11 giving our priorities now, listing them now?
12 I kind of --

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It was more to have
14 a discussion on if you wanted to say why you
15 believe certain ones should be higher than
16 another, that was what this opportunity was
17 for.

18 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Okay. For me, I
19 guess since everybody else has done it,
20 citywide strategy, I think, is really
21 important in terms of planning for the
22 future. But then I really like the idea of
23 the pre and post election. I think somebody
24 suggested that's how we separate A and H.
25 And, to me, that makes sense that we would

1 focus on that structure.

2 And then I guess my third -- or my
3 fourth one would be working on the Urban
4 Core District.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Let me
6 switch, because I want to make some
7 comments.

8 If you can hop over and take the Chair.

9 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: Okay.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I was intrigued by
11 the suggestion of Ms. Lisska. I always love
12 being in a room where there are people
13 smarter than me because I learn something.

14 In looking at that, I agree with
15 Ms. Baker that I, I don't think, is a mere
16 technicality, because for my research on the
17 Charter and its history, it was purposeful
18 to bring everything within the consolidated
19 government that were state boards and things
20 like that. That was a purposeful decision
21 that was made back in 1968.

22 So I'm more than happy to take on a task
23 of researching it and putting it out there
24 to the Commission as a whole, but I, for
25 one, would like to delve into that issue and

1 research it more before taking that on as
2 the Chair.

3 E, in response to Ms. Lisska's
4 consolidation issue, I would not want to
5 take that on as the Chair, because I
6 believe, as has been expressed several times
7 around here, there are things that we could
8 do to make recommendations as a commission
9 that are outside the subjects of litigation.
10 And I believe that those would deserve
11 consideration and deliberation, that there
12 is no real consensus that I've sensed from
13 the Commission on that topic of School Board
14 and education. So that's why I would
15 respectfully push back on that issue.

16 But I am intrigued with the idea of
17 consolidating them. My own views -- and I
18 just want to put those out there -- is that
19 the Office of General Counsel should be
20 looked at separately. I believe it's come
21 up several times. I believe it's worthy of
22 its own committee. In looking at that, if
23 it becomes a priority or if we are doing any
24 kind of consolidation of topics.

25 I believe that the planning, and C,

1 which was Urban Services District, I believe
2 that consolidating those together as one, it
3 makes sense. And then putting all the
4 remaining ones, A, D, E, F under H for
5 government structure.

6 If we were to do something like that, we
7 are covering all the topics. We then have
8 three committees. And I think we can get
9 some real work done, but we're still -- in
10 the spirit of what Ms. Lisska was
11 recommending, we're still addressing all
12 those issues.

13 Again, the idea of breaking them up as
14 we did through this was to simply give us
15 some structure in how we're looking at it.
16 And, as I said, it was nonrestrictive, but
17 it was just merely meant as informative.

18 I don't think there is anything that
19 would prevent any -- if we left it all as
20 they are and we rank them, and then we
21 decide in one of the subcommittees that we
22 would take up an issue that was otherwise
23 not ranked, I don't think there is anything
24 that prevents that.

25 But for clarity and trying to

1 consolidate them down, I don't have any
2 problem with that. And I actually think
3 it's probably a good idea if everyone is,
4 you know, moving that way. So with that,
5 nothing else.

6 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: There is a
7 queue.

8 Judge Swanson.

9 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I just have a
10 question. Maybe I don't understand the
11 points on Article 5, but as I read I, all it
12 says is expressly recognize the Florida
13 State Constitution establishment of uniform
14 statewide judicial system under Article 5,
15 simply recognizing the primacy of Article 5.
16 Is that somehow, in your view, a question or
17 a controversy that we need to further
18 develop? It seems to me that's just a
19 statement of the law and we can just move
20 that into a cleanup section. But maybe I'm
21 missing your point. And I -- if that's the
22 case, just clarify for me the point you're
23 trying to make.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Two cases, Cook vs.
25 City of Jacksonville, which related to Henry

1 Cook who was then the Clerk of the Court,
2 and our firm was participant in that as to
3 term limits over Clerk of the Court arguing
4 under Article 5 that they were
5 constitutional officers. And the Supreme
6 Court at that time ruled that you cannot
7 impose term limits at the local level for
8 that reason.

9 Ten years later, *Telli vs. Broward*
10 *County*, Supreme Court looked at the Cook
11 decision, said, we got it wrong, that home
12 rule authority does allow the appointment
13 of -- the imposition of term limits on
14 constitutional officers.

15 If we were to say in our Charter that
16 the Constitution, as it relates to Article
17 5, members of the judiciary, are a priority,
18 that the Constitution prevails over our
19 local Charter, in my view, that is a
20 fundamental change in the nature of the
21 Charter as expressed by the Florida Supreme
22 Court under the *Telli vs. Broward County*
23 case that said that home rule authority
24 under the Charters prevailed over the
25 constitutional status of those offices.

1 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Okay. I
2 understand the point.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Is that good?

4 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Yeah. I was
5 simply looking at court structure and the
6 jurisdiction of the courts and those kind of
7 things. Your comments go well beyond that
8 and I take them --

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And again --

10 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I got it.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. As it relates
12 to the issue that's going on now in the
13 courts with regards to the School Board
14 where that primacy issue is up again, that's
15 my hesitancy in delving into that without
16 truly understanding what it means.

17 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right.

19 Ms. Baker.

20 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you, Chair.
21 I just have one recommendation on what we
22 were discussing about combining all of the
23 topics. And I'm hesitant to combine
24 everything into three subcommittees because
25 it's a lot of content. And I think the

1 point of us divvying them out into broader
2 topics was to really focus on main
3 priorities.

4 So my recommendation would be, if we are
5 ranking one through nine, and if,
6 Mr. Chairman, you were able to say, this was
7 number one of the Commission, two, three,
8 four, five six, that maybe we bring it down
9 to level four or five of the broader topics,
10 and those five top broader topics then get
11 put into the three subcommittees and we
12 leave out the bottom four.

13 Now, I don't know if it's going to be
14 perfect because everyone is everywhere, but
15 that's a suggestion.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry.

17 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chair. I just wanted to go to the issue
19 raised by Judge Swanson and that you
20 responded to. And it may be, given what's
21 going on in the courts right now, that we
22 don't want to address the Article 5 issue,
23 which is under I, which is the same issue
24 pretty much as the School Board issue.

25 But I just don't want to not say, does

1 anyone seriously think that we could put in
2 the Charter that the Mayor appoints the
3 circuit court judges? There are people who
4 think that.

5 Does anyone really think that Duval
6 County can set the salaries of circuit court
7 judges? There are probably some people that
8 think that because of a loose notion that,
9 because the Charter did, in fact, envelope
10 every governmental entity in the world and
11 threw it in the Charter, that somehow that
12 gives the Charter supremacy over the
13 remainder of the Constitution and
14 particularly with Article 5, which is
15 designed to have a uniform state court
16 system. You can't have local governments
17 creating their own system because the whole
18 purpose of Article 5 was not to do that.

19 So I got a real problem, with, I think,
20 the misconception of what -- where the
21 Charter stands as to these -- not
22 constitutional officers, Mr. Chairman,
23 that's Article 8. The clerk isn't a
24 constitutional -- local, local
25 constitutional article. But as to the state

1 entities that are part of a unified
2 system -- for example -- and I'll quit on
3 this -- the Section 13 on the School Board
4 says the Council can set their salaries.
5 Section 145 Florida Statutes preempts local
6 governments from setting the salaries of
7 School Boards or compensation of Clerks of
8 the Court. And it's expressly because
9 they're part of the uniform system.

10 So we have a real schism that is
11 becoming apparent between bringing these
12 entities into the consolidated government
13 for good purposes. For example, the circuit
14 court uses COJ.net. We want everyone to
15 cooperate and share services to the extent
16 we can.

17 But as to those statewide systems,
18 Article 5, for example, the court system, I
19 don't think there was ever a concept that
20 we're going to give Duval County the power
21 to establish its circuit court system. And
22 in fact, as you may remember, I don't know
23 if you -- I think you were here, I was here.
24 We used to have JP's magistrate, we had like
25 all kind of judges, and the whole purpose of

1 a lot of this Article 5 and the Charter was
2 to get rid of that.

3 So, anyway, there is a real tension
4 there and maybe now is not the time to
5 address it, but I don't think it is correct,
6 that the Charter is supreme over the supreme
7 law of the State of Florida, which is the
8 Constitution of the State of Florida,
9 notwithstanding Section 9 of the 1934
10 Amendment to the 1885 Constitution.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Next on the queue,
12 Mr. Griggs.

13 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 And thank you, Mr. Gentry, for that
16 explanation, because my question was going
17 to be -- for item five was do we really
18 believe that we can, through this process,
19 find a remedy to this. And if we don't have
20 the confidence that we would be able to
21 approach that within the Charter, then why
22 would it be a priority for us to address.

23 And it sounds like, between the Judge
24 and Mr. Gentry and yourself, maybe you
25 should be the committee on that one, the

1 three of you, and tell us what.

2 But it doesn't really sound like we're
3 going to be equipped to come to a remedy on
4 this. And if that's the case, then it
5 sounds like we've sort of eliminated one of
6 our priority areas.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Next we have
8 Mr. Howland.

9 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair.

11 To Mr. Griggs' point, I would be
12 inclined never to let lawyers run free with
13 anything.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: You'd end up with a
15 duckbilled platypus.

16 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: That's right.
17 That's right.

18 I still have an unresolved issue in my
19 head around the education piece. And I have
20 a question and a comment. The question is
21 for the Chair.

22 Will the subcommittees be able to
23 consider other issues besides what are the
24 comments under each subcommittee on this
25 issues list?

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, to the extent
2 that the subcommittees go into areas --
3 again, these sub-bullet points were merely
4 meant as guidance. They are not defined
5 boundaries, and that was precisely in
6 response to Ms. Jameson's question in there
7 about the duplication, was precisely in case
8 we went into something, that one priority
9 topic took over another, that we were still
10 going to have those items being addressed.

11 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Understood.
12 Okay. Thank you.

13 Then my comment is, along the lines of
14 what Commissioner Mills was saying, there
15 are a lot of education topics we might be
16 able to address and probably still things we
17 have not heard, ideas we potentially have
18 not heard that could help in education.

19 Recall that we had a discussion about
20 Jacksonville Public Education Funds' online
21 database about grading schools. And if you
22 look, it's our northwest quadrant where
23 we're leaving students behind. And that
24 partly is why I was a bit disappointed in
25 the School Board's presentation because they

1 basically said, everything is going great
2 and here are recommendations for the
3 Charter. And it was tied to the appointment
4 of School Board members, the election of the
5 Superintendent and salaries.

6 There was nothing there about, here are
7 some things that the Charter Revision
8 Commission can consider to help drive school
9 improvement and educational outcomes in
10 other areas.

11 So I think potentially an education
12 subcommittee could hear from other elements
13 of the community that have ideas about ways
14 that we could institutionalize into the
15 Charter mechanisms to help improve student
16 education, because it's certainly something
17 that would fall under the category of an
18 unresolved promise from early consolidation
19 days. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right.
21 Ms. Jameson.

22 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: I'll have to
23 remember what my comments were. I might
24 have to come back on that one, I apologize.
25 It was something brilliant, though.

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I just have
2 Ms. Lisska and then I'm going to open the
3 floor for motions related to the topics and
4 the consolidation --

5 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Mr. Chairman, I
6 was going to ask -- I would like to offer a
7 motion at this point if you're prepared to
8 receive one.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I do see Mr. Griggs
10 on there, so hold off.

11 Mr. Griggs.

12 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to speak to --
14 or just kind of respond to your comments
15 regarding the education subcommittee. And I
16 just kind of really just quickly pulled up
17 the School Board and how it -- the Charter
18 impacts the School Board.

19 And I didn't really see anything in here
20 other than the structure of the board
21 itself, items related to property, the
22 district sizes, and so forth, and how we
23 could address -- oh, and obviously the
24 superintendent, how we could address and
25 have an impact on the School Board itself.

1 It's kind of almost like those other
2 independent authorities that we heard from
3 here may or may not have had recommendations
4 appropriate to change in the Charter.

5 And unless we're addressing districts,
6 superintendents, how they're elected and so
7 forth, I don't know how we're going to sort
8 of kind of get there in the weeds with the
9 district with the education unless we're,
10 you know, actually working through the
11 School Board itself.

12 So maybe the appropriate place for those
13 types of changes may be with -- directly
14 with the district and not here on this -- in
15 this Body, because I didn't really see
16 anything here to allow us -- unless we
17 invent a whole new category, and I don't
18 think we're going to be up to that. Just a
19 quick view. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Ms. Lisska,
21 you're on to make your motion; correct?
22 Because I've got Ms. Jameson and Ms. Mills
23 popped up so I'm going to skip over.

24 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: That's fine.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I just want to make

1 sure.

2 Ms. Jameson, for the second time.

3 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you,
4 Mr. Chair. My question was have we heard
5 from Mr. Hagan or Mr. McCoy about their
6 priorities? I know that we asked if someone
7 was on the line. Have they written in or
8 given any indication as far as their
9 comments might go?

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We have one set of
11 priorities, don't we? We have one set of
12 priorities in, Mr. Hagan had given us, I
13 believe, issues where he -- for
14 subcommittees.

15 And with that, Mr. McCoy, indicated that
16 he was going to be trying to get his emailed
17 in.

18 Do we have those, Ms. Matthews, yet?

19 MS. MATTHEWS: We have Mr. McCoy's. I
20 don't have --

21 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Can we publish
22 that so we all know what they were thinking?

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, it's their
24 priorities, it's their voting. So I would
25 like to just wait and we'll consolidate all

1 of those at the appropriate time.

2 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Ms. Mills,
4 for the first time on this.

5 COMMISSIONER MILLS: First, second?
6 Okay.

7 First of all, I just want to say thank
8 you, Commissioner Jameson. That wasn't
9 directed at you, by any means. Just a flow
10 of presenters we had and maybe a couple
11 comments from other people, but please know
12 that wasn't directed at you.

13 I also want to come back to Commissioner
14 Griggs. So make me understand in your
15 words. It's like you want to be clear, so I
16 want to be clear. What exactly are you
17 saying we do with the education piece?
18 Nothing?

19 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Through the Chair
20 to Ms. Mills, I was just speaking to
21 Commissioner Hagan's point that we address
22 this -- some issues related to education,
23 through education committee. Because his
24 thought was that maybe we may be able to
25 come up with some additional ideas to

1 support -- other than what's on the paper,
2 but what's on the list. And thinking that
3 some things may rise other than that.

4 And based upon what's under the
5 recommendation, I didn't see anything else
6 in the actual Charter that would address
7 those boundaries. So that was my point.

8 So if you look at the items underneath
9 E, under Duval County School Board, you have
10 elected superintendent, at-large school
11 board members, school safety officers.
12 Outside of these four areas, I didn't see
13 anything currently in the Charter that
14 allows us to address anything any deeper
15 than that unless it was addressed within the
16 body of the School Board. That was just my
17 point.

18 Certainly we have the opportunity to
19 take up anything we see fit if it rises
20 to the --

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Mr. Gentry,
22 second time.

23 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Thank you. On the
24 education specifically issue, I mean, if --
25 I think going to the concept here, if we

1 wanted to, I mean, there are some things we
2 clearly could do within the Charter. We
3 right now have a very unstructured system in
4 Jacksonville. But the City provides funding
5 for after-school programs for -- and other
6 types of programs.

7 We certainly could provide in the
8 Charter that the City should be engaged in
9 certain things and even including health, in
10 collaboration with and cooperation with the
11 school district.

12 There is no -- it's all just done
13 anecdotally at this stage. So, I mean, if
14 we wanted to go there. And there is
15 certainly a lot of good work that could be
16 done to supplement what the School Board has
17 done. God knows it's needed. So there is
18 room for that.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. Chair
20 recognizes Ms. Lisska, motion.

21 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Well, Mr. Chair,
22 just a query before I might offer a motion.
23 If you are moving forward with what's been
24 said earlier, that we will rank the areas,
25 then I think my motion is probably moot at

1 this point, although perhaps the Chair is
2 willing to accept any motion. And, if so,
3 I'll make it.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: If you have a motion
5 to make, yes.

6 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I move that the
7 Charter Revision Commission form three
8 committees or sub- -- or three committees:
9 one on government structure, which will
10 include all bullet points under that for
11 review, along with preserving institutional
12 knowledge in public officials, Office of the
13 General Counsel, and Ethics.

14 And I also move there is another
15 committee known as citywide strategic
16 planning covering all bullet points under
17 that area, along with the reviving Urban
18 Services District and the Health Department.

19 And I don't think I'm allowed to give
20 any discussion on that. I should have done
21 that out front.

22 And a third subcommittee that the name
23 and subject matter will be determined by
24 this Commission, largely the cleanup.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I wrote them down.

1 So government structure, which is bullet
2 point G -- H.

3 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: G and H are the
4 two.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Government structure
6 is H. So H would have A, B, and F.

7 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Well, I didn't do
8 it that way, I'm sorry to say. So I would
9 have to go back and check.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's -- yeah. I
11 was trying to put them down.

12 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I have it on
13 another list that way.

14 And then the citywide strategic planning
15 would include revive Urban Services District
16 and the Health Department. And the one
17 glaring missing topic that had been there
18 previously was the School Board. But after
19 listening to the discussion today and
20 listening to the discussion throughout this
21 Commission's existence, and I know what's in
22 the Charter about the School Board, and
23 since the agreement of that, I would say it
24 would be up to one of those committees, what
25 they want to take up along those lines.

1 I mean, it's an issue that there may not
2 be anything we could effect. I mean, I have
3 not heard one person mention that they want
4 to change anything that's in the Charter
5 involving the School Board. Now, adding
6 something, that's another story.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So would E then
8 follow under both of those?

9 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Let me just look.
10 E, it could fall anywhere the committee's
11 choose, if a committee wants to take it up,
12 or you may place it there. I would be
13 amenable to that, wherever you're
14 comfortable.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's what -- I'm
16 just trying to refine the motion so that
17 E --

18 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I can restate it.
19 Would you like me to do that?

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah. That's what I
21 was just trying to get at, is E under both
22 or would you put E under one of the others?

23 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: I would just put
24 it under government structure.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So

1 everyone understands it's a motion to
2 consolidate under H, topic H, which is
3 government structure; topics A, preserving
4 institutional knowledge in public officials;
5 B Office of General Counsel; F, Ethics; and
6 E School Board.

7 Then, under citywide strategic planning,
8 which is G, underneath G would be topics C,
9 which is revive Urban Services District; and
10 D, which is dedicated funding for the Health
11 Department, with the additional subtopic in
12 there of mandated services under Florida
13 Statutes Chapter 154.

14 And then the Chair would have the
15 remaining topics that are under Chair, and
16 we would basically have two subcommittees.

17 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: Basically,
18 although I think people might enjoy you
19 calling a meeting and attending. But, yes,
20 sir, you have it correct.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Does everyone
22 understand the motion?

23 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Can there be
24 discussion?

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We need a second and

1 then -- is there a second?

2 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Second.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second by
4 Mr. Griggs.

5 Okay. Discussion, I have Ms. Baker on
6 the queue. We have 30 minutes remaining.

7 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Thank you. Through
8 the Chair, I'll be quick. I understand
9 Commissioner Lisska's approach here, because
10 everyone has different priorities. But,
11 again, I just think there is a lot of
12 content. I think the Chair put together his
13 idea of procedure of ranking these broader
14 topics so we could narrow down and focus on
15 what are most important to this Commission.

16 I'm also hesitant to combine, as
17 Mr. McCoy already sent in his rankings of
18 the nine. And I just did text Mr. Hagan,
19 and he said he did submit his rankings to
20 Ms. Matthews. So I said, send them again.

21 So that's also why I'm hesitant, because
22 we have two Commissioners who already ranked
23 one through nine. So I would vote no on
24 this motion.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: He provided his top

1 three, he did. He just provided the top
2 three.

3 Okay. Next I have Mr. Gentry.

4 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: With all respect
5 to Ms. Lisska, I think, if we do this, we
6 might as well continue to operate as a
7 committee of the whole. These topics are
8 everything we've had come forth and we're
9 going to break down into two committees and
10 deal with all those same things over again.

11 And I think at this juncture, if we're
12 going to be effective, we've got to get
13 focused on three or four key items and not
14 take up everything. I mean, example is I
15 know everyone appreciates and wants to do
16 more about ethics, but the Ethics Commission
17 said, we don't need anything else, we're
18 doing fine right now. But yet this
19 committee would have to revisit all that and
20 see if they're fine, but they want teeth,
21 and we'll add more. It would be an
22 incredible task.

23 So I really think we need to eliminate
24 some of those items that did not seem
25 overwhelmingly important and key in on them.

1 And then a strategic planning and urban
2 district, I think those two are critically
3 important and need to be created separately.
4 I may have a different understanding of the
5 strategic planning part of the proposal, but
6 the concept there is to create a strategic
7 planning system, not to go ahead and start
8 putting in there details of what the plan
9 would then generate. The Urban District is
10 what the plan would ultimately be
11 supporting. But having another Urban
12 District Committee to really focus on what
13 is needed, I think, is important.

14 So, to me, strategic planning is
15 important to try to take all the work that
16 Lori Boyer and others did and couldn't get
17 there and try to get there. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Next I have
19 Mr. Denton.

20 COMMISSIONER DENTON: I agree with
21 Ms. Baker and Mr. Gentry. I do think
22 strategic planning and the Urban Services
23 District is a doable chunk that would work
24 well together.

25 I'm concerned about -- to the motion,

1 I'm concerned about merging, in effect, five
2 different of these areas into one. And I
3 agree Ethics, I think, doesn't need to be in
4 there because we didn't hear a problem.

5 But the other four, I wonder,
6 Mr. Chairman, if it doesn't need a
7 re-sorting of categories A, B, E, F and H
8 into two different subcommittees to make it
9 doable. Otherwise, as Mr. Gentry said, we
10 may as well do it as a committee of the
11 whole, which would be unworkable, I think.

12 So I'm not sure exactly how to break
13 that out. I don't know whether you would
14 want to take time and do it, break those
15 five categories or four into two, or have a
16 subcommittee do it by next week. That's a
17 suggestion.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, yeah, and I --
19 the answer is no. As I always try to
20 explain to my clients, if you can answer the
21 question with a yes or no, give a yes or no
22 and then explain. So I'll explain.

23 I was intrigued by the idea of
24 Ms. Lisska in the consolidation of several
25 of these topics. I kind of reoriented them

1 myself. But I do -- and especially the
2 comments of those people that have already
3 sent in their rankings, that to change it
4 is -- I don't know how that would work in
5 with counting the votes of the Commissioners
6 that have sent in their votes already. I'm
7 concerned that we're not being fair to them,
8 changing the process here at the end.

9 And, again, I'll restate that these
10 sub-bullet points are not boundaries that
11 cannot be crossed. They're simply
12 suggestions of emphasis that we've heard
13 from the community and from the speakers
14 that have come in and from our own
15 discussions. I don't think there is
16 anything that prevents any bleed over into
17 these other topics that may not rank in the
18 top three. So I hope that answers your
19 question.

20 Ms. Jameson.

21 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you.
22 Mr. Chair, your job right now is to keep
23 frogs in a bucket, so I feel you on how
24 difficult this process has been. But I
25 almost wonder if, to your point, because we

1 have rankings from the two that aren't here,
2 should we go ahead and rank and see what
3 comes from that knowing we only have 30
4 minutes left or less than to make a
5 decision. I would be curious what your
6 thoughts are so we can walk away with either
7 a determination or is there a meeting we
8 need to schedule for next week.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Well, we have a
10 motion and a second on the table and
11 discussion in with that. So I have to deal
12 with this motion.

13 Mr. Schellenberg.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: I think if
15 we are finished with the discussion, you
16 vote it up or down. There is no other
17 conversation that needs to be dealt with.
18 It's either the motion or -- and nothing
19 else and move on.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. Seeing no one
21 else on the queue, do we need to do this on
22 a ballot or just raising hands? Raising
23 hands.

24 MS. JOHNSTON: Through the Chair, you
25 can do it like you did before with a voice

1 vote or you can do a hand vote, whichever
2 you're more comfortable with.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Well, let's
4 do a hand vote just so we all know. So the
5 motion of Ms. Lisska to consolidate the
6 topics as mentioned. All in favor raise
7 your hand.

8 Two in favor.

9 All opposed?

10 Motion fails.

11 So let's rank. We'll rank one through
12 nine and then put the A, B, C, D.

13 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Just a question:
14 Are we putting our names on these,
15 obviously?

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yeah, we need to
17 have your names on there.

18 Mr. Howland, question?

19 COMMISSIONER HOWLAND: Yes, Mr. Chair.
20 We have to rank every single one, right, we
21 can't just put three or four?

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: We need to rank all
23 of them.

24 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Can we put a bunch
25 in at nine?

1 COMMISSIONER MILLS: That was me, can we
2 do all of them at nine.

3 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: Is the Chair
4 abstaining? I know we don't rank the Chair.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No, no, you don't
6 have to rank the Chair. The Chair is
7 abstaining from voting.

8 After we get through with the rankings,
9 then we'll do the committees.

10 Let's take a short break while we
11 tabulate.

12 (Brief recess.)

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So here are the
14 results: The topic that had the lowest
15 ranking votes, meaning the most, had the
16 highest ranking is G. G is number one,
17 citywide strategic planning. The second one
18 is C, revive Urban Services District. The
19 third one is H, government structure.

20 I will tell you that was a close one,
21 because the one after that was preserving
22 institutional knowledge and public
23 officials. So I don't see Ms. Lisska, but I
24 will just say that that certainly -- since
25 we all talked about overlaps in through

1 there. So that would be if we were to go to
2 number four --

3 COMMISSIONER BAKER: A was number four?

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: A was number four.

5 So if we were to go to four, then it
6 would be that very close overlap that we
7 talked about of preserving institutional
8 knowledge and government structure.

9 Ms. Lisska, did you have a chance to
10 hear my comments on that?

11 COMMISSIONER LISSKA: It wasn't on in
12 there.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So the rankings are
14 G, number one, which was citywide strategic
15 planning; C was number two, which is
16 reviving Urban Services District; and H was
17 number three, which is government structure;
18 and four was preserving institutional
19 knowledge.

20 So do I have consensus that we go with
21 our top three?

22 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Can we hear the
23 other rankings?

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Oh, yes. The other
25 rankings were: Number five was B, the

1 Office of Office of General Counsel; six was
2 D, dedicated funding for the Health
3 Department; seven was F, Ethics; eight,
4 number eight, was E, School Board; and then
5 nine was I. So those are the rankings.
6 Those will be the subcommittees.

7 Now, we have a very limited time. What
8 I would like to do is the public comment
9 cards that we have -- well, let's talk about
10 this. I had here that we would -- everybody
11 would give me your rankings for
12 subcommittees. I do think that now that we
13 know what the priorities are, that you may
14 want to take some time to think about which
15 ones in the rankings that you have.

16 So what I would suggest, and so that we
17 can get our public comment in, is that you
18 email Jessica. I would ask if you could do
19 it, you know, by the end of today, to give
20 us your rankings. Is that -- can you get it
21 by Saturday?

22 Can you get me emails Saturday? Can you
23 forward them to me? Yes?

24 MS. MATTHEWS: Uh-huh.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: It wouldn't

1 make any difference on Monday.

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I want to know so
3 that I can assign the committees and get
4 that out by Monday, that's why. So if we
5 could get it by Friday in there and just
6 rank them one, two, and three as far as the
7 subcommittees that you --

8 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: One, two and
9 three?

10 COMMISSIONER BAKER: So, yeah --

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: There are just
12 three.

13 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Number four we're
14 combining with number three? A and H are
15 getting combined?

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I will leave that to
17 the discretion of the chair. But as I've
18 said, these are not boundaries. So to the
19 extent that you have an issue in government
20 structure that happens to preserve
21 institutional knowledge, I think that's
22 reasonable.

23 Yes, Mr. Denton.

24 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Well, I'm a little
25 unclear. So I got the rank of the nine

1 items. Are you saying that if we have three
2 subcommittees, it would be, one, two, and
3 three? Shouldn't we talk about merging -- I
4 mean, one, I think, good idea that, I think,
5 Ms. Lisska had was merging G and C, which
6 are numbers one and two. And that would
7 allow us to, if we wanted to, merge H and A.
8 And I hate to lose B, frankly.

9 So I'm just -- I'm not clear on what
10 you're asking us to do and whether we ought
11 to have a discussion about from five up,
12 reordering those, combining them so that we
13 can get to the desired number of
14 subcommittees you want, which I think was
15 three or maybe four maybe.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: All right. So is
17 that a motion?

18 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I have a question.
19 Can you tell us the numbers of the votes
20 too? Because you said two of them are
21 really close. Just so we know where the
22 numbers exactly fell.

23 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes. G, number one,
24 was 22 votes.

25 COMMISSIONER BAKER: And the lowest

1 votes is the highest?

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, highest
3 priority.

4 COMMISSIONER DENTON: In response to
5 your question, Mr. Chairman, I will move
6 that we merge G and C into one, H and A into
7 one, and maintain B.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Does everyone
9 understand the motion?

10 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: Second.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second. Discussion.
12 And, Ms. Baker --

13 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Can we have the
14 numbers? Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: -- I'll give you the
16 numbers in there. Number one was 22 votes,
17 number two was 33, number three was 49
18 votes, number four was 50 votes, number five
19 was 54 votes, number 6 was 61 votes, number
20 seven was 70 votes, number eight was 74
21 votes, number nine was 94 votes.

22 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: I'm sorry.
23 Mr. Chairman, may I?

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes, sir, on the
25 motion to consolidate.

1 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: On the motion to
2 consolidate, Mr. Chair, you gave us the
3 number of votes, right. And these were
4 tallied based upon ranking from 1 to 10 or
5 10 to 1?

6 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Number one was a
7 priority. Low is high.

8 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: How many numbers,
9 how many number rankings do you get for
10 being number one?

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: One.

12 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Okay. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry.

14 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chairman, the
15 motion. I certainly think merging H and A
16 makes sense. There's a lot of the same
17 topics anywhere. And I don't think it would
18 greatly increase the work just merging those
19 as guidance for the committee.

20 I would speak against, however, merging
21 urban service with strategic plan. I think
22 those need to be stand-alones. And I would
23 suggest, to preserve that, that we might
24 consider a fourth committee, which would be
25 B, and have three -- and have those four.

1 So I have a -- my concern is losing
2 emphasis on either strategic planning or
3 urban service by having those two merge.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Is that an
5 amendment?

6 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: That's an
7 amendment to the motion.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. We have an
9 amendment to Mr. Denton's motion. Is there
10 a second?

11 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Second.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second, okay.
13 Amendment to Mr. Denton's motion, which is
14 to maintain G and C, consolidate H and A,
15 and add a fourth committee of B. Did I
16 restate that --

17 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Any discussion on
19 that?

20 COMMISSIONER SANTIAGO: Can you say that
21 one more time?

22 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The motion -- the
23 proposed amendment is to maintain G and C
24 separately, to consolidate H and A, items
25 three and four, and to add a fourth

1 subcommittee on B.

2 Ms. Baker, on the amendment.

3 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I like the original
4 amendment. I think that if we have four
5 subcommittees, a lot of us are going to have
6 to be on two, because of the numbers. I
7 think seven or five people on a subcommittee
8 is a good number. So a lot of us would have
9 to be on two.

10 I do want you to consider the schedules.
11 I mean, I think we might be meeting every
12 week. If you're on two, you could be
13 meeting twice a week potentially depending
14 on the workload. So I just want to put that
15 in there.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Knight.

17 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: So to
18 Mr. Gentry's earlier point, by keeping the
19 strategic planning process separate from the
20 urban services, the strategic planning piece
21 is really about creating a strategic plan,
22 not talking about what should be in it. And
23 that's why I do like the separation of those
24 two, because the urban services would be
25 focused on independently, where the

1 strategic plan effort, that group, would
2 focus on creating a strategic plan. So I do
3 think they should be kept separate.

4 And if that's the case and we only can
5 do three, then we lose the OGC. So we would
6 have G independent of C, and then H and A
7 possibly consolidated.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Mills.

9 COMMISSIONER MILLS: I do understand
10 about being on two committees, and hopefully
11 that won't happen, but I do like
12 Commissioner Gentry's -- I do like his idea
13 about separating those, because, to me, it
14 would get lost in the shuffle and I don't
15 want that to happen.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Judge Swanson.

17 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I don't think we
18 should change horses midstream. And by that
19 I mean we went into this ranking three, top
20 three. Stick with it. The subcommittee has
21 the discretion to expand the scope of their
22 inquiry to where they choose to take it. So
23 I think you take the top three, stick with
24 the top three, and then give them the
25 discretion to go where they need to go to

1 fulfill their mission. So I would just stay
2 where we are.

3 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Jameson, on the
4 amendment.

5 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: I have a
6 clarifying question. So the amendment is to
7 have G, C, H and A and B.

8 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: And Ms. Knight
10 recommended having G, C and H and A. So is
11 that a separate amendment?

12 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Is that an amendment
13 to the amendment?

14 MS. JOHNSTON: Procedurally you can't
15 have an amendment to the amendment. You
16 have to resolve the amendment and then have
17 another amendment if you so choose.

18 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: And that's how I
20 took it, was a comment.

21 Ms. Baker.

22 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Okay. So are we
23 just on the -- there is no amendment to the
24 amendment, we're just on the amendment. And
25 the amendment was combine H, A, combine G,

1 C --

2 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: No. The
3 amendment -- the original motion was to
4 combine one and two, combine three and four,
5 and add topic five.

6 The amendment was to keep one separate.
7 Keep two separate, combine three and four,
8 and add a fifth subcommittee for five -- or
9 a fourth subcommittee for five.

10 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I think we should
11 just stick with the original plan, one, two,
12 three. We have our top three.

13 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chairman, may
14 I modify my amendment? I think it needs to
15 be done in two steps. What I'm seeing is
16 concern about having the fourth committee.
17 So I will withdraw my amendment and add
18 this -- and pose this amendment. And we can
19 get to that as a separate issue if we get
20 there.

21 And that is that we merge H and A to one
22 committee, since they're so closely related.
23 And then we break out G and C as the other
24 two committees. So we have those three
25 committees. And then we can deal with the

1 fourth committee as a different issue. That
2 would be my amendment. Just have those
3 three committees.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So the previous
5 amendment was withdrawn. New amendment is
6 for one and two to remain, and then three
7 and four combined, and we have three
8 subcommittees. Is there a second to that
9 amendment?

10 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Second.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second. Any
12 discussion on that amendment? Seeing no one
13 on the queue, all in favor of -- well,
14 Mr. Denton.

15 COMMISSIONER DENTON: I realize that
16 would have -- that would take off the
17 priority list the Office of General Counsel.
18 And I realize it could be folded into
19 another committee. It's such a big topic,
20 and it would probably be folded into H and
21 A, which are already huge topics. So I
22 would speak against the amendment, in favor
23 of the original motion.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Seeing no one
25 else on the queue, all in favor of

1 Mr. Gentry's revised amendment to keep one
2 and two separate, combine three and four for
3 three subcommittees, all in favor, raise
4 your hand.

5 COMMISSIONER MILLS: What did you say?
6 I'm confused now.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: This is the
8 amendment to Mr. Denton's original motion.
9 The amendment is to -- the original motion
10 was to combine one and two, combine three
11 and four, and add five as the third
12 subcommittee.

13 The amendment is to keep topic one
14 separate, topic two separate and combine
15 three and four into one subcommittee for
16 that. Okay? Do you understand?

17 COMMISSIONER MILLS: Yeah.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So we'll do a
19 revote because she wanted that
20 clarification. All in favor of the
21 amendment, please raise your hand.

22 Mr. Griggs, is that a hand?

23 You have nine? How many do we have?

24 MS. JOHNSTON: I have eight.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Keep your hands up,

1 please, high.

2 Nine. Okay, nine. The amendment to the
3 motion carries.

4 So now we have the original motion,
5 which is amended so that there is topics
6 one, two, and then three and four combined.
7 Everyone understand that?

8 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Say that again.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Topic one is
10 strategic planning, it will be an individual
11 subcommittee. Two, individual subcommittee.
12 Three and four are combined for one
13 subcommittee.

14 COMMISSIONER BAKER: So that --

15 VICE CHAIRPERSON KNIGHT: Confirming it.

16 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's the motion as
17 amended.

18 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Everybody
20 understand that? Any discussion? Seeing no
21 one on the queue, if you are in favor of the
22 motion consolidating three and four, please
23 raise your hand.

24 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I thought this
25 motion was added to E?

1 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: The amendment
2 withdrew that.

3 MS. JOHNSTON: Ten.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: How many do we have?
5 Ten.

6 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Can you clarify
7 what that vote just was?

8 MS. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chair, can I maybe
9 try to --

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Sure.

11 MS. JOHNSTON: Okay. I'm sorry. This
12 may be confusing to those of you who don't
13 serve on boards or commissions regularly or
14 have Roberts rules. But when you have an
15 amendment to a motion, then you have to vote
16 on that amendment. And then if that is
17 approved, you still have to vote on the
18 motion as amended.

19 So some of you may think we just voted
20 on that, why are we voting on that again.
21 You voted on the amendment, the amendment
22 was approved, now you're voting on the
23 motion as amended.

24 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. Does
25 everybody understand what they just voted on

1 then?

2 Okay. So it carried 10, with 10 votes?

3 MS. JOHNSTON: That's what I counted.

4 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: So the motion
5 carried. We have three subcommittees: topic
6 one, G; topic two, C; and then three and
7 four of H and A are combined into one
8 subcommittee.

9 Mr. Gentry.

10 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chair, quick
11 motion, and that is to add a fourth
12 committee, which would be B.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHELLENBERG: So moved --
14 second.

15 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Second by
16 Mr. Gentry (sic). Any discussion on adding
17 B as the fourth subcommittee? I see hands.

18 Judge Swanson.

19 COMMISSIONER SWANSON: I think it's
20 something we need to talk about. But -- and
21 it seems to me it could be rolled into H and
22 A. But maybe that's just too much. It is
23 certainly a government structure issue. I
24 guess I'm equivocating in my comments, but I
25 think we need to make a decision whether we

1 want three committees or four committees,
2 and whether or not four is too much. If it
3 is too much, I think that can fall under H
4 and A, committee number three.

5 Those are my thoughts. I'm not adverse
6 to a fourth committee. I'm retired. I can
7 go to as many meetings as you-all want. But
8 I am making an observation that a fourth
9 committee may be making some people have
10 greater commitments than they anticipated.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Denton.

12 COMMISSIONER DENTON: I'm in favor of
13 Mr. Gentry's motion. I think that, given
14 everything we've heard, the number of times
15 that General Counsel has come up, in my
16 opinion, some of the dysfunction in local
17 government that we've seen recently has been
18 because of the way that General Counsel's
19 Office is structured. And I think it's a
20 key issue that we need to have that we need
21 to take a very close look at.

22 So I will vote aye on Mr. Gentry's
23 motion. If we're really concerned about
24 four committees, then I think G and C,
25 strategic planning and the Urban Services

1 District, as we discussed before, could be
2 merged. Those are not as, in my mind
3 anyway, not as complex issues that will be
4 nearly as weighty as H and A and maybe B.
5 But I'm going to vote in favor of the
6 motion.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Jameson.

8 COMMISSIONER JAMESON: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair. I would just like to echo the
10 concerns again with the schedule that we
11 have and the amount of topics that we have.
12 If we meet once a week, that really only
13 allows for three committees. As you said
14 before, you'd like to do one committee of
15 our Commission as a whole a month. So I
16 would be opposed to adding a fourth
17 subcommittee for that reason. So we can
18 have each subcommittee meet once a week and
19 then the full committee meet at the end of
20 the month.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Griggs.

22 COMMISSIONER GRIGGS: Thank you,
23 Mr. Chair. I'm going to support the fourth
24 committee simply because I don't want to
25 depend on the good nature or the goodwill of

1 one of the other committees to take up this
2 topic. And I think it's one of the things
3 that we know that the people want us to
4 discuss, want us to take up, and so I'm
5 going to support it.

6 And I think as a commission, people will
7 do what they have to do in order to
8 participate if they want to be a part of the
9 recommendations. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Ms. Baker, I
11 believe, for the second time.

12 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I'm not going to
13 support this motion. I think that four is
14 too much. And I agree the Chair has said
15 numerous times that these sub-points are
16 guidelines. And if a subcommittee wants to
17 take up that issue, maybe C gets further
18 issue, and maybe they vote to take up
19 another issue, they can. Or maybe as a
20 committee of the whole we come back in two
21 months and C and G are done and we have
22 three months left and we all vote, okay,
23 let's open up another topic.

24 I think that we have all ranked them.
25 We clearly have a top four. Even if we

1 just did the top three, I'm okay with that.
2 But that's a number five on the list. I
3 think we should stick with the procedure
4 we've had in place.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Gentry.

6 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Mr. Chair, to
7 close, isn't it just a question of whether
8 or not we have three members on each
9 subcommittee or four?

10 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: So if we have four
12 committees, we have three members; we have
13 three, we have four.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Roughly.

15 COMMISSIONER GENTRY: Okay. So I don't
16 personally see a problem with that.

17 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: It was just being
18 expressed to me. I don't see anybody else
19 on the queue, but I will relay it. Staff is
20 concerned, if we do have four, that it will
21 spread the resources thin with everything
22 else that's going on. It's just that it was
23 a concern that was expressed so I wanted to
24 relay that to the Commission on that.

25 I don't see anybody else on the queue.

1 So the motion, so we all understand what
2 we're voting on, is to add a fourth
3 subcommittee for topic five, the Office of
4 General Counsel. All in favor, raise your
5 hand.

6 MS. JOHNSTON: Six.

7 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Six. Motion fails.

8 Okay. Our three subcommittees are topic
9 G --

10 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Mr. Denton.

12 COMMISSIONER DENTON: If it's
13 appropriate -- maybe I'm losing track of the
14 votes -- I'll try again with a motion to
15 keep it to three subcommittees, but to merge
16 G and C, merge H and A -- I don't think we
17 voted on this one yet -- and maintain B as a
18 separate subcommittee.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I think that was the
20 original one, to combine one and two, three
21 and four, and add five. That was voted
22 down.

23 COMMISSIONER DENTON: Well, then it's
24 inappropriate. I'll withdraw it.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Okay. So we have

1 our three subcommittees. Everybody
2 understand what they are?

3 And if you could please get me your
4 ranking of which subcommittee you would like
5 to be on, email those to Ms. Matthews. She
6 will relay those to me. I will look it over
7 the weekend. And I will assign
8 subcommittees and chairs to that.

9 We have public comment. Mr. Fraser, I
10 see, has left. I apologize, because some of
11 these may have been submitted in the earlier
12 period, but they did not make it to me.

13 Ms. Howard? I do not see Ms. Howard.

14 Mr. Nooney.

15 Set the clock for the three minutes --
16 well, let's go with two, because we are at
17 the end.

18 MR. NOONEY: Hello. John Nooney,
19 address is on file. And first of all, I
20 just want to commend you and the Commission
21 for prioritizing number one, or G. And that
22 is, you know, going forward, citywide
23 strategic planning. You know, call it the
24 better strategic plan, you know, for the
25 City of Jacksonville.

1 But when you look at the points
2 underneath it. Right now here is another
3 one, functions of nonprofits with the
4 consolidated government, building on City
5 Council strategic plan. And, of course,
6 under here you have prioritize waterways and
7 access.

8 Again, you know, I'm only just down to a
9 minute. But, you know, when you look at
10 this, DIAs and the CRAs, these Community
11 Redevelopment Agencies, and areas, and our
12 Downtown Investment Authority. And going
13 forward, please offer a Charter amendment
14 that, if any taxpayer money is given to a
15 non-for-profit or any agency with a waterway
16 component, that public access to that
17 waterway will be guaranteed. And that
18 will -- should be a big part of the
19 strategic plan.

20 And let me just say, you know, when you
21 talk about different places being sort of
22 left out. You know, if you get a chance,
23 changing the subject a little bit, go check
24 out Riverview Community Center, it's a
25 senior center.

1 And I'll be doing a little bit more.
2 But two of the biggest keys for downtown,
3 you know, it's the School Board property
4 with a kayak launch and also the armory.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you, sir.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. NOONEY: Well, thank you for
8 listening.

9 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: I want to thank
10 everyone, we put a lot of hard work in to
11 get --

12 MS. BUSSARD: Mr. Chair, just very
13 brief.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: That's fine,
15 Ms. Bussard, name and address, please.

16 MS. BUSSARD: Billee Bussard, 2115
17 Forest Gate Drive East, Jacksonville,
18 Florida 32246.

19 I just want to say the failure to really
20 examine the OGC office will result in our
21 government remaining dysfunctional on many
22 levels. And I'm hoping you will have the
23 courage to roll that into one of your
24 committees. Thank you.

25 CHAIRPERSON BROCK: Thank you very much.

1 Now, as I was saying, thank you,
2 everyone. We put in a lot of hard work, a
3 lot of hours to get to this point. I look
4 forward to getting your priorities on the
5 subcommittees you would like to be on. And,
6 again, just want to thank you and staff for
7 their work during all this. And guess what,
8 it only gets more.

9 Also, if you have dates that you are
10 unable to meet, if you would please email
11 those between now and the end of March. We
12 want to begin to set meeting times for our
13 Commission as a whole. So I'll have more on
14 that as we move forward.

15 All right. We are adjourned.

16 (Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.)

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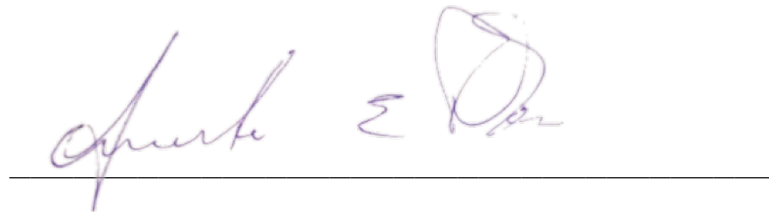
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF DUVAL

I, Amanda E. Robinson, Registered
Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I
was authorized to and did report the foregoing
proceedings; and that the transcript, pages 1
through 144, is a true record of my stenographic
notes.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2019.



Amanda E. Robinson,
Registered Professional Reporter