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BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20200119-WS

Proposed amendment of
Rule 25-30.335, F.A.C.,
Customer Billing.

_____ /

PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 1

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA

DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

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

PREMIER REPORTING
114 W. 5TH AVENUE
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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Good morning. Let me welcome
3 everyone to Agenda Conference. Today is Tuesday,
4 March 2nd. It's great to see everyone. It's good
5 to see so many live bodies in the room. This is a
6 real treat for me and some of the folks that have
7 been here and working through of the process from
8 this building each month. It's good to have some
9 folks joining with us this morning.

10 Before we begin, I would like to invite those
11 who would like to do so to join us in the
12 invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by
13 Commissioner Graham.

14 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.)

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You may be seated.

16 Before we begin our script this morning, we
17 are going to take a moment of personal privilege.
18 Today is a bittersweet day. There is just so many
19 emotions, I think, going through this room right
20 now as we are losing one of our fellow
21 Commissioners. And I say losing, I use that term
22 probably incorrectly. You will always be a part of
23 this Commission, part of this body and we are
24 forever grateful for your services.

25 I am going to do something a little out of the

1 ordinary. I am going to ask, Commissioner Brown,
2 if you would, come join us, please. We are not
3 going to talk to you across this great divide here.
4 We want you to come up and join us for a few
5 moments as we say some thank yous. I felt like I
6 should have probably given her this seat.

7 I will begin by saying again, thank you for
8 your leadership. Thank you for your dedication and
9 you are service.

10 Three years ago when I joined this body, I
11 came in under -- being able to watch the leadership
12 exhibited by a group of Commissioners that I have
13 come to know and respect. And I also had the
14 privilege before being given the opportunity to
15 serve as chair to serve under two great chairmen,
16 and got to watch two unique leadership styles with
17 then Chairman Brown and Chairman Graham, and see
18 how this commission really worked and operated, and
19 I could not be more impressed with what I saw and
20 what I was able to learn. I learned so much from
21 each of your styles and your abilities.

22 And, Commissioner Brown, I have always had a
23 huge amount of respect for your knowledge and your
24 wisdom when it came to this commission and
25 understanding what makes this body work, and how

1 you worked so diligently and so hard to make sure
2 that our consumers were protected, and that our
3 state was positioned and postured in the best
4 possible stance that it could be placed in.

5 I just want to say thank you for your service.
6 I could go on for a long, long time about what
7 Commissioner Brown has meant to me personally.

8 I will never forget my first conversation
9 before I joined the Commission, I got a phone call
10 from, I believe, it was this 813 area code. I had
11 no idea who it was and I answered it.
12 Two-and-a-half hours later I was able to get off of
13 that phone call and resume my day. But I learned a
14 lot in that two-and-a-half hours, and I have
15 learned to heed your advice, your wisdom, and thank
16 you for your dedication and your service, and I
17 wish you the applications best in your future
18 endeavors. DBPR is an incredible organization and
19 I think that, under your leadership, is going to go
20 further. Thank you.

21 I am going to turn it over to Commissioner
22 Graham for a few comments. We will move right
23 around the room.

24 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: A few comments, I am not
25 quite sure what that means.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I have a timer, Commissioner
2 Graham, I am going to start it.

3 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Is I told -- as I always
4 told anybody that's come before me, that if you
5 can't say it in three minutes, you are wasting my
6 time and your time.

7 Commissioner Brown, we've been through so
8 much. Actually, I was just sitting here doing the
9 math. It was 3,701 day we've served together.

10 We've seen some challenging times. We've gone
11 over many, many, many hurdles. I have to say the
12 first -- the first load that I saw that the agency
13 push on you is when you did the water group, you
14 single-handedly mastered that, and I think a lot of
15 great legislation came out of that.

16 I want to say you put us on the map, but our
17 first goal when we got here was to get off the map,
18 because we were in the front page of the paper
19 every day and we managed to kind of squash most of
20 that stuff and got back to just doing the work of
21 the agency, and you are part of the original Team
22 Florida. You have been absolute at this fantastic.

23 We've done a lot of things, not just here in
24 the state of Florida, but nationwide. And you
25 single-handedly actually did a lot of things

1 overseas helping some of our sister countries, you
2 know, deal with hurricane devastation and that sort
3 of thing.

4 You have been -- you have been a true leader
5 when it comes to hurricane preparation. You have
6 been a true leader when it comes to -- (inaudible)
7 -- you have been a true leader when it came to a
8 lot of things.

9 And you have always been a calming influence
10 for us. I mean, if not for you being up here, we
11 would be like a bunch of cavemen with clubs hashing
12 this out rather than trying to come to some
13 legitimate solution.

14 I do thank you for your leadership. I mean, I
15 don't know about the two-week warning that we never
16 got from you, but I think we will allow you -- I
17 think we will allow you to go because we need you
18 in the state of Florida being at some level.

19 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Commissioner La Rosa.

20 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Thank you, Chairman.

21 And, Commissioner Brown, Madam Secretary, we
22 didn't get to serve that long together here on the
23 Commission, but we got to know each other quite
24 well in previous experiences. Of course, as a
25 member of the Legislature, I have watched PSC

1 closely and watched it strive under your leadership
2 as Chairman, but I was always impressed. I was
3 happy to support you when you wanted to come back
4 for reappointment, and we had wonderful
5 conversations.

6 And, of course, in my time, as I prepared, it
7 wasn't a two-and-a-half hour phone call that I had,
8 but, Commissioner, you were certainly one of the
9 first calls I reached out to top understand how I
10 can get prepared and how I can be diligent, and
11 thank you for those. Your direction, your
12 leadership helped me get as prepared as I could for
13 this job.

14 I know the DBPR is not a -- is not an easy
15 agency, and the Governor had to select somebody who
16 was diligent, who was willing to put in all the
17 hard work and understand all the, you know, the
18 broad spectrum that the agency has and really lead
19 our state. And it's his vision to make sure that
20 we are leaders around the country, and I couldn't
21 be more excited for the decision that he made. I
22 know that he made the right choice leading the
23 agency.

24 So I am a proud Floridan, and say thank you to
25 the Governor for making such a great choice. I --

1 it's unfortunate that we are going to miss you
2 here, but so many constituents and residents and
3 future residents in the state of Florida will be
4 able to gain from your leadership in DBPR.

5 So God bless your new endeavors and you are
6 not too far away. My number hasn't changed, but
7 thank you so much for your leadership. I hope is
8 well.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner La
11 Rosa.

12 Commissioner Fay, my apology. I didn't
13 overlook you. Your book was covering you up
14 there -- my book was covering you up, so I didn't
15 see you.

16 Commissioner Fay.

17 COMMISSIONER FAY: No problem. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. I appreciate it.

19 And I am -- I am struggling with this one too.
20 I -- there is a chance I may be cutting some onions
21 up here in my office so bear with me.

22 Commissioner Brown has been a friend, a
23 mentor. You know, the Tampa caucus is getting
24 smaller and smaller now, so I seem to be the only
25 one left, but I know that you represent Tampa and

1 our state with honor.

2 And, you know, my big concern selfishly is
3 what does the Commission do without you? You are
4 somebody who brings thorough, thoughtful
5 discussion. You are not afraid to push back on
6 something that you think is right, and I think in
7 addition to that, you are just such a good person
8 because you -- you are the one who reaches out on
9 birthdays. You are the one who reaches out when
10 something has happened in our lives, and that's --
11 that's going to be tough. I am going to miss that.

12 But I will say it is DBPR's gain, and I think
13 you are actually down the street, your office is
14 down the street from us, so hopefully at some point
15 we will be able to come by and see you and visit,
16 and we are going to support you.

17 It's definitely -- our loss is DBPR's gain.
18 You are such an incredible leader, they are lucky
19 to have you. The Governor made the right choice on
20 this one, and I just wish you the best of luck.

21 SECRETARY BROWN: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Fay.

23 Commissioner Brown -- Secretary Brown, I am
24 sorry. This is going to take some getting used to,
25 right?

1 Secretary Brown.

2 SECRETARY BROWN: I am truly overwhelmed by
3 your comments and my husband this morning, and my
4 children, I spoke with them, said it will take you
5 five seconds to start crying, so I am containing
6 it. I have been able to, and, you know, you all
7 touch -- I have so much respect for you, and really
8 the words that you said will last in my memory.

9 I had to write this down because I really
10 wanted to capture and not leave anything out, so I
11 apologize if I don't look at you, it's because I am
12 trying to avoid crying, number one, because I love
13 this agency, and I love the staff and my colleagues
14 and my own personal staff, but also I really want
15 to make sure I capture everything.

16 So with that, I just want to start out to let
17 you know I have dreaded this day for so long
18 because saying good-bye seems so permanent.
19 Obviously, things are going to change in life, and
20 it was bound to happen in our position whether we
21 like it or not, change is going to happen, and I am
22 really learning how to embrace change and the
23 growing pains of change, and leaving an agency that
24 I adore, but DBPR is such a fabulous agency in my
25 six days there, I am on my 7th, and it was very

1 swift, and I am embracing it, and I am super
2 excited about the future at that agency.

3 I truly apologize to our staff, my colleagues,
4 for the swiftness of my departure, as it was
5 intended to really to help expedite finding a
6 replacement and my successor swiftly given the
7 timing of my appointment, also with session
8 starting today really wanted to get in there right
9 away. I meant no disrespect to our family here at
10 the Commission -- two weeks, huh. I had to make it
11 very fast and so I hope you can all appreciate
12 that.

13 To say a proper good-bye for the agency I love
14 so much, I really want to thank our Chairman for
15 allowing me, not just to be here, but to be sitting
16 on the bench. It did feel a little weird on the
17 other side, so I feel for the people that come and
18 appear before us go, including our staff.

19 You know, I have thought about this for many
20 years being here 10 plus years. I never took the
21 job for granted. Every reappointment, every
22 meeting we had, whether it's a service hearing, a
23 hearing, a Commission Agenda Conference, never took
24 this job for granted, and it was -- it is a job --
25 the job of my lifetime.

1 So with that sincere gratitude -- one second.
2 One second. You guys have seen me cry before.
3 It's not something I had tend to do -- so close --
4 okay, I am going to skip from my inner circle and I
5 am just going to go right to my colleagues, if you
6 don't mind, but I will get back to my inner circle
7 because they are tremendous.

8 Again, this isn't just a job. This is a
9 family. So I know people who have been here 30
10 plus years, I understand why you don't leave this
11 very, very intimate agency, so I want to talk to my
12 buddies and my colleagues here on the Commission
13 starting with a great chairman.

14 For me, Gary had a difficult role to fill, not
15 just coming in on the shoe steps of Commissioner
16 Patronis, CFO, who I am actually finally happy for,
17 I was so sad when he left, so sad selfishly, but
18 very excited for him now. Jimmy and I were so
19 close, close friends, family, and it was just a
20 matter of time before Gary and I developed that
21 very, very similar bond, and force too.

22 You know, it's -- you have had such a
23 tremendous time here as Chairman, by the way. You
24 can do anything. Watching your leadership, you are
25 an amazing leader for this agency. Your transition

1 to -- in a seamless way on-line, and to continue
2 running the ship, I just applaud you. I am in awe
3 of your leadership, and I know you very well, and I
4 really do believe -- have most confidence in you.
5 You can do anything you want, and you are going to
6 continue serving this agency, whether you are
7 chairman or as commissioner, with grace,
8 distinction, thoughtfulness and kindness, and I
9 appreciate the words you said about me, but I would
10 say the same goes for you. I do believe the
11 Commission is in good hands with your leadership.
12 And I may be at a different agency, but I will
13 absolutely always be your friend.

14 My sibling over there, Arthur, also known as
15 the honey badger and chairman triple
16 extraordinaire, and I am not going to look at you,
17 because we have been through a lot. So you know
18 our friendship runs deep. Our kids continuously go
19 to the same summer camp and develop that
20 once-in-a-lifetime, you know, kind of bond.

21 We went through the trenches, you know, we've
22 just done -- we've been through a lot, and we still
23 managed to come out smiling arm in arm. That's
24 you, my friend. We may not have always agreed on a
25 lot of policy decisions at times, but regardless,

1 we've always been friends no matter what, and
2 walked away arm in arm. And that's true of Team
3 Florida, and you are the founder of that. And this
4 commission is very lucky that you are able to shape
5 the agency from the prior direction into a
6 direction of collegiality, respect for one another
7 and love, and that's all attributed to you, so go
8 Team Florida forever. You know where to find me.

9 Okay, I am going to go move on to Andrew, I am
10 trying to do this deferential quarter, of course,
11 that the Commission has.

12 Andrew, I was blown away by your words too.
13 You are my dear friend and intellect, fellow
14 lawyer. I don't know what the PSC would do without
15 you. You are articulate. You are thoughtful. You
16 dive in there. You put the work in. You are just
17 a really excellent Commissioner. I enjoy your
18 witty banter, your bow ties, they switch every day.
19 I don't think I have seen the same one yet.

20 I also enjoy the way that you engage the staff
21 members too, and really kind of, you know, nudge
22 some of the new staffers who appear before us in a
23 humorous way. I think you keep some levity while
24 also putting thoughtful discussion.

25 We bonded like we've been Commissioners

1 together for double the time we have, so I am
2 really going to miss you and our two-hour long
3 discussions over the phone -- not PSC related by
4 the way. No Sunshine Law. Just genuine
5 friendship. Again, I feel like we've been friends
6 forever. And you also know where to find me, and I
7 look forward to seeing your new excellence here at
8 the Commission. You can do anything you can as
9 well. All of you can.

10 Our newest commissioner who really isn't a
11 newby by any means, of course. He is already
12 thriving. I can't -- I am so impressed with you
13 already. It's like what took many of us three
14 years, you are already there. I personally feel
15 bad really for leaving you without giving you the
16 full on embrace, few hour embrace here every --
17 because I would have been doing that, and I am
18 super excited before when your name got there, I
19 was so excited because I knew you would be a great
20 dynamic with our group and with the staff. And you
21 are going to just do great things.

22 I see the leader in you already, everybody
23 does, I am sure, and that is so integral to being
24 an effective Commissioner. It's a challenging job,
25 not just the substance, but also the ability to

1 lead on issues that are near and dear to you. You
2 are going to be crushing this job. You already
3 are, so I look forward to your leadership and wish
4 you the best of luck, and I be will be calling you
5 a lot, not -- not -- for other things, but I will
6 like being here in Tallahassee.

7 I skimmed over my section where I talked about
8 my brevity, my apologies.

9 10 plus years here, I just have to comment on
10 this and then I'm going to go back to my inner
11 circle.

12 On to our phenomenal staff, starting with my
13 close friend, Executive Director Braulio Baez. Oh,
14 my goodness, we started from the bottom, we did.
15 We've been together, we helped build and rebuild
16 this agency, you have done it. We are in such a
17 stable place because of your leadership here.

18 You know, I was tasked -- I was fortunate
19 enough to be tasked finding an executive director
20 when my first time Chairman then, Graham, and I was
21 so excited to meet you and select you out of a ton
22 of candidates, and that's just thank you, again,
23 Commissioner Graham, for letting me have that
24 opportunity because we've been through a lot here.
25 And, Braulio, you have done such a great job

1 getting staff -- bringing up the morale of staff,
2 fighting for your staff, and I see that, you know,
3 especially during personally during our chairman --
4 my chairmanship, hurricanes, rate cases, lots,
5 staffing issues, a little yelling here and there,
6 but you and I have always been friends, and I
7 appreciate you being so supportive of all of us,
8 that's a task, and friends for life.

9 Keith, you are one of my proudest legacies
10 from being here. I am so excited to leave this
11 agency with you being here as General Counsel, and
12 I just count my blessings that we found each other
13 and our paths crossed, you have been so good for
14 the legal team here, of course, the balance and you
15 as well, you fight for your staff, and you are
16 thoughtful in your analysis. You are reasonable.
17 You just do a great job. You have such a fine
18 group of attorneys and paralegals and staff members
19 there, and you have been really good also for the
20 morale as well.

21 I hope you stay here forever. And you have my
22 cell phone number too, so I look forward to going
23 out to begin dinner one of these days.

24 All right. I want -- before I go to the rest
25 of our staff, I will circle back, since my tears

1 have dried up, to my inner circle. My staff who
2 has taught me so much, allowed me to grow while
3 also keeping me on track and always having my back
4 during -- you have been my life, your family.

5 And, Katherine, it's you, it's Kathleen, it's
6 Terry, it's Joanne, it's Shalonda, it's Jennifer,
7 but Katherine has been -- as you all know, she's
8 more an employee to me. I tried to persuade her to
9 go over to DBPR, I will say, if that tells you how
10 much, I made a valiant effort and, you know, it is
11 quite difficult to leave such an agency like that,
12 so I respect that. She is very talented. You all
13 know how talented she is. She's loyal. She's
14 intelligent, and she can do anything at this
15 commission. And I just love all the staff members
16 that we've had that have really kept our ship
17 running. We worked really hard, and that's a
18 testament to your work ethic, so if I can't steal
19 you, I wish I the best of luck here.

20 Now I want to give a shout-out to our
21 commission -- our section on our floor.
22 Everybody -- every one of us, we are kind of all in
23 silos, but we all want to do what's right for the
24 agency, and so it's been just a joy to work with
25 you, all of your staff members. We've really got

1 such a great group up there, and I hope that the
2 engines keep on running there.

3 Now down to our -- certain staff, I wanted to
4 just point out some certain staff members, by no
5 means giving preference or undercutting any members
6 I don't just say who have been instrumental to my
7 percentage years at the Commission, whether it's at
8 the Commission here, or working on speeches, or on
9 the national front, these folks have been so
10 important to me. Mark Futrell, Cindy Muir and
11 Beth, Bobby Maddox, Tom Ballinger, Elisabeth Draper,
12 Andrew Maurey, Mark Cicchetti, Adria Harper,
13 fantastic attorney, Mary Anne Helton, amazing,
14 Samantha Cibula, all three of you just sharp.
15 Cayce Hinton and Ben Crawford, I don't know what I
16 would have done without you guys. And Mike Staden,
17 I just love you and adore you and your crew.

18 I don't mean to leave anybody out, but these
19 are the folks that really went the extra effort for
20 me, and I just -- we have such a tremendous agency
21 here, consummate professionals.

22 So I'm almost done. I'm so sorry. There is
23 two more pages, okay, and I will get out of your
24 hair.

25 I want to say to industry, thank you for

1 challenging us out there and making us think and
2 evaluate outside the box. I appreciate innovation.
3 I always say that word, but that is the word that
4 you bring, and hope the Commission continues to
5 assess your initiatives fairly but responsibly.
6 Thank you all, and I wish I could say good-bye to
7 all of the folks that appear before us in person.

8 On to intervenors and Office of Public
9 Counsel. Please don't ever let up on the work that
10 you do. We say this time and time again, but your
11 work is so vital to our process. You bring issues
12 up that many of us may not have seen, and I hope it
13 resonates even more with some leadership changes
14 going on. You continue to evolve as well as any
15 obstacles you may face. You really do serve the
16 public and you are constituents for the state of
17 Florida, so keep up the good work.

18 Okay, last, and finally just a few items I
19 would like -- almost the last page.

20 I would like to send a message to my fellow
21 Commissioners of continued excellence, diligence
22 and work. Just a few items that I would like to
23 stress.

24 Please continue scrutinizing input about water
25 quality of our IOUs to ensure fair and balanced

1 evaluation incorporating customer input. As you
2 know, customer input is a necessity, especially in
3 that realm as well. Continue being open to new and
4 improved ideas to enhance reliability. A good
5 point that you raised in the last IA, a
6 modernization in the grid, and the reasonableness
7 of the costs as well as new customer service that
8 could potentially be offered in the future.

9 Please foster the continued projected growth
10 of EVs, thank you for mentioning that, through
11 robust infrastructure programs, so it's really
12 important to the program throughout our state as we
13 embrace this technology in a very smart and
14 measured manner.

15 Conservation of renewables and a carbon free
16 footprint have resonated with me, but also the
17 public and customers. I think that's now and
18 heretofore.

19 Please continue being aware of the future and
20 its needs, along with careful balance. I am
21 passionate about these measures and I want to
22 ensure that they are just carefully evaluated
23 without any politics.

24 In closing, the work we do is the essence of
25 our state's livelihood, and we are dependent on you

1 all and our staff here for informed, prudent
2 decisions at your stewardship. Keep up the good
3 work, my friends, all of you here. I love you
4 guys.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner
7 Brown.

8 (Applause from the audience.)

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I did overlook one thing. I
10 did not read my notes thoroughly, but I did want to
11 give an opportunity for Mr. Hetrick and Braulio to
12 both make a few comments if they would like to
13 please.

14 Keith, we'll let you go first.

15 MR. HETRICK: All right. Thank you, Mr.
16 Chair. And thank you for graciously allowing me
17 this point of personal privilege to make a few
18 remarks.

19 I know today is your day, Julie Brown. And I
20 say, from the bottom of my heart, congratulations.
21 I am so very proud of you, and watching you grow
22 and getting to know you and work with you in this
23 job since the day I first met you, I knew you were
24 a rising star and destined for great things, and
25 certainly being appointed by the Governor as

1 Secretary for DBPR is both an extraordinary honor
2 and the next great adventure in your life.

3 For me personally, this day and moment is
4 especially bittersweet, and I always knew this day
5 would come, but I remember almost exactly five
6 years ago to this day back in 2016, sitting in an
7 interview in the Publix shopping center Starbucks
8 cafe when you expressed your confidence in me to be
9 the next General Counsel at the PSC. Without your
10 support, I would not be here today. And as I sit
11 here, I remain so eternally grateful to you for a
12 chance that you, along with the other
13 Commissioners, gave me back in 2016 to be sitting
14 here today in this position. I am still so excited
15 to be sitting in this position and representing the
16 Public Service Commission. This is a wonderful
17 position working with you all, the Commission and
18 all the parties and cases and all the good
19 regulatory work that we do.

20 But I don't view today as a good-bye. Heck,
21 you are only moving a few blocks down the road, but
22 I do see today as a celebration, not only of your
23 accomplishments over the past over 10 years, but
24 also what we already know to be true, and that is
25 that you are going to accomplish great things as

1 you move on into the next phase of your life in
2 public service. There is just absolutely no
3 question about that.

4 And I would like to note for the record,
5 that's what we as lawyers do, put things in the
6 record, right? Some of the leadership qualities
7 that I have seen that you have brought to the
8 Commission that I am going to miss in terms of how
9 you deliver those qualities that DBPR certainly has
10 to look forward to. So here is a few of the
11 particular outstanding leadership qualities that
12 really jump into my mind when I think about Julie
13 Brown, and I think -- I hope these resinate.

14 The spirited energy and enthusiasm that you
15 always brought to the Commission. Always the A
16 game. Julie Brown's A game all the time.
17 Proactive, creative and fresh approach to ideas,
18 issues and policies, which I know we've had many
19 discussions about, and for which I have always been
20 your number one fan. Your unwavering commitment to
21 fairness, civility and respect for all parties,
22 interested persons, consumers, customers in all
23 matters of commission business. Your overall
24 practicable sensibilities and sense of stability
25 that you brought to the Commission. Your deep

1 commitment to public service and ethics, which has
2 always been so very apparent to everyone on the
3 inside and outside. Your undeniable savvy in how
4 you handled all matters of situations in public
5 meetings. Your work ethic, preparedness, attention
6 to detail. Your inquisitive drive, I think we can
7 all resonate and thirst for knowledge. And
8 selfishly, your continuous support of GCL and me,
9 but as well as all PSC staff.

10 But most of all I think the number one
11 thing -- and I didn't write these in any order,
12 they are all equally, but your sense of humor and
13 the always uplifting and enduring Julie Brown smile
14 and sense of grace that you have always brought to
15 every agenda, IA and every hearing.

16 I cannot thank you enough for the opportunity
17 that you have given me to perform in this wonderful
18 position, and I simply cannot adequately put into
19 words how much I really, really enjoyed working
20 with you and how much you will be list missed.

21 Having said all of this, I can hardly wait to
22 watch the next chapter of your life unfold,
23 including your many future successes and positive
24 impact on Floridians, and DBPR is extraordinarily
25 lucky to have you, and I look forward to staying in

1 touch with you, to having lunch, having a drink.

2 Congratulations, Madame Secretary Julie Brown.
3 And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to
4 Mike these remarks.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Baez.

6 MR. BAEZ: I have to collect myself because I
7 can't believe I am going to get a shot at having
8 the last word with you.

9 I have never had a two-hour conversation, a
10 phone call with Julie Brown. I have had quite a
11 few 90-minute ones, though. And for the most part,
12 I think all of them went great. I was thinking
13 back, and these words reminded me it was mentioned
14 earlier that you were leading the hiring committee
15 when I came on board. Thank you for bringing back
16 that memory, because I -- I felt right there that,
17 while you were not my first friend at the
18 Commission, for obvious reasons, I knew that with
19 all due respect to Big Hank down in Tampa, you were
20 my Coach Brown, and my life has never been the same
21 because of it, and for that I thank you.

22 You were -- your chairmanship, you alluded to
23 it a little bit, and I will use Commissioner
24 Graham's words. We were -- at the time, we were
25 trying to get out of the spotlight, but if there is

1 one thing we all know and have learned for a few
2 years here at the Commission is that the spotlight
3 always comes around. And sure enough, the
4 spotlight came back around. Thankfully, it came
5 back around to our sweet spot, and not for any
6 untoward reasons. We were very fortunate. And as
7 Chairman, you guided us through that, and you
8 helped us focus where we needed to focus, and leave
9 behind what we needed to leave behind, and change
10 the thinking the way we needed to change the
11 thinking. I think -- in that respect, I don't
12 think anyone has had as much impact in my opinion
13 on this commission, and certainly on the modern
14 commission, than you.

15 And I am going to say one thing just in
16 closing, because I don't want to go on too long. I
17 am not sure how much they will allow me at this
18 point.

19 You are going to leave this building and your
20 picture is going to be on a wall with some pretty
21 fine people, some of them your friends, and with
22 the possible exception of one or two, yours truly
23 included, I am going to tell you, no one -- no one
24 will have shined brighter on that wall. And I want
25 to thank you personally for the honor of sharing

1 this time with you.

2 I think the staff -- on behalf of the staff,
3 we want to thank you for always keeping us on our
4 toes. You thought about things, you weren't afraid
5 to get into the weeds on things, and like every
6 Commissioner, you had issues that you drove hard,
7 and that also made our work a lot better.

8 I don't think that there is anything left to
9 say, or anything more that I can say that I am
10 willing to say out here, but you know I love you.
11 You know I want the best for you. We have been
12 talking about this day for a long, long time, and
13 here we are, and I think our loss is a much more
14 gain for the state of Florida, and I wish you well,
15 and you know family.

16 And thank you, Mr. Chairman, for letting me
17 have a few seconds.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Mr. Baez.

19 Well, we have -- could probably spend the rest
20 of the day here singing your praises and passing on
21 our congratulations. I think I probably need to
22 bring this in for a landing.

23 I do want to say if there is anything I think
24 we could do here today for the benefit of those
25 that you are going to be working with at DBPR is

1 give them this last little bit of advice.

2 They are trying to learn their new secretary.

3 I am sure most of them are watching today. And you
4 have heard a lot of the characteristics and
5 leadership qualities that Secretary Brown exhibits,
6 lives out. Probably none of those has sounded more
7 loudly to me today than the passion that she
8 carries for the job that she does. That can also
9 be translated as stubborn in case you haven't
10 figured that out. It's a very polite way of saying
11 it.

12 But I can tell you this, if you are going to
13 move her, if you are going to convince her, you are
14 going to get her on your side, you better bring
15 your A game. That's the advice that I would give
16 you today.

17 Commissioner Brown, you will not be replaced.
18 You will not be forgotten. We will always be
19 indebted for your service to the state of Florida,
20 and we appreciate you.

21 Commissioner Fay, presentation.

22 COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 So, Commissioner Brown, we know that there is
24 a small chance you might forget about us when you
25 leave, so we wanted to send you off with something

1 that we think is appropriate for your time here.
2 We have a flag that's been flown over the capital.
3 The plaque on it that's behind me -- let me see if
4 I get my sides right. Yeah, there we go. So it's
5 behind me, says: We thank you for your 10 years of
6 service at the Public Service Commission.

7 And I think it's a great representation of the
8 commitment that you provided to our state. And
9 although it's not ending, it's -- you now have a
10 new commitment, we want to make sure you leave here
11 knowing that, as a commission, as a body, we felt
12 it to be appropriate to do something to acknowledge
13 you and your commitment here.

14 And the hardest part about it is you are
15 always the person who does this, and so now that
16 you are leaving, it's extremely challenging to find
17 something that we thought would be appropriate for
18 you.

19 So thank you again for all your time. We will
20 make sure that this gets sent down the road for
21 you, and best of luck.

22 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Commissioner Fay said it
24 well. She's the one that always organizes these
25 things, so this is a transition for all of us.

1 But in conclusion today -- and I will read
2 this while seated before we stand and make the
3 presentation, but we do have a plaque in
4 recognition of your distinguished service to this
5 commission to the Honorable Julie I. Brown,
6 Commissioner, February 2011 to February of 2021.
7 That means she started when she was 12 years old.
8 Keep that in perspective.

9 Commissioner Brown, thank you.

10 (Presentation of a plaque.)

11 (Applause from the audience.)

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: We will take a five-minute
13 recess.

14 (Brief recess.)

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. We will reconvene
16 Agenda Conference this morning. Thank you for your
17 indulgence this morning as we wished our former
18 fellow Commissioner the very best her future
19 endeavors.

20 All right. Turning to the agenda item, Item
21 No. 6 has been deferred. Items No. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7,
22 9, 10 and 12 are on the move staff list. 3, 8 and
23 11 are moved to the end for further discussion.

24 Are there any items on the move staff that
25 Commissioners would like moved off?

1 All right. Seeing none. I will -- I am
2 sorry, Andrew. I am sorry.

3 COMMISSIONER FAY: Hey, that was my fault, Mr.
4 Chairman. I appreciate.

5 It I just -- I pulled Item 3 for our
6 discussion, and if it's okay with you, I know that
7 4 and 5 have some similar facts to them, but they
8 are a little bit different, if it's okay if we
9 could go ahead and pull those off too if you
10 wouldn't mind.

11 CHAIRMAN CLARK: 3, 4, 5, 8 and 11 are off
12 move staff.

13 COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Any other items?

15 All right. I will entertain a motion for move
16 staff.

17 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, I would
18 like to move Items 1, 2, 7, 9, 10 and 12 of staff
19 recommendation.

20 COMMISSIONER FAY: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I have a motion and a second.
22 Is there any discussion?

23 On the items, all in favor say aye.

24 (Chorus of ayes.)

25 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Motion carries.

3 (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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
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same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
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I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
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DATED this 15th day of March, 2021.



DEBRA R. KRICK
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