

I. Meeting Packet



State of Florida
Public Service Commission
AMENDED INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGENDA
Thursday – April 24, 2025
9:30 AM
Room 105 – Gerald L. Gunter Building

1. Draft Efficiency Team Plan (Attachment 1)
2. Legislative Update
3. General Counsel's Report
4. Executive Director's report
5. Other Matters

BB/aml

OUTSIDE PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION ON
ANY OF THE AGENDAED ITEMS SHOULD CONTACT THE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT (850) 413-6463.



Florida Public Service Commission Efficiency Team Plan

Draft

PURPOSE

A Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) efficiency team is established to foster a commitment to continuous improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations and in the quality of service the agency provides to the regulated community and Florida's citizens. As a legislative agency, the FPSC is establishing an efficiency team recognizing the current efforts to increase efficiency on the state and federal levels as well as the good measures outlined in the Executive Office of the Governor's Executive Order number 25-44.

SCOPE

The scope of the FPSC efficiency team's activities will focus on internal operational challenges, process improvements, enhanced transparency and documented support for Commission decisions, increased communications, and cross-functional coordination.

GOALS

The primary goals for the FPSC efficiency team will be to:

- Identify and reduce waste or redundancy;
- Utilize technology to promote efficiency and maximize productivity;
- Improve service delivery and responsiveness;
- Better align staff resources with agency priorities;
- Promote transparency and measureable outcomes;
- Recommend administrative or legislative reforms which would promote efficiency, productivity; and
- Support innovation and continuous improvement;

OVERVIEW

Recent legislative efforts have focused on a need to increase government efficiency at both the federal and state levels. During the 2025 legislative session, the Florida legislature is considering house and senate bills that would create a commission of government efficiency.

The Executive Office of the Governor issued Executive Order number 25-44 on February 24, 2025 directing each state agency to establish a government efficiency team whose purpose is to employ innovative technology to identify and eliminate unnecessary and oftentimes frivolous spending, to maximize governmental efficiency and productivity.

Specifically, agency government efficiency teams are responsible for:

1. Utilizing advanced technology, such as artificial intelligence, as part of an ongoing effort to identify and eliminate unnecessary spending, programs, or contracts within the agency;
2. Identifying any pending or funded federal grant awards (within the agency) that are inconsistent with the policies of the state and should be returned to the American taxpayer in furtherance of the President's DOGE efforts; and
3. Recommending administrative or legislative reforms to promote efficiency, maximize productivity, and eliminate waste in state and local government, including recommendations to leverage modern technology and to eliminate the duplication of services, reduce fees, and cut overhead.

The FPSC, as a legislative agency, recognizes the positive measures outlined in both the Executive Order and the current legislative efforts and is committed to continuous innovation and maximizing efficiency and productivity.

FORM AND STRUCTURE

The FPSC efficiency team will consist of a cross-functional group of leaders and managers, representative of the agency. The form of the team will include:

- A Commissioner as determined by the Chairman
- Members of the Executive Director's team
- Legislative staff
- Division Directors representative of both the FPSCs Administrative and Technical units as determined by the Executive Director and/or Chairman
- General Counsel or designee

GOVERNANCE/SCHEDULE

The Chairman or designee along with the Executive Director or designee provides strategic direction and support for the FPSC efficiency team. The Chairman will designate a team lead to coordinate meetings receive suggestions and develop topic outlines.

As part of leadership's commitment to continuous improvement, an *Agency Efficiency and Effectiveness Suggestion Form* will be posted on the FPSC intranet. All FPSC employees will be encouraged to provide ideas and suggestions for improving agency efficiency and effectiveness.

The FPSC efficiency team will convene no less than annually to review employee suggestions received, if any, identify potential opportunities, and develop projects for consideration and prioritization.

The FPSC efficiency team's direction for addressing opportunities for efficiency and effectiveness, the team will meet with the Inspector General annually during the Office of Inspector General (OIG) risk assessment process to provide a summary of efforts and provide input for consideration in the development of the OIG Annual Audit Plan.

REVIEW AND SUNSET PROVISION

To ensure continued relevance and alignment with FPSC priorities, the efficiency team will be reviewed annually at the direction of the Chairman and Executive leadership to evaluate continued value to agency operations. Based on the results of this review, leadership may:

- Continue to function as established;
- Adjust the scope, structure, or membership of the team;
- Integrate the team's function into permanent Division structures or existing processes;
- Sunset the team if its objectives have been achieved or if alternative mechanisms for process improvement are deemed to be more effective.

II. Transcript

1 BEFORE THE
2 FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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6
7 PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

8 COMMISSIONERS
9 PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA
10 COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
11 COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
12 COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
13 COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

14 DATE: Thursday, April 24, 2025

15 TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.
16 Concluded: 10:25 a.m.

17 PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
18 Room 105
19 2524 Shumard Oak Boulevard
20 Gerald L. Gunter Building
21 Tallahassee, Florida

22 REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK
23 Court Reporter and
24 Notary Public in and for
25 the State of Florida at Large

26
27 PREMIER REPORTING
28 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
29 (850) 894-0828

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

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Well, good morning.

3 Commissioner Fay, you missed the music.

4 COMMISSIONER FAY: I was wondering. It was
5 quiet when I came in.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You are about to hear what
7 it was.

8 COMMISSIONER FAY: I wanted my own walk-in
9 music.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Well, that's -- maybe next
11 meeting. If you recommend a good song, who knows?
12 It could be.

13 Well, good morning, everybody. Today is
14 Thursday, April 24th, and this is our Internal
15 Affairs meeting here at the Florida Public Service
16 Commission.

17 As you heard us just chatting about, an
18 important element of what we do each month is talk
19 about the recommended Song of the Month and, Mr.
20 Matthew Morris from AIT, who is here and standing
21 in the back of to the room, has suggested Right Now
22 by Van Halen, and I thought that that just kind of
23 made a lot of sense as we turn the corner, busy
24 season coming in and front us, we are talking about
25 some efficiencies today, so it all made great

1 sense. So congrats on getting selected for Song of
2 the Month.

3 So another important element that we discuss
4 every month is the recognition of our Employee of
5 the Month. And this month it was Eric Wooten from
6 IDM.

7 I spoke to Eric this morning, he was certainly
8 surprised. Like most are. And the way we like do
9 it is, of course, chat and surprise them the
10 morning of Internal Affairs. So unfortunately,
11 Eric is not in the building today, but he was
12 surprised, and I look forward to taking a picture
13 with him and actually handing him the award.

14 But Eric joined the Commission in 2016, and is
15 a Public Utility Analyst IV in the inner carrier
16 service section. He is the main contributor to the
17 annual competition report. He monitors all federal
18 telecom activity; provides the Commission with the
19 monthly fed activities report, as well as providing
20 primary analysis for most of the intercarrier
21 services section's major activities.

22 In addition to this, he really shines as a
23 mentor to new analysts, showing them the finer
24 points of how the Commission does its unique work.
25 And he is always quick to volunteer for new telecom

1 and energy projects, and is excellent working with
2 his team and creating a team environment.

3 He has most recently brought into the team
4 that worked on the Advanced Nuclear Power
5 Feasibility Report, a project, obviously, that we
6 spoke with at length here in Internal Affairs. His
7 technical powers and aggression towards -- of doing
8 things a certain way makes him an indispensable
9 asset to the IDM team.

10 So, again, Eric, congratulations on being the
11 Employee of the Month. Obviously, well recommended
12 from your director, and great comments from all
13 your colleagues. So congratulations, and look
14 forward to being able to getting with you in person
15 here real soon.

16 So you heard me tip off. Part of our Agenda
17 today is to talk about an efficiency team plan. So
18 I will invite Valerie Peacock to come on up and
19 discuss with us something that her and I have been
20 working on in creating an efficiency team.

21 So I will just kind of give you a little bit
22 of background behind this, is that, of course,
23 looking at what we can do here at the Commission,
24 looking at some of the operations and incorporating
25 some technologies, and things that we can just,

1 frankly, just to do our job better, and not
2 necessarily what we do, but maybe how we do it, and
3 look at implementation maybe others might also be
4 considering.

5 I think back about, I think it was 2017, I was
6 appointed to a government efficiency task force,
7 so, right. So call it, like, DOGE before DOGE was,
8 like, popular. And I looked back at some of the
9 things we do, and it was part legislators, part
10 civilians. We got together a few times per year
11 and came up with recommendations. We analyzed
12 things across the entire government. And I took
13 some of those elements and shared them with Valerie
14 on what we did then, and which I thought was very
15 effective.

16 And I think back about just from the business
17 side of things, and things that I have experienced
18 just in my private life, worked with small
19 businesses, worked with large businesses, and I
20 think about how we make decisions, right, and how
21 you start to kind of cultivate ideas and concepts.

22 Maybe from a large business perspective, maybe
23 it's an advisory committee, right. Sometimes you
24 might have some folks internally, some folks that
25 might be specific into certain areas that you want

1 to look at, or you may want to improve, or big
2 decisions that you think might be coming before
3 you. In a small business, frankly, it might be,
4 like, in a mentoring group, right. It might be
5 part of other business owners that might be
6 experiencing similar challenges.

7 And then at the end of the day, you know, on
8 the business side, on the private side, you are
9 always looking at what your product is, right, and
10 how your customers are reacting to your product,
11 and, of course, what your sales look like. That's
12 very difficult to do in the government, right.
13 That's -- I have come to find that that's a tough
14 barometer. But where, you know, I think that we
15 can use some of those elements is looking at, hey,
16 where can -- what do we want to look further into?
17 Where do we want to maybe get some thoughts, and
18 really kind of create a small group that can really
19 analyze and give us the ability to consider a
20 little bit more, right.

21 Sometimes when I step outside of my everyday
22 task, I might have a different perspective of
23 someone who may be involved with something
24 day-to-day. And I thought this was a great idea to
25 kind of bring a group together and start that

1 internal process here.

2 And it's not that we don't do this. And
3 talking with Braulio -- and, Braulio, sorry, I will
4 just kind of throw you on the spot for half a
5 second as you look up at me.

6 A lot of the things that I think that this
7 efficiency team will do are things that maybe we
8 are already doing to an extent already, but it
9 brings it in a more specific and more maybe
10 organized forum, and I think it kind of goes with
11 the trend of where we all kind of want the agency
12 go to go. So I thought this would be a good time
13 to assemble this and start to work on it. And I
14 asked Valerie if she could come present some of the
15 things we have put together.

16 And obviously, Commissioners, wide open for
17 comments, thoughts. I have already made a minor
18 suggestive change of adding an extra person to the
19 structure that might be, frankly, from outside of
20 the agency, and maybe we wanted to look at a
21 specific project, but Valerie can certainly add
22 more to that, but I may have been a little bit
23 long-winded.

24 MS. PEACOCK: No, I feel like you made a good
25 presentation, so I am good.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: No, so I will turn it over
2 to Valerie, who is better versed in the direction
3 that we are going with this than I am, but it's
4 been a pleasure so far to work with you on this,
5 and look forward to continuing to working with you.

6 MS. PEACOCK: Thank you. Thank you. No, that
7 was a great summation of what we are trying to do
8 here.

9 And, you know, I want to kind of start off
10 with, you know, why am I involved with this, you
11 know, if this is something that would be a
12 collective effort of the agency? But, you know, I
13 go back to my statute, which is, you know, kind of
14 my, you know, my go-to, but 20.055 -- Section
15 20.055, Florida Statutes says -- states that the
16 OIG is a central point for the coordination of and
17 the responsibility for activities that promote
18 accountability, integrity and efficiency in the
19 Commission.

20 So I am all about efficiency. And I have been
21 all my career. And so, you know, being a part of
22 -- coming up with this has been really, you know,
23 just true to my mission, so I appreciate the
24 opportunity to be able to be a part of it.

25 So I will just go through this real quick. I

1 am not one to read a whole lot of what I am doing,
2 but there is a lot of content here, so I will read
3 a little bit.

4 So we are creating an efficiency team to
5 foster a commitment to continuous improvement in
6 the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency's
7 operations and the quality of service that we
8 provide to the regulated community and the
9 citizens. So, you know, look at this, the Governor
10 came out with an executive order recently directing
11 all executive agencies to come up with a, you know,
12 a group that will do this, that have a team that
13 will pretty much look at agency efficiency, and
14 improving efficiency in agencies.

15 And so, you know, we are a legislative agency,
16 but also, you know, I know we have all been
17 following the legislative session, and I know David
18 will talk about that, but there has been a lot of
19 momentum in the Legislature for the same purpose,
20 to increase efficiency. So, you know, I think it's
21 a good time that, you know, the spotlight is on
22 efficiency. That we, you know, we take a little
23 bit ourselves and, you know, do the same.

24 And so the scope -- I will say, as far as
25 efficiency goes -- now, this is a personal, you

1 know, my first impression, and my continued
2 impression of the PSC since I have been here, is,
3 wow, this is one lean, efficient operation compared
4 to, you know, some places that I have been before.
5 And so I think we do a lot of things really, really
6 well. But, you know, technology is traveling at
7 the speed of artificial intelligence, and, you
8 know, we have to see how we can harness that and do
9 what works best for us.

10 So the scope of this team is going to focus on
11 internal operational challenges, process
12 improvements, enhanced transparency and documented
13 support for Commission decisions, increased
14 communications and cross functional coordination.

15 And so, you know, as part of this, you know,
16 when we assemble a team, you know, you will say
17 okay, well, what are the goals of the team? Well,
18 so listed a few goals here. Identify and reduce
19 waste and redundancy. Use technology to promote
20 efficiency. Improve service delivery and
21 responsiveness. Better aligned staff resources
22 with agency priorities. Promote transparency and
23 support innovation and continuous improvement.

24 See the overview of the legislative activity I
25 kind of went over, so I will go to page two, where

1 we discuss the form and structure.

2 So what will this team look like. And this is
3 where we have kind of had a lot of discussion. I
4 have done -- you know, recently I have worked on an
5 advisory project looking at the Commission's
6 intranet site, and one thing I have taken away from
7 that is that you get better information when people
8 communicate, and when you get a more diverse group
9 that's representative of the entire agency. So
10 collectively -- you know, you hear the term, we are
11 better together. And so I think that we are better
12 together structure is what, I think, should drive
13 the form and structure of the team.

14 So it would be -- the team would include,
15 like, a Commissioner, as determined by the
16 Chairman; members of the Executive Director's team;
17 one of our internal legislative staff; division
18 directors representative of both admin and
19 technical, as determined by leadership; General
20 Counsel or designee; and an external member.

21 And the Chairman just spoke of, you know, it
22 would be good to have an external member, and he
23 added that. And I thought, you know, that's
24 really -- that's really smart, because I think
25 about, okay, well, I wonder if it was something --

1 all right, we are going to look, our IG is really
2 ineffective here at the PSC. What could she do
3 that --

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Not what I said to her, by
5 the way.

6 MS. PEACOCK: Yeah, he has been telling me --
7 no. But, you know, one of the first things I would
8 think to do is go grab another IG from another
9 state agency and say, hey, Valerie, you are not --
10 you know, you could be more effective, you know, in
11 your role. Here's some of the things we do, you
12 know, at this agency. And that is -- we have a
13 real great inspector general community, where we
14 collaborate quite a bit, and so that would be my
15 first go-to. What are others doing? So I thought
16 that was really a good addition.

17 So the governance of it. So the Chairman, or
18 designee, along with the Executive Director, or
19 designee, provides strategic direction for the
20 team. So it's led by leadership. And we will
21 designate a team lead to coordinate meetings,
22 receive suggestions and develop topic outlines.

23 Part of this will include a employee
24 suggestion form. I have kind of worked on
25 developing one, and, you know -- but the team could

1 tweak that and make it their own, and would post
2 that. So we put a suggestion form on the intranet,
3 and encourage all employees to provide ideas or
4 suggestions.

5 And so how often do we meet? How is this
6 going to play out? What are we going to do?

7 So, you know, the schedule of how often you
8 meet, or how often you, you know, convene, is going
9 to be determined by leadership. But, you know, you
10 want to kind of commit and say, all right, no less
11 than maybe once a year we are all going to come
12 together. We are going to look at the suggestions,
13 identify opportunity for efficiency, recommend
14 administrative or legislative reforms which would
15 promote efficiency and productivity, and develop
16 projects for consideration.

17 And so here's-- here's the part I like the
18 best about this whole plan, is that the efficiency
19 team. So right now, many of you have probably
20 gotten my email, that I am starting my annual risk
21 assessment, where I am trying to decide what I put
22 on my audit plan for next year. Where -- where can
23 I promote the most value for next year? And so I
24 go around and I try to meet with as many people as
25 I can and I get as much input as I can. But this

1 team would meet with me during my risk assessment
2 and provide a summary of, you know, what their
3 efforts are, and any input for me for consideration
4 for the IG annual audit plan.

5 So, you know, there is some things that maybe
6 the team would want to do on their own. You know,
7 maybe there is some things that, you know, you say,
8 oh, okay, I think we can do some things that would
9 make things easier or more, you know, efficient
10 for, you know, these two divisions working
11 together; or, hum, that's something for
12 consideration. Maybe Valerie -- put it on
13 Valerie's audit plan and let her do a deep dive on
14 it.

15 So, you know, I wanted to keep, you know, the
16 plan as flexible as possible, because, you know, we
17 don't want to just do something to be doing it. We
18 want to make sure it's a value. And so along with
19 that -- you know, I am not one to ever just do
20 something to call myself doing it, you know. You
21 meet and you go through a process, as long as it
22 serves value. And so, you know, I put a -- you
23 know, I gave it to you as draft, so this is draft.

24 But, you know, for the -- we want to ensure
25 continued relevance and alignment with our

1 priorities. So we will -- I think the team should
2 be reviewed annually to ensure that it's still
3 meeting the direction of the Chairman and the
4 leadership, and say, okay, well, is -- are we
5 providing value to the agency? Yes.

6 Well -- so upon review, the agency can
7 continue the team as established. Let's keep it
8 going. We can adjust the scope. We can make it
9 smaller, bigger, expand it. Maybe integrate this
10 function into one of the divisions, or one of our
11 existing processes, and then -- or, you know, if we
12 can say, okay, well, we have kind of met the
13 purpose of what we set out to do, we can Sunset the
14 team if we have done everything that we think, you
15 know, needed to be done.

16 So that is where I am at with it. And,
17 Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to present
18 this to you all, this draft, because, you know, I
19 really am interested in any feedback or
20 suggestions, you know, that could make this better.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Well, thank you. And I
22 actually -- I like the last point that you ended
23 on, right, is that you shouldn't rule out the fact
24 that the team could distinguish itself if it finds
25 that it's not effective, and that's not a really

1 common thing that you find in government; although,
2 I have seen it happen before. And I know that's
3 something that we chatted about, is that the team
4 could even remove itself if it felt that it was not
5 becoming effective, or maybe creating more hurdles
6 internally.

7 Commissioners, any thoughts or questions for
8 Valerie, or discussion points?

9 Commissioner Graham.

10 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Any thought to adding
11 Public Counsel?

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: There has not been thought
13 to add Public Counsel specifically, but I think
14 that the ability to have an external person -- and
15 I didn't mean to jump in and just answer the
16 question --

17 MS. PEACOCK: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: -- but that's kind of where
19 my suggestion was coming from wasn't necessarily
20 thinking about Public Counsel, but if we -- if
21 there was something we were looking at maybe it was
22 our process.

23 I will give you an example, right, and
24 Commissioner Fay, you can probably add to this, is
25 that we brought in Case Lines -- or Case Center.

1 And as we looked back at having the discussion this
2 week and said, look at the efficiencies that it
3 created in our process, right. So if we were
4 looking at somebody and say, how do we -- how do
5 we, you know, make our public case process happen a
6 little bit smoother, right, and maybe all of a
7 sudden it was a sense to bring OPC to the table --
8 obviously, they are involved in many public rate
9 cases -- then maybe we would assign them a spot as
10 the external person to the committee or, you know,
11 to the team.

12 So I don't -- I wouldn't rule them out, but I
13 think that's kind of going in the direction of
14 saying, hey, if there is something specific we want
15 to look at and we feel that it's necessary, and it
16 makes sense to bring somebody from the outside in,
17 then we bring them in, we have them have a seat at
18 the table and we can make them a part of the team,
19 so -- but not specifically OPC, but kind of
20 guideline.

21 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: When you say bring
22 somebody from the outside, you are not looking for
23 a fixed person. It's okay to rotate that person?

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, I think it's based on
25 where the direction of the team, and what they are

1 looking at. Maybe it's technology, right. And
2 maybe we find that we don't have the expertise that
3 we need, or maybe it's something that's just new,
4 right. It gives us the ability so say, hey, let's
5 go find a tech person, or maybe it's, like -- a
6 good example that Valerie gave us, somebody at
7 another agency that's implemented something similar
8 that we want to study further, it allows us to kind
9 of give us that opportunity, not just, you know,
10 look within the four walls that have here at the
11 agency.

12 We have got great folks, and obviously it's
13 heavy with folks internal, and I think that's going
14 to lead us in the right direction, but I don't want
15 to close the door on allowing us to focus and bring
16 in expertise that maybe we just don't have.

17 MS. PEACOCK: In speaking with some of the
18 other inspector generals, I ask how, you know, how
19 they are approaching that. And they said, well,
20 you know, our agencies are doing a lot with AI and
21 a lot with technology, and they are really doing a
22 lot -- they have a lot of federal grants and such,
23 and they said there is a lot we have already been
24 doing. And so a lot of what I have heard is that
25 they start out with acknowledging where they are

1 already, you know, doing a lot of these things, and
2 just saying, okay, here's where we are, you know,
3 with -- like the H data we have just brought on, I
4 think it's excellent.

5 So, you know, that was my other thing. I'm
6 like, wow, we are already doing so many of these
7 things, and then that was echoed by some of the
8 other agencies.

9 And, you know, I am enjoying the AI. Every
10 time I feel like I have discovered something new,
11 you know, Commissioner Fay is already three
12 generations of that ahead of me, so -- anyway, that
13 was --

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah. No. No. It's a
15 great point.

16 You know, I start talking a little bit about
17 business and the comparison, and I think about, you
18 know, what is the relevance of that comparison in
19 the public sector, right? And, of course, we don't
20 have a product technically that we sell that we
21 could put a dollar amount in and say, look at our
22 revenues.

23 But we look at voter confidence, or -- excuse
24 me, I am using my old terms, right -- at public
25 confidence, and I think that the public should

1 always have a high level of confidence in their
2 government. And I think that's, frankly, what's
3 gone on over in the last couple of years, and why
4 efficiency has had so much of a highlight, because
5 when you look at external polls, maybe the
6 confidence wasn't there, frankly, wasn't there.
7 And I think that if we can do something better as a
8 government, how do we provide more confidence? And
9 I think that starts with transparency.

10 And I think if we can show the public that,
11 hey, we do have internal functions, and we try to
12 act more like a business, and they can see some of
13 the things that we are doing, I think it may not
14 move the needle dramatically, but I think it adds
15 another layer of saying, hey, there is an effort to
16 be transparent. I think that's really the spirit
17 behind why the movement is happening and why I
18 think we should be doing this here at our agency.

19 Yeah, go ahead. Sure. Commissioner Smith.

20 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Whatever.

21 Thanks.

22 I really am encouraged by this. I think that
23 this is a really -- a step -- a giant step forward
24 for our agency, so I am excited that you are
25 heading this up. And I -- on that, like, sort of

1 transparency note, I think having it as it's
2 building maybe, like you said, you know, having it
3 on the intranet so that those, you know, staff
4 members that are not part of the group can see the
5 progress that's being made, like, throughout the
6 process, but once there are sort of tangible
7 milestones that are met, having that on our
8 external website as a drop-down menu for, you know,
9 customers, utilities, intervenors, whoever wants to
10 see what we are doing, you know, like, in the
11 agency to promote efficiency, that they would be
12 able to be a part of the -- like, or at least see
13 these tangible sort of milestones that are being
14 met. So if, like, integrate -- that would be
15 something I would want to have integrated on our
16 external website. It's like my only main --

17 And the other, I guess, suggestion that, I
18 think, for now we are just still in this, like,
19 very, like, preliminary stage, so I am glad that
20 it's staying, like, kind of broad-based. But as we
21 hone in on what we think -- kind of before even the
22 group -- or maybe that could be part of to the
23 first meeting so you get that sort of input, but,
24 like, establishing tangible metrics of, like, those
25 tangible milestones, like, maybe some sort of

1 outline or something, because I -- sometimes you
2 can be part of these groups -- and I don't think --
3 because we are somewhat trying to promote
4 efficiency and that we will recognize when the
5 group is not doing that anymore, and then maybe
6 it's having the inverse effect, but having some
7 sort of actual outline or something, where we know
8 where -- what direction we are heading; because
9 sometimes you can get these meetings and two hours
10 have gone by and not really that much progress, you
11 know, you might be using that talk about something
12 else that's just happening in the agency at the
13 time instead of, like, the actual, you know, the
14 purpose of this group.

15 It's hard, because it's a great opportunity.
16 We have all of these smart minds here, and we are
17 talking about, you know, there will be, you know,
18 some sort of case that's going on instead, but
19 that's not really what the group is being meeting
20 for, so -- but that, obviously, will evolve over
21 time. I just always think when you are starting
22 these things, to have, you know, something to that
23 your metrics.

24 MS. PEACOCK: Yeah.

25 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Yeah.

1 MS. PEACOCK: Absolutely.

2 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: And maybe the
3 last thing, I think this, too, is always fluid, but
4 as the -- in the beginning, more than -- more than
5 annual meetings might be more -- might be helpful,
6 like, even every couple of months, or something
7 like that, until you get the ball rolling or
8 something.

9 MS. PEACOCK: Right.

10 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: So I mean, no
11 less than annually, so obviously, the door is open
12 for more meetings.

13 MS. PEACOCK: That was the thing, you just
14 want to leave it open.

15 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Yeah. No, I am
16 excited about this.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, I think you hit it on
18 the head, is that maybe the most important task is
19 make sure that it stays on task.

20 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Right.
21 Exactly.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: There is a focus --

23 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: The irony,
24 right. Yeah.

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: -- and Valerie started to

1 lead to that, she has an application of suggestions
2 and I think that's probably folds into that. I
3 think what you were explaining, is that you don't
4 want it to turn into, like, an HOA meeting, right?

5 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Yeah. Exactly.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Like, humanity could, like
7 I don't know, extinct itself, if you go to an HOA
8 meeting where it becomes a complaint fest, that is
9 the opposite of what the intention of this could
10 be, so, no --

11 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Exactly.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: -- that's a great point --

13 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Yeah.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: -- as obviously I know to
15 certainly stay on task.

16 And I share the same vision. I think that
17 this team would meet almost maybe routinely in its
18 first year, and multiple times as it works through,
19 you know, kinks, and understanding, and good
20 efficient operations.

21 And I -- what I hope is maybe the flood of
22 recommendations that comes, or maybe we have got to
23 just kind of, you know, piece off a part, because
24 we are saying, hey, this is where our focus needs
25 to be, and these are the most important, and give

1 us a tally for years to come, so great thoughts and
2 comments.

3 Commissioner Clark.

4 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yeah, I would just add a
5 couple of points, and I thank you, Mr. Chairman,
6 for bringing this issue to the forefront and, Val,
7 thank you for the work you have done on this
8 initial plan.

9 I go back to Commissioner Smith's point. I
10 think that the urgency here is important, and I
11 think that my first thought was, hey, this
12 committee ought to be meeting twice a week for the
13 first six months, you know, to make sure that we
14 are putting the emphasis behind it, and showing the
15 importance that the Commission has, and making sure
16 we are running efficiently.

17 But the one key thing that I would point out,
18 and having come into government in my tenure at DEP
19 straight out of the private sector was a real eye
20 opener for me. And there was so many things that I
21 wanted to do and I wanted to change, that I ran
22 into massive roadblocks on, and so many things that
23 I saw that could be changed if the statute were
24 changed. And so I think that making sure that we
25 don't limit the scope of this project to just what

1 has to be done here, but things that have an effect
2 on what goes on here is an absolute essential part
3 of it.

4 I remember -- recall specifically having
5 employees who spent an entire year working on one
6 report, and that report had to be submitted by this
7 time to this particular individual, and nobody read
8 it. It was totally irrelevant. It was something
9 that was passed in 1976, and everybody forgot about
10 it, but nobody forgot to tell the people, you don't
11 have to do this anymore. And so the efficiency had
12 kind of gone away from that perspective.

13 The second point that I think is critically
14 important goes back to the external observation.
15 We get blinders on from the inside, and I am
16 additional the most guilty person of that. I see
17 this, and I don't want to look beyond what I do and
18 how I do things and what's comfortable for me. And
19 I think the external position, the external
20 perspective on efficiency inside an agency is
21 critical. And we have so many key players that we
22 work with on a daily basis that can probably offer
23 a whole lot more insight than what we see.

24 Perspective on efficiency is one thing. What
25 you see as efficient, someone else does not see as

1 efficient. And go back to, you know, who is our
2 target market? It's the public, you know, it's the
3 citizens in the state of Florida that we are doing
4 this for, and I think that having that outside
5 perspective is key, and I don't know how we
6 incorporate that if it's a embedded component
7 within the committee, or if it's a, hey, invited
8 guests from this group, this group and this group
9 to provide input over certain periods of time. But
10 I really do think that external perspectives are
11 probably as important as what we see from internal
12 point. My two cents.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, good points.

14 Commissioner Fay.

15 COMMISSIONER FAY: So first thing, I have to
16 talk about AI because you said AI, and so I just
17 can't help myself.

18 I think I interpreted this, like, to me, I
19 think about, like, the technology evolution that we
20 have gone through as an agency and -- I mean there
21 is very few -- with Valerie working on the intranet
22 portion, there is very few components of what the
23 Commission does that hasn't been almost completely
24 overhauled in the past decade. So I think that has
25 been done successfully in large part due to our

1 staff and our IT staff.

2 I mean, when we rebuilt some of the stuff that
3 I worked on, it was on time and on budget. I mean,
4 it was the things that you never hear, right, even
5 in the private sector side, a lot of these
6 projects, so I think they did a really good job.

7 I would really want IT to be involved in this
8 process, and it says, division directors,
9 representative both FPSC administrative and
10 technical. I am presuming, Mr. Chairman, that the
11 idea would be -- or Valerie maybe to elaborate --
12 but that there be something that within that group
13 that would participate in this, because, you know,
14 I called our IT folks on things like just our
15 transcript process, right. That historically by
16 statute has been required for court reporters to
17 provide that service, and we love those folks, and
18 they have been -- they have done a great job over
19 the years with our agency, but I think that's
20 probably a big question throughout government right
21 now, is there something that provides that service
22 with the same sort of accuracy, with more
23 accessibility, and we are on the road with customer
24 meetings, are there ways to do that that can reduce
25 costs and create efficiencies that are good for the

1 agency, but probably, at the end of the day, good
2 for the customer and the folks that we regulate.

3 So I think the concept makes a lot of sense.
4 I just would really want somebody on the IT side
5 involved in this group to have some of those
6 conversations because, you know, AI is moving fast,
7 but the complexity of those components that require
8 discussion of confidentiality, you know,
9 transparency, all these things that we would need
10 to be very thoughtful about, I think would
11 necessitate somebody in the room who understood the
12 IT components of it.

13 So I am not volunteering anyone in particular
14 in our group. I just want to make sure the way
15 this is written that that person -- that others
16 were appointed based on this definition of this
17 fourth bullet that we wouldn't then not have IT
18 representative in it based on those appointments.
19 So maybe we can reword that.

20 It says, division director, so I don't know
21 if, Mr. Baez, if you interpret it that way, but I
22 think we could, you know, maybe mandate someone on
23 the IT side, where it says administrative.

24 MR. BAEZ: I was about to chime in, actually,
25 and give you as much of a guarantee as I can, but I

1 don't, you know, if you want to write it in, that's
2 all right.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah. No, and it's right
4 in line with the discussion points that we have
5 had, is that IT does play a massive part. So I
6 think we do -- we do -- to your point, we do need
7 to emphasize it more.

8 MR. BAEZ: I mean, it would be malpractice not
9 to, I guess.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, and I guess we are
11 talking about legal issues, maybe they -- that's
12 maybe something where IT is not as relevant, right,
13 but there is so, like you are saying, that IT
14 absolutely is. And I think the intention is that
15 IT is in there, so, yes, I think we do get to be a
16 little more specific on that, and make sure that we
17 have an IT person.

18 COMMISSIONER FAY: Great. Yeah, I think it
19 would be appropriate for the timing. I mean, to
20 your point, some of these things come up in cycles
21 within government agencies every once in a while,
22 and there will be these reviews or discussions, and
23 I think some of the -- sometimes they lead to a the
24 lot of the same result.

25 And just my belief, but I do think because of

1 the evolution of AI and in the way it's impacting
2 operations, thinking, reasoning, all these things
3 that now is probably a really appropriate time to
4 ask, are we utilizing some of those recourses to
5 create efficiencies?

6 And from everything I have, you know, learned
7 about this tech is that it's really just going to
8 make people much better at their job. It doesn't
9 -- from a reasoning perspective, it doesn't seem to
10 look to really look to replace jobs, like, with
11 what we do in our agency, but it does give you good
12 counter arguments and good ways to create
13 efficiencies for content that are pushed out.

14 And we do -- as Valerie pointed out, we do
15 operate superficially already, and we have
16 deadlines for dockets and rate cases, reports. I
17 mean, you know, just these past few years, between
18 nuclear and cyber, these complex subject matters
19 that the agency then picks up why they are still
20 operating all the dockets and rate cases that are
21 filed at the same time.

22 So it's being managed right now, but I think
23 there is a realization that that's really tough
24 when you have some of these years where you have
25 multiple rate cases, it's a really tough thing to

1 manage. So maybe preemptively they will be able to
2 find some things that will get out ahead of that
3 workload and those complexities, and then,
4 unfortunately, the reality is that we may have the
5 Legislature look at us during certain times of the
6 economy and adjust what we are able to do within an
7 agency, and that would be the time that we would be
8 forced to make some of these analysis.

9 I think your forethought is really
10 appropriate, because with this, you can get out
11 ahead of it. And so if it does happen, you already
12 have been very thoughtful about how you would pivot
13 and adjust to fulfill your workload even if they
14 make changes to us structurally.

15 So I appreciate you, you know, you bringing it
16 up. I love Commissioner Graham's idea of including
17 OPC. I mean, they are the other publicly funded
18 component of our process, and so that
19 accountability for those funds I think is equally
20 important to them, and the transparency is equally
21 important to customers to know, you know, what they
22 are doing, if they are fulfilling their
23 responsibility, and so maybe they won't have the
24 expertise to weigh in like somebody like an IT
25 person would, but they probably would have some

1 perspective as an agency that might be helpful for
2 our process where we create those efficiencies, and
3 we are just really thoughtful about it. So I
4 appreciate you teeing it up.

5 And, yeah, I am happy teeing to provide just a
6 sentence or whatever to include the IT, but I guess
7 -- I think Valerie and them could probably
8 sufficiently do that to make sure that's included
9 without foreclosing Commissioner Baez's ability to
10 appoint someone else administrative, I think, would
11 be the term.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Executive Director Baez.

13 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Former Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER FAY: I called you Commissioner?

15 MR. BAEZ: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER FAY: That's not an upgrade.

17 MR. BAEZ: Thank you all the same. Very kind.

18 Quick comments, and perhaps a suggestion that
19 may work with your thought and also your
20 observation as well, is to just let, you know, just
21 insert division directors or designees. That lets
22 us -- that gives some flexibility to be able to
23 identify the proper, you know, the proper IT
24 person, for example, to the task.

25 I do have a comment on the OPC suggestion, and

1 I -- well, my comment, or my suggestion would be if
2 we can table the good idea for the moment, because
3 I think that's something that, if it were up to me,
4 I would want our legal staff to run down.

5 The reason I say that is no knock on OPC.
6 They do represent the ratepayers. They are our
7 target audience, I think someone said, but they are
8 also a party to our dockets, and I -- I want to --
9 I want us all to feel confident that we are not
10 creating -- that we are not inserting an inherent
11 conflict of interest just by doing what really does
12 sound like a good idea, you know, what would come
13 naturally. So if we can leave that bubble in the
14 air for a moment.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, I think there is --

16 MR. BAEZ: We would like to run it down.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, and I think that's
18 fair, and I think there is a lot of thought that
19 goes into all the comments that are made. And then
20 maybe -- you know, maybe the right procedure is
21 once we kind of understand that, we can maybe
22 redefine some of these terms --

23 MR. BAEZ: Well, it's a draft --

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: -- with everybody. Yeah.

25 MR. BAEZ: Absolutely. I think all the ideas

1 are worthy of let's run some down and what the
2 possibilities, and what the inherent conflicts may
3 or mayor not be. I am not saying that there are.
4 It's just we do have a process that is not
5 internal, a process --

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: I think that's good
7 feedback that could give us good evidence of the
8 next step.

9 MR. BAEZ: And comfort. Comfort is our --
10 comfort is really all I am after so that, you know,
11 this can work without conflict, pardon the pun --

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah.

13 MR. BAEZ: -- that would be my suggestion. I
14 don't know if that -- if having a designee, to your
15 point, having just a modification of a designee, or
16 if you want to explicitly put IT, I think the
17 Chairman's point, you know, IT may or may not be a
18 necessary party. I can't imagine a context in
19 which they wouldn't be involved because everything
20 touches. We work on systems, and we are trying to
21 integrate more, so I can't imagine a scenario where
22 it wouldn't be. I have no heartburn over it either
23 way.

24 COMMISSIONER FAY: It's not statutory driven,
25 so, I mean, you could put in the bullet here

1 essentially members of the Commission staff that
2 could add value to the discussion, and then it
3 wouldn't be limited to whether it would be
4 inclusive or not, which --

5 MR. BAEZ: I can tell you as a matter, yes,
6 we -- I don't know four people that are not in IT
7 that can speak IT fluently enough to address
8 whatever --

9 COMMISSIONER FAY: Yeah.

10 MR. BAEZ: -- so they would be a necessary
11 logical addition or inclusion, whether it's written
12 or not.

13 COMMISSIONER FAY: I got you. And then you
14 said no to Commissioner Graham's idea?

15 MR. BAEZ: I did not say no to Commissioner
16 Graham's idea, and Commissioner Graham knows I
17 didn't say no. I -- it's a good suggestion that I
18 think has a couple of traps in between to run, just
19 to make sure. That's all I needed to mention.

20 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sure. Okay. Excellent.

21 Further thoughts, comments?

22 Valerie, closing statement?

23 MS. PEACOCK: No. All good comments. I
24 appreciate them, and we will work together to get
25 them all incorporated, so I am -- much appreciated.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Awesome. Well, thank you
2 for presenting today, and certainly good work.
3 And, Commissioners, thank you. That's a great
4 discussion, and moving in the direction with a very
5 similar spirit of what we are trying to accomplish.

6 All right. So let's move to our legislative
7 update. I will ask Mr. Franks to brief us when you
8 are ready.

9 MR. FRANKS: Thank you, Chairman. Good
10 morning, Commissioners.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Good morning.

12 MR. FRANKS: All right. We are nearing the
13 end of session. It's scheduled to end next week.
14 However, budget negotiations for allocations are
15 still ongoing, so I know the House and Senate are
16 still working to flesh that out before they can
17 begin conference.

18 The Legislature is rushing to complete this by
19 April 29th to be able to meet the 72-hour cooldown
20 period, as required by Florida -- the Florida
21 Constitution, before they can vote on it. They
22 have to have that done by April 29th to meet the
23 May 2nd end of session date, so keeping track of
24 that.

25 During the initial proposal, about a \$4.4

1 billion difference between the House and the
2 Senate, largely from differences in tax plans. I
3 think that speaks to the Legislature's commitment
4 to the efficiency, like Valerie was speaking of,
5 and Florida is really driving that rate right now
6 through the executive order from the Governor, and
7 then the Legislature's budget process, I think that
8 reflects that. So staying tune for that. There is
9 a chance session is extended if they are not able
10 to wrap that up in time by April 29th, but I will
11 keep your offices informed as that develops.

12 Another part of the session coming to an end
13 is a lot of the bills that I have been tracking are
14 no longer in play, so there are two bills I would
15 like to briefly discuss -- give you an update on
16 that are moving and likely to pass.

17 The first bill is the energy infrastructure
18 investment. That's Senate Bill 1574 from Senator
19 DiCeglie, and then House Bill 1239 from
20 Representative Kincart Jonsson. Just to recap,
21 this is the bill that directs the Commission to
22 establish a cost recovery mechanism similar to the
23 Utility Relocation Cost Recovery Clause for utility
24 investments and renewable natural gas
25 infrastructure.

1 So this infrastructure -- this removal of
2 natural gas would have to be produced in Florida,
3 and could be used for transportation fuel or for
4 pipeline distribution. The Commission would be
5 required to adopt implementing rules no later than
6 January 1st, 2026.

7 And these bills have passed all their
8 committee stops in both chambers and just are
9 awaiting floor votes.

10 The other bill, the Telecommunications Act
11 System Act of 1991, TASA. Again, that's -- just to
12 recap that. That is the legislation that aligns
13 with the Commission's 2023 and 2024 annual replay
14 reports that say that TASA should evolve to
15 authorize FTRI to acquire equipment that uses
16 technologies beyond basic landline equipment.

17 The Senate version of the bill has is passed
18 all committee stops, and also passed the floor, so
19 it's in messages. I think last -- my last update,
20 it had not been moving in the House, but has since
21 then passed all the committee stops, and is now
22 waiting a floor vote in the House. So that is
23 likely to past as well.

24 So very brief update, just as we are nearing
25 the end of session, so I am happy to answer any

1 questions.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Awesome.

3 Commissioners, questions, thoughts?

4 Yeah, sure, Commissioner Smith.

5 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Thanks, David.

6 I had a question for, like, 1574, I was watching
7 the debates the other day about it. Do they -- but
8 then I had to move on to something else before I
9 finished it, like, hearing all.

10 Like, is there any sort of -- I have it in
11 front of me, but, like were they talking about any
12 sort of -- for cost recovery, is there -- is it
13 broad base -- like, you know, like, is there any
14 sort of, like, nuance to that, or is there any --
15 did they say any -- I mean, other than I saw that
16 there was, you know, the addition of beneficial to
17 -- energy credits and tax savings have to benefit
18 customers, but is there any sort of -- I mean,
19 other than I guess, like, just -- as far as the
20 legislative intent or something, are they talking
21 more -- is there anything to that?

22 MR. FRANKS: So the -- that was an amendment
23 that they recently added --

24 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Yeah.

25 MR. FRANKS: -- and that's more in line for

1 the transportation fuel --

2 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Okay.

3 MR. FRANKS: -- revenues that are associated
4 with the transportation fuel, or any tax credits
5 associated with that would be provided and passed
6 along to the customer --

7 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Okay.

8 MR. FRANKS: -- that so that would be the
9 authority the Commission has to implement that.

10 As far as intent, this bill aligns with the
11 renewable natural -- or renewable energy policy in
12 Florida. So that's sort of the alignment --

13 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Yeah.

14 MR. FRANKS: -- with the legislation.

15 And then just to kind of break it down real
16 quick. This is infrastructure that they would be
17 investing in that would go on landfills or farms
18 collecting biogas, and then refining it so that it
19 be injected into pipeline for distribution, or it
20 can be used for transportation fuel. So it would
21 just be a cost recovery mechanism for those
22 investments.

23 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: The
24 utility-owned infrastructure?

25 MR. FRANKS: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Okay. That was
2 all, then. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Commissioners, further
4 thoughts, questions?

5 Awesome. David, thank you very much. I
6 appreciate it. I know this is a busy time of year
7 for you.

8 MR. FRANKS: Yeah, thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Let's move to
10 General Counsel's report. Mary Anne.

11 MS. HELTON: There is none today.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Let's move to
13 Executive Director.

14 MR. BAEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
15 Commissioners.

16 Just to add a little bit of detail on the
17 budget discussion. You heard David mention that
18 they are in negotiations. They are as far apart as
19 they are. I think they have had, you know, some
20 movement to get closer, and that continues. We
21 will see what happens this week, which I understand
22 them to be working through.

23 As far as our budget is concerned, the numbers
24 are -- the numbers are sitting well compared to
25 what we had proposed. If you recall, the agency

1 budget proposal, the LBR had included a reduction
2 in positions of three, and -- which was through
3 the -- on the House side was amended up to nine
4 proposed reduction. The House ultimately came back
5 at proposed eight, so that, you know, good news,
6 depending on how you take it. And the Senate did
7 pick up our original proposal. So in summary, we
8 are sitting somewhere between three and eight,
9 which I think generally we feel good about.

10 The one thing that is hanging out there is
11 that the -- our technical issues, you recall one of
12 the main one was just creating a budget category in
13 one -- in one of our budget entities as a
14 correction to, like, they were left out once upon a
15 time when the budget entities were created back
16 around 2010 or '11.

17 We had proposed creating an OPS budget line
18 for the remaining budget entity merely as an
19 administration tool. That gives all the budget
20 entities the ability to hire interns, for example,
21 and other part-time work. That hasn't been picked
22 up in the House.

23 We have some good discussions with the House
24 staff. I don't want to exactly call it an
25 oversight because I don't know what their thinking

1 was, but there is at least some acknowledgment that
2 that has to be addressed. So that's a favorable
3 situation to be in going into conference.

4 While it is no guarantee, there is at least
5 some understanding that that's hanging out there,
6 and there is no conflict with it. That's not a
7 controversy. So hopefully they will just pick it
8 up out of hand, and whatever, reissue of offers in
9 the back and forth.

10 That's where we are specifically on the
11 budget. We feel good about it, and, you know, more
12 to come. We will see where it ends up.

13 Moving on, and by now all of you have heard,
14 and certainly many out there, and maybe even a few
15 folks listening at home, Andrew Maurey, our long
16 time director of AFD, has announced his retirement.
17 His departure is slated for the end of June, but he
18 will remain with us until then. He will get a
19 proper roasting at an Agenda Conference to be named
20 later, but suffice it to say that he is someone
21 that has meant a lot to all of us. I think I can
22 speak for all of us on that count, his influence,
23 certainly leadership on professional staff will be
24 referred to in hushed reverence for many years, but
25 we are sorry to be losing him, but nobody deserves

1 to move on to his future more. So we thank him for
2 that, and like I said, to be continued.

3 We are very fortunate, and one of the things
4 that Andrew should receive many accolades for is
5 the kind of bench that he has developed as the
6 director, and so insofar as it is unfortunate to be
7 losing someone of such caliber, we are fortunate
8 that his efforts and his leadership has produced a
9 really high level of confidence, certainly --
10 hopefully I speak for Mark -- I know I speak for
11 Mark and the rest of us, a high level of confidence
12 in those that remain to do the good work of the
13 staff certainly at AFD.

14 Mark Cicchetti what has been his assistant
15 director now for several years, and brings with him
16 a wealth of experience both inside and out --
17 outside the Commission halls, will be stepping up
18 to become the director upon Andrew's departure.

19 And a little bit of trivia for those of you
20 that don't know, and I was mentioning it to
21 Commissioner Passidomo Smith earlier this morning,
22 is that Mark Cicchetti actually hired Andrew once
23 upon a time back in -- way, way, way back in the
24 day. These are folks that have, you know, over 30,
25 Andrew 35 years with the Commission certainly, and

1 but for Mark's rumspringa, let's call it, in the
2 private sector, he came back, and he, you know, 22
3 plus, I think, if I am counting correctly, if my
4 math works, but math is their problem, not
5 necessarily mine, knock on wood.

6 We are very proud and very happy that he is on
7 board and he is stepping up, and other
8 replacements, as time goes by, will be named. And
9 we will keep you apprised of that. So
10 congratulations I guess to both gentlemen that are
11 PSC family. It's bittersweet, we shall call it.

12 Beyond that, I know that we have got the
13 hurricane workshop, staff working workshop coming
14 up in the middle of May, the 13th, right?
15 May 13th, and there will be more on that as time
16 goes by, but that's one of the biggies now off in
17 the future.

18 Questions or comments or thoughts all welcome.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Commissioners, questions or
20 thoughts?

21 I would just say that both Andrew and Mark
22 have earned, of course, retirement and elevation of
23 position. And Andrew has certainly earned the
24 roasting that you referenced. I feel like that
25 that will be on an agenda item here in Internal

1 Affairs very soon, next month --

2 MR. BAEZ: Or I think at an Agenda.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: At an Agenda. I meant
4 Internal Affairs.

5 MR. BAEZ: That's not a threat or anything
6 like that. Certainly at least a threat with a
7 small T and not a capital T. He has nothing to
8 worry about, I am sure, as far as he knows, but we
9 look forward to giving him the proper treatment.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, certainly will be
11 missed but deserved and well earned, so excellent.

12 Commissioners, thoughts? Any further matters
13 before us?

14 Commissioner Fay, you want to maybe, you know,
15 add the walk-in music to future Internal Affairs
16 meeting? No? Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER FAY: It's a good song.

18 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Who knows? Could be a
19 change coming. I don't know. It's a good
20 suggestion.

21 All right. Well, I appreciate everyone's
22 attention at today's meeting, obviously important
23 stuff. Any time we have an opportunity to get
24 together, turning the corner quickly, we have got
25 Agenda here coming in a couple of weeks, and, yeah,

1 thank you all.

2 If there is no further business before us,
3 this meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

4 (Proceedings concluded.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


2 STATE OF FLORIDA)
3 COUNTY OF LEON)
4

5 I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby
6 certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the
7 time and place herein stated.

8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
17 financially interested in the action.

18 DATED this 5th day of May, 2025.
19
20
21

22 
23 DEBRA R. KRICK
24 NOTARY PUBLIC
25 COMMISSION #HH575054
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028