

I. Meeting Packet



State of Florida
Public Service Commission
AMENDED INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGENDA
Tuesday – October 06, 2026
Immediately Following Agenda Conference
Room 105 – Gerald L. Gunter Building

1. General Counsel's Report
2. Executive Director's report
 - a. Legislative Budget Request FY2027-28
3. 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.

II. Outside Persons Who Wish to Address the Commission at Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that no outside persons addressed the Commission at this Internal Affairs meeting.

III. Supplemental Materials for Internal Affairs

Note: The records reflect that there were no supplemental materials provided to the Commission during this Internal Affairs meeting.

IV. Transcript

1 BEFORE THE
2 FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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6 PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

7 COMMISSIONERS
8 PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH
9 COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
10 COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
11 COMMISSIONER BOBBY PAYNE
12 COMMISSIONER ANA ORTEGA

13
14 DATE: Tuesday, October 6, 2026

15 TIME: Commenced: 10:00 a.m.
16 Concluded: 10:15 a.m.

17 PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
18 Room 148
19 4075 Esplanade Way
20 Tallahassee, Florida

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

25
26 PREMIER REPORTING
27 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
28 (850) 894-0828

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

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Okay. So if -- I don't know
3 if anybody guessed the -- I would like to throw out
4 if anybody heard the Song of the Month, do we have
5 guesses on it? Yeah, you guys can -- Commissioners
6 can guess. Yeah. Yeah. Okay, that's -- yeah.
7 Anybody? I do -- okay. It does have the same --
8 yeah.

9 Well, I just -- shall I just say it? I guess
10 you -- I've Been Working on the Railroad. It was
11 submitted by Christina Slaton, which it would be
12 understandable why Commissioner La Rosa knows the
13 song.

14 As you all know, the PSC originated as the
15 Florida Railroad Commission to regulate the
16 railroad industry before expanding into utility
17 regulation. So this song was selected to -- a nod
18 to our hard-working professional and dedicated
19 staff. It's been quite a year, and without our
20 staff, we could not do the work that we do. I
21 think we can say that a thousand times over. So we
22 still got a couple more months to go. So thank you
23 for that submission. That was awesome.

24 All right. Importantly, recognizing
25 hard-working staff, our October Employee of the

1 Month, Devyn Irvin. I think you are here. I
2 thought I saw you. She's here. Everybody give her
3 a round of applause.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Devyn joined the Office of
6 External Affairs in January of this year as a
7 Communications Specialist, and was soon promoted to
8 External Affairs Coordinator. In her role, she
9 supports media relations, develops press releases
10 and outreach publications, coordinates customer
11 service hearings and customer meetings, and assists
12 with a variety of special projects.

13 Her ability to consistently produce
14 high-quality work, meet tight deadlines and
15 confidently take on new challenges has made her a
16 tremendous asset to the OEA team and the agency.

17 Thank you, Devyn. I think we all -- I mean,
18 she was at all of the customer service hearings
19 setting up, you know, getting there before, way
20 before we get there. Staying there long after we
21 leave, and so does a tremendous amount of work
22 behind the scenes that we really couldn't do.
23 She's one of the faces of the Commission to
24 customers, so it's a really, really important role.

25 So thank you, again, Devyn, for all of your

1 hard work.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: I am sorry to embarrass you
4 like this in the big hearing room too.

5 Okay. Next item for Internal Affairs is
6 General Counsel's report.

7 MS. HARPER: Good morning, Madam Chair and
8 Commissioners. Just a brief report this morning.

9 To follow up on my last report, tomorrow is
10 the day for us in our appeals section. We have
11 oral argument tomorrow at the Supreme Court. So I
12 know there will be other activities occurring at
13 the Commission, but I will be there in the morning
14 supporting our team and rooting for our order, and
15 Susie will be presenting that. That's going to be
16 at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow at the Supreme Court.

17 Also, I wanted to update you on my continued
18 recruitment efforts. I was -- I participated in an
19 FSU luncheon with some other agencies and tried to
20 promote our agency, even though other ones were
21 talking about boat rides and hunting snakes in the
22 swamp. I said, well, we can go to the Florida
23 Supreme Court, and you get to -- we pay our
24 interns. Nobody -- none of the other agencies do
25 that, so that was a big one. I got some people at

1 my table after that.

2 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Yeah.

3 MS. HARPER: So next up will be UF probably in
4 March. But I really enjoyed meeting all the folks
5 again and seeing all the -- some of the familiar
6 faces at the FSU College of Law. And hopefully we
7 get some interns out of that, and maybe some
8 applications.

9 And also, I will be back in Gainesville in a
10 couple of weeks for an AI competition. So thank
11 you for referring me to that. And I will be a
12 judge on a case study on AI, so I will share
13 everything that I learn as a judge in that.

14 And I will not speak to anybody about the
15 terrible performance that the Gators did on
16 Saturday. I will just focus on the merits of the
17 great school and their education efforts, and try
18 to keep my mouth shut about football.

19 And otherwise, that's all I have for you
20 unless you have any questions. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Any questions?

22 Well, thank you for, yes, being discreet about
23 the performance. But go get some Gator interns.
24 They are high quality, that's for sure.

25 Executive Director's report.

1 MR. BAEZ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good
2 morning, Commissioners.

3 I guess that's proof positive, I think the
4 General Counsel's comment about the incentives,
5 since the Venetians, right, the greatest
6 recruitment tool is a little bit of this. I don't
7 know what this is.

8 Commissioners, you -- at the last Internal
9 Affairs, we rolled out the proposed legislative
10 budget request for the '27-'28 fiscal year, which
11 is due now middle of October. You have had a
12 chance to look at it, and we've met with your
13 offices and had good conversations, certainly, with
14 your offices and tried to answer any questions that
15 they had.

16 The proposed LBR, as you can see, has three
17 budget issues for your consideration. Two of them
18 are technical amendments that have no fiscal
19 impact, and the third is merely a request to
20 restore funding for vehicle acquisition.

21 The proposed LBR operating budget is 32.2
22 million, representing a slight increase of, I guess
23 it's 0.374 percent. There is no increase in FTE,
24 or no change. The Commission would remain at 264
25 positions.

1 Briefly, the first issue of the two issues
2 that have no fiscal impact, I can outline them real
3 briefly.

4 The first issue has to do with the realignment
5 of appropriations by category. That's merely --
6 every year we do include a technical budget
7 adjustment to realign our existing appropriations
8 among the categories. This is more a confirmation
9 of an exercise. It's an ongoing exercise. You
10 always try to monitor where your expenses are
11 going. And this is really to try and get the
12 buckets as close to accurate as possible.
13 Although, that's always a moving target, as you
14 well know. So there is always a tech -- there is
15 always a technical issue to try and embed that
16 going forward. As I said, that has no fiscal
17 impact.

18 The second issue is to capture the -- also has
19 no fiscal impact. It tries to capture the
20 Commission's organizational changes involving the
21 Office of External Affairs. And really all of the
22 technical adjustment would do is to formalize the
23 organizational structure that has resulted from
24 that reorganization.

25 And the last issue I mentioned does have a

1 fiscal impact. The Commission had previously had a
2 vehicle acquisition appropriation every year. That
3 item was removed from the budget without us
4 requesting it obviously, and we are merely
5 resubmitting so that we can restore that budget
6 authority going forward, or certainly for the next
7 fiscal year.

8 Our gentle inquiries far and wide have not
9 produced any specific reason why that was left off.
10 We certainly were not the only agency that had that
11 done. So this is our attempt at trying to
12 reestablish that.

13 Our vehicle replacement program usually runs
14 at about three vehicles a year, and again, as long
15 as it's consistent with the DMS guidelines in terms
16 of mileage and aging, but it usually averages about
17 three vehicles a year, about \$40,000 to \$50,000 per
18 unit. And so there you get -- there is the genesis
19 of the number. It's a \$180,000 item, which we,
20 again, as I said, included as our third issue.

21 Other than that, if you have any questions, or
22 prepare to discuss as you wish.

23 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Questions on the LBR?

24 Thanks for taking the time to --

25 MR. BAEZ: Oh, not at all.

1 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- meet with all of us --

2 MR. BAEZ: Happy to do it.

3 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- I think we all appreciated
4 getting a breakdown --

5 MR. BAEZ: Of course.

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: -- but it all seems pretty
7 standard. Yeah.

8 MR. BAEZ: Thank you. We will be filing, I
9 believe it's the 15th. So it's ready to go.

10 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All right.

11 MR. BAEZ: Thank you for your consideration,
12 Commissioners.

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: All in support. I guess we
14 don't take a formal vote, but I think I will just
15 say that for the record.

16 MR. BAEZ: Yeah.

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

18 All right. Is there any other -- we should
19 vote?

20 MR. BAEZ: I am sorry, yes.

21 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Oh, okay. Is there a motion
22 on the LBR? Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Hearing a motion and a
25 second.

1 All those in favor, please say aye.

2 (Chorus of ayes.)

3 MR. BAEZ: Thank you, Commissioners.

4 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. I am sorry.

5 Any other matters?

6 All right. Oh, yeah, Commissioner Ortega.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yeah, if you don't mind.

8 I just wanted to make you guys aware of something
9 that's going on a little bit later this month on my
10 calendar that you guys are all invited to attend.
11 It's with the National Association of Water
12 Companies. They are having their biennial
13 cybersecurity symposium, and it's virtual, so you
14 all can register and attend.

15 I will be on a panel with a couple other state
16 Commissioners talking about what are commissions
17 doing to address cybersecurity concerns. It's a
18 panel that Commissioner La Rosa did in the past,
19 and I hope to bring the same level of insights that
20 he did and represent our state well, but there is
21 also Tom Fanning as the keynote speaker, which is
22 someone that I watched for quite some time when he
23 was at Southern. Now he is with the Alliance for
24 Critical Infrastructure.

25 And so there is -- which you may hear at

1 NARUC, in November, there is a cybersecurity
2 resolution that is floating around the water
3 committee. So it's timely to talk about these
4 issues, especially this past summer's events, and I
5 hope you guys will attend it as well.

6 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTEGA: Yeah.

8 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you for bringing that
9 to our attention.

10 Commissioner La Rosa.

11 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Just for the record, I
12 promise that Commissioner Ortega will raise the bar
13 in that cybersecurity discussion. So thank you for
14 doing that.

15 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Anybody else?

16 I will just say, we have the Ten-Year Site
17 Plan Workshop that will take place at one o'clock
18 today in this room. So hope to see all of you back
19 again in a couple hours.

20 All right. Thank you very much.

21 (Proceedings concluded.)

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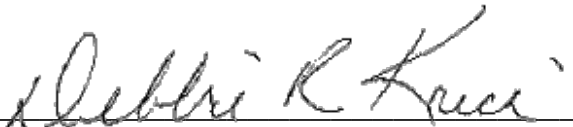
STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

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

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

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

DATED this 16th day of October, 2026.


DEBRA R. KRICK
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #HH575054
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028