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ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: April 20, 2011

Time: 11:03 a.m.

Location: The Carnegie Center  
1101 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Colleen Coyle Mathis, Chair
- Scott D. Freeman, Vice Chair
- Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
- Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
- Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Also present: James E. Barton II  
Assistant Arizona Attorney General

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1 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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3 CHAIR MATHIS: The meeting of the Arizona  
4 Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

5 Today is wednesday, April 20th, and the time  
Page 2

6 is 11:03. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

7 (Pledge of Allegiance)

8 CHAIR MATHIS: I'd like to remind the public  
9 that anyone who would like to speak during public comment,  
10 please submit a Request To Speak Form to me, and we'll make  
11 sure that you have an opportunity.

12 And let's all be mindful that we have a court  
13 reporter today transcribing the proceedings, and so we need  
14 to speak one at a time and into the microphone as much as  
15 possible, so that she can get an accurate record.

16 So if I can begin with roll call. Vice Chair  
17 Freeman?

18 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Here.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera?

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Here.

21 CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner McNulty?

22 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Here.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz?

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Here.

25 CHAIR MATHIS: We have a quorum. I'd also

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1 like to acknowledge our legal counsel today, Assistant  
2 Attorney General Jim Barton. Thanks, Jim, for being here and  
3 for your help.

4 This brings us to Item II on the agenda, which  
5 is interviews of the candidates for executive director.  
6 Susan Laurence from the ADOA has been managing the executive  
7 director recruitment process for us, and we are very grateful  
8 to her for all of her help in doing so.

9                   To recap, we had a really great response to  
10 the advertisement that we put out for the executive director  
11 position. And we've had a lot of great discussion and  
12 consideration last -- over the last couple of weeks of those  
13 profiles that came in. And last week, interviewed five  
14 candidates. We had narrowed the list to five and selected  
15 two people to come back today for public interviews.

16                   So I think with that, unless there's  
17 anything -- okay. Susan didn't have anything to mention  
18 today, but we wanted to have the interviews -- I think we'd  
19 like to have the two candidates not hear each other's  
20 questions, because that wouldn't be fair to the person who  
21 goes second. So if Mr. Gonsler could step out -- because I  
22 think we'll go in alphabetical order by last name -- that  
23 would be great.

24                   (Whereupon, Mr. Gonsler exits the room, and  
25 the following was had:)

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1                   MS. MATHIS: And if Mr. Bladine could come up  
2 to the microphone, Mr. Raymond Bladine.

3                   And, Commissioners, I thought we'd just ask  
4 the questions in a round-robin format as we've done  
5 previously. And so Mr. Gonsler has stepped out or is in a  
6 sound-proof booth somewhere, and we'll go ahead and begin.

7                   Thank you for being here, Mr. Bladine.

8                   MR. BLADINE: Thank you, Chairman Mathis. I'm  
9 very pleased to be here, and thank you for inviting me back,  
10 I guess I can say, again. And that's fine. And again, again  
11 would be also fine.

12 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Well, congratulations on  
13 being one of the finalists. We're really happy to have you  
14 here.

15 MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: So if anyone wants to start  
17 with a round of questioning, that would be great.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, I'd like to ask Mr.  
19 Bladine -- Madam Chair, we went through the interview. We  
20 asked, I think, everybody pretty much the same questions.

21 Is there anything that you don't think we  
22 covered, or do you think there's something you want to say  
23 that you didn't get to say last time?

24 MR. BLADINE: I would just maybe reemphasize a  
25 few things, and that is that, one, I am very -- would be very

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1 pleased and honored to be your executive director. I do  
2 understand that the role of executive director is different  
3 than the role of chairman of the Commission or a member of  
4 the board, so I would not be involved in making the policy  
5 and political decisions you all need to make.

6 I would be involved to try to help make it as  
7 easy as possible for you to do that and to provide the  
8 staffing you need, so that you can move as quickly and  
9 smoothly as possible.

10 I certainly will make what time is necessary  
11 to do the job. I know that it will be demanding in terms of  
12 time, and I certainly am willing to carry that out in any way  
13 that you would see fit.

14 I seem -- it would seem to me that probably  
Page 5

15 the executive director would report to the chairman, which I  
16 didn't clarify with you, which would be similar to like in a  
17 council manager form -- the deputy manager reports to the  
18 manager, but also has responsibilities to the mayor and  
19 council. And in this case, would be responsible to all of  
20 the commissioners to provide them service and assistance to  
21 the extent that they need that, but that the directing  
22 person, I would assume, would be the chairman.

23 I'm anxious to get started and would be glad  
24 to answer any questions that you might have.

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Any other questions?

2 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Chairman Mathis, I'll  
3 go next. One of your challenge, Mr. Bladine, is that the  
4 media is an extremely important part of engaging the public  
5 and doing the job that we're assigned to do. But before we  
6 can get about doing that work, we have to do a careful job of  
7 building a solid foundation of staff and consultants, which  
8 doesn't make for the most exciting news.

9 Tell us about your experience and strategies  
10 in meeting this kind of challenge and working with the media.

11 MR. BLADINE: It's hard to figure out quite  
12 where to start, but I would say from the experience point of  
13 view, that over the years in my career with the City and also  
14 working in some of the smaller communities that I've worked  
15 in, I have had a lot of contact with the media.

16 I have found that if you are open and honest,  
17 you can establish a good relationship, where people trust

18 you. And I think that's the most important thing. Sometimes  
19 you may have to say, "I can't answer that." That's far  
20 better than just simply trying to avoid the question, I  
21 think.

22 I think that your point's well taken. At the  
23 front end, there's a lot of things that are not exciting for  
24 the public, but it's also nice for the public to know what is  
25 happening and what is going on. And I think, for example,

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1 just what you're doing today is a good idea. You've had a  
2 chance to interview us in executive session to get a better  
3 idea of who we are, and now you're in the public -- giving  
4 the public a chance to see who we are and answer questions.

5 Therefore, I guess what I would say is I think  
6 as an executive director, I would do as much as possible  
7 behind the scenes to bring together information so that you  
8 could all deal with it in a public meeting. And that would  
9 mean that the decisions are made in public.

10 However, I think as an executive director, I  
11 could help gather that information, so that whatever is  
12 presented to you, make sure it covers all of the concerns  
13 that you would want to have.

14 But I would say that my approach would be to  
15 be as open and straightforward as I can be. And if I  
16 couldn't answer questions, say "No." And, also, to assist  
17 you in making sure that your goals of keeping the public  
18 informed are forefront in my thoughts.

19 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

20 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

21 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?  
22 CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Freeman.  
23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Bladine, thanks for  
24 coming.  
25 MR. BLADINE: Thank you, Commissioner Freeman.

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1 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Do you have any personal  
2 goals for this Commission? And what is it that you expect to  
3 accomplish? And how would you evaluate whether your tenure  
4 as executive director for the Commission was a successful  
5 one?  
6 MR. BLADINE: Okay. I'll go backwards,  
7 because it's easier to remember the last thing first.  
8 My -- evaluating whether I was successful, I  
9 think the first one would be that you all thought I was  
10 successful, and that I provided the services to you that you  
11 felt you needed and I did it in a timely, fair and  
12 straightforward manner.  
13 The personal goals would be that this  
14 Commission improved upon what was done ten years ago in terms  
15 of the administrative process and moving forward, that you  
16 were able to learn from happened last time and be able to do  
17 a better job in a shorter period of time. And I would like  
18 to be a part of trying to help make that happen.  
19 I have no personal goals, other than to have  
20 been in a situation where I could say to all of you that I'm  
21 doing my best to provide the service, and that you feel I did  
22 too. But I don't have any personal -- you know, what the  
23 outcome is, that's your -- that's clearly your decision.

24 Mine would be process, and that I could look back at the end  
25 and say, okay, I helped improve the process that, hopefully,

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10

1 will carry on. And ten years from now, they'll use some of  
2 what you all did.

3 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

4 MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Bladine, welcome  
8 back and congratulations on making the final cut, too. We  
9 truly appreciate the time and effort that you've put into  
10 your participation in this.

11 MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: If you are selected as  
13 the -- you mentioned a couple of things about sort of the  
14 responsibility matrix about you'd be working -- essentially,  
15 working for the chair, at the pleasure of the Commission.

16 As you are -- and the next step that would  
17 be -- that would take place would be hiring the staff.

18 Can you give me a little outline about what  
19 your criteria is in staff selection?

20 We, of course, have had a great amount of  
21 contemplation about how we are hiring this key position  
22 first -- great consideration of that.

23 How, then, would you move forward in hiring  
24 staff, and what would your priorities be?

25 MR. BLADINE: My first priority would be to

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1 get from all of you what your priorities are in terms of  
2 which ones do you think should go first, and what do you want  
3 to see in terms of positions.

4 My personal criteria would be, first, that  
5 whatever the position is, is that the people brought forward  
6 have the competence in that to do the job and to do it well  
7 and technically carry it out. After that base is  
8 established, then I think it's important to find people that  
9 have had experience with public relations types of things,  
10 regardless of where they are in the Commission's  
11 organization.

12 It's important to have people that can work  
13 well with other people, that are good listeners, that are  
14 looking for solutions to problems and, in general, take the  
15 approach of turning lemons into lemonade, not sour lemons.

16 So, to me, it's very important as to the  
17 approach a person has in life and what they're doing as to  
18 how well they'd relate to the Commission. That would be an  
19 ultimate, very important thing. You have a limited period of  
20 time to get things done. It would be very important that you  
21 have people working for you that you are comfortable working  
22 for. So somewhere in that process, we would need to make  
23 sure that whoever is hired is a person or persons that are  
24 comfortable -- that would be comfortable, that the Commission  
25 would be working with.

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1 Clearly, they would be responsible for  
2 reporting to me, but I would want to know that whoever I  
3 appointed also was not going to be an outsider for purposes  
4 of the Commission providing advice. So that was kind of a  
5 long way around, but --

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Well, I have a follow-up  
7 question.

8 MR. BLADINE: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Who would you -- who  
10 would you hire first?

11 MR. BLADINE: Who would I hire first?

12 I probably would hire the executive assistant  
13 or someone that would be able to deal with the budget, and so  
14 we could start to take an idea of what we have going forward.

15 But I think -- you know, it seems to me  
16 there's about four or five things that all really need to  
17 happen first, and that's clearly getting the administrative  
18 budget together, that's hiring the consultant that -- which  
19 is both the legal and the mapping type.

20 We need to have -- I need to have clarity --  
21 or whoever the executive director is have clarity with each  
22 of the members as to what the role of the executive  
23 director's going to be and what your priorities are. I think  
24 that would be important. And then, you know, finishing up  
25 the other things you've got started, like getting the office

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1 space and getting what you need to operate as an  
2 organization.

3 But I would think right off, perhaps, the

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
4 executive assistant would be the next person to hire. But I  
5 certainly would be open to finding out if that's, you know,  
6 incorrect. But that would be my thought. That do it?

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Almost.

8 MR. BLADINE: Almost. Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a final follow-up to  
10 that, you had mentioned the budget --

11 MR. BLADINE: Uh-huh.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- as being your  
13 first piece of your first-hires position. Obviously, you  
14 know, the budget that we are working with is -- that's been  
15 currently approved is substantively less than what was  
16 previously authorized by constitutional mandate under  
17 Proposition 106.

18 How would you see working together with  
19 that -- how would you see the hiring of that individual, and  
20 what would the criteria be -- in looking for that executive  
21 assistant be?

22 In regards to the management and the  
23 usefulness of the budget, what type of individual would you  
24 have, and how do you see them interfacing in with what will  
25 be an ongoing request with the current and the future

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14

1 legislature?

2 MR. BLADINE: I guess -- let me back up,  
3 because I think -- as I'm thinking, I understand that you do  
4 have a person assigned as the interim executive director, who  
5 has had budget experience and has that information. And  
6 remembering that, it would, perhaps, be less important to me

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
7 to deal with an executive assistant, knowing that that  
8 information is there, and focus on other things.

9 I wouldn't see that executive assistant as  
10 somebody that's a budget person, but someone who would be  
11 able to attend to the day-to-day activities of the operation  
12 of an office and keeping within the expenditure controls that  
13 might be established, but also to be available in the absence  
14 of the executive director or to help the commissioners or the  
15 chairman carry out their responsibilities.

16 So I probably, in hindsight, would be less  
17 concerned about the executive director's (sic) budget  
18 qualifications and more concerned with someone that can see  
19 the big picture and help figure out where to provide  
20 assistance to the commissioners and the Commission.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

22 CHAIR MATHIS: A question from me.

23 MR. BLADINE: Okay, Chairman.

24 CHAIR MATHIS: You have had a long career in  
25 public service, a long and distinguished career. And I'm

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15

1 just curious to know: what's the most rewarding aspect of  
2 that career for you?

3 MR. BLADINE: It's happening to me more and  
4 more as I get older. And it's when you run into somebody  
5 you've worked with and you forgot about some sort of  
6 interaction you had with them, because you had lots, and  
7 they're kind enough to say, you know, you're the one that  
8 helped me do X, Y or Z, or do you remember when we did this,  
9 and you told me that.

10           And, I guess, as you get old, you like to hear  
11 that you had impacts on others, even though you didn't think  
12 of it at the time. So, quite honestly, I guess the legacy  
13 that I'm finding I'm very proud of is that there are a lot of  
14 people along the way I've interacted with, and they've been  
15 kind enough to come up and tell me that I had a positive  
16 impact on them, rather than a negative.

17           I've even had some people that I fired not be  
18 mad at me, which I don't understand. But does that answer  
19 it?

20           CHAIR MATHIS: That does.

21           MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

22           CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

23           VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, I have one  
24 question --

25           CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

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1           VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- for Mr. Bladine. The  
2 importance of -- how important do you think it is for us  
3 to when -- let's just say we come up with a map, or an idea  
4 of what the map should look like and for us to be able to  
5 reach out to the public and making sure that the public is  
6 able to provide input, how would you go about doing that, to  
7 make sure that people -- and not just the ones here, but  
8 people all over the state are able to contribute or provide  
9 input to the Commission if they can't attend a meeting in  
10 person or maybe they can -- how would you go about doing  
11 that?

12           MR. BLADINE: I think you've -- looking at

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
13 your past minutes, you've already got some things in mind  
14 that you've indicated. And I think using a web page to get  
15 that information available to those that have Internet. I  
16 think making wide distributing of the map in a printed form.

17 If you can find software where people can play  
18 around and do their own adjusting of the boundaries. You  
19 know, I think that's going to be the key part of the process  
20 where the public will either decide they had an opportunity  
21 to provide input or this was not done in an open fashion.

22 So I think it's very important to do  
23 everything we can, once those maps are out there, to explain  
24 them, what the logic is behind them, why you came up with  
25 them, and then provide a lot of opportunity for people to

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1 comment.

2 So I guess my simple answer would be is find  
3 as many different approaches that you can to get the  
4 information out, whether it's sound bites, whether it's  
5 printed material, it's on the Internet, group meetings --  
6 anything that is a way that you could advance it, because  
7 different people respond to different types of media.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Just a follow-up  
9 question. With your extensive background, do you think you  
10 have the ability to make those connections with key people in  
11 the community to bring them together for that feedback?

12 MR. BLADINE: I think I do. I -- I have, I  
13 guess, in my career have done a lot of work that relates  
14 directly to the public on specific issues. And I have, I  
15 think, for the most part had people walk away feeling they

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
16 were dealt fairly with, and that they had the information  
17 they needed to -- you know, to make a decision.

18 They may not always agree with, you know, what  
19 was presented, but, at least, they understood the reasons for  
20 it, and it was never done in a personal way. So, yes, I  
21 think the main part would be to listen to what the people  
22 want to know and then try to answer that. And I think any  
23 communication -- it's just not putting it out there, it is  
24 also listening to what people want and make sure you're  
25 responding by putting that out there.

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1 And I can tell you've already, in your early  
2 meetings, have started to try to focus in on that. I do  
3 think that's important, very important.

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

5 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Freeman.

7 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Bladine, perhaps this  
8 question goes more towards management style. There's a  
9 little bit of a wind-up, so bear with me.

10 MR. BLADINE: Okay.

11 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Each of us, as  
12 commissioners, I believe have worked independently and  
13 together, drawing upon our own strengths and with the  
14 leadership of our chairman, to move forward together as a  
15 Commission and as united as possible.

16 My sense is we're going to try to keep doing  
17 that moving forward, and that's a good thing. It's  
18 conceivable, however, that down the road there might come a

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
19 time where the Commission or commissioners have different  
20 points of view, honest, good faith disagreements on material  
21 matters.

22                   It's even conceivable, although, I hope not,  
23 that disagreements could be, perhaps, intractable in some  
24 way. And there could be splits in the Commission; although,  
25 I hope not.

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1                   How would you view your role in dealing with  
2 the Commission and individuals commissioners in such  
3 circumstances?

4                   MR. BLADINE: I would see my role as possibly  
5 being able to help people communicate with each other, to,  
6 one, make sure that everybody does understand where the other  
7 person's coming from. I think over the years, I've developed  
8 some skill in helping people develop compromises, try to  
9 develop consensus.

10                   It's hard to identify exactly how you go about  
11 doing that, but, in general, it is getting people to listen  
12 and sit down. It can be sometimes suggesting an alternative  
13 that wasn't thought about among two people who are having a  
14 disagreement. Or if there's no chance of any sort of  
15 reconciliation, at least, making it clear in everyone's mind  
16 what the disagreement is. And at that point, if I can help  
17 clarify that and get it out so people would know clearly what  
18 they're dealing with, I think I've done my role as executive  
19 director.

20                   But, clearly, I think there's a potential for  
21 the executive director to try to get into some sort of a

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
22 mediating, consensus building role if that's what the  
23 Commission, you know, needs. But I would hope that it would  
24 not come to that. But if it did, I have been in situations  
25 where council votes are three to four, and you deal with

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1 respect to everybody on both sides of the issue. And you do  
2 your best to make sure that they all feel you're giving them  
3 the same attention, and that's the way I would approach it.

4 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

6 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, there will  
7 be five chefs making a stew here. And we, I believe, all  
8 want to insure that our legal and other consultants do the  
9 prep work that we ask them to do, bring us the information  
10 that we've requested of them, but that whatever we wind up is  
11 a result of decisions made by the five of us.

12 How can you help us with that?

13 MR. BLADINE: Well, I think that one of the  
14 things any executive director could do, and, therefore, I  
15 could do that for you is, one, develop -- I don't know how  
16 far along you are, but develop an RFP, that everybody agrees  
17 those are the key ingredients that should begin to get the  
18 information out, bring it back in, provide some summary of  
19 that information, along with the detailed information to the  
20 Commission, and so that at a public meeting they could sit  
21 down and talk about it.

22 But I think that it would be a role of  
23 gathering data from people that have submitted the RFPs,  
24 providing some summary of that data to help the Commission

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1 you, get clarification, if necessary, on the RFPs if there's  
2 something that isn't clear, try to go back and get the  
3 clarification. So, basically, it would be to bring you a  
4 package of information that you could deal with in a public  
5 meeting and make your decisions.

6 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, Mr. Bladine  
8 and Commissioner McNulty, I'm more of a jambalaya fan.  
9 So get ready, because we're going to have some fun making our  
10 stew.

11 You said, initially, that you are -- you gave  
12 the impression that you were available immediately to become  
13 part of and to bring forward consultation with the selection  
14 process that we are currently beginning and engaged in.

15 Are you aware that the RFPs have already been  
16 released for our legal consultants?

17 MR. BLADINE: No, I was not. But I knew that  
18 you were close, but I didn't realize you had put it out.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Knowing that the RFPs  
20 for the consultants are going to be made available to the  
21 Commission on or about the 29th of April, would -- if the  
22 selection of the executive director is made today, would you  
23 be an active participant -- or how would you consider  
24 yourself to be an active participant in the review and the  
25 distillation of those RFPs?

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1                   MR. BLADINE: I would -- I would think that  
2 regardless of whether the paperwork's done for hiring or not,  
3 whoever it is, the executive director should be involved and  
4 I would be. And that is to say that I would quickly get  
5 involved with the person getting those RFPs, get up to speed  
6 on what's going on, talk to probably each of you  
7 individually, get some idea of what input you have, and then  
8 try to figure out ways that I could help streamline the  
9 process in bringing it to you.

10                   But, you know, it's like I noticed in your  
11 agenda this afternoon, if selected, whether it's Geoffrey or  
12 I, we need to be here, because those are things that are  
13 going to be very important for the executive director to be  
14 available to you.

15                   So, yeah, I would be here this afternoon. I'm  
16 sure Geoffrey would, too. But, yes, I have a few things that  
17 I'm precommitted to. They're not huge. Some of them will go  
18 away in the summer. I'm on the City of Phoenix Retirement  
19 Board. That's usually a monthly meeting; although, recently,  
20 we've had a couple, because we are talking to our investment  
21 advisors. I'm on the Retirees Association for Phoenix.  
22 Their last meeting is next month.

23                   So, I mean, there's not a lot of things that  
24 would conflict with making this -- you know, making this my  
25 priority -- other than my afternoon naps and sleeping, but I

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1 think I'll just have to put that on the back burner.

2                   CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions? You didn't  
Page 20

3 have a follow-up?

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'll have a final  
5 question.

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Okay. Mr. Bladine, what  
7 do you think of Mr. Gonsler as a candidate for this position?

8 MR. BLADINE: I think that if you didn't  
9 select me, you would do very well with Geoffrey. He and I  
10 have known each other and worked with each other at the City.  
11 He has the highest integrity. He's a very smart individual.  
12 He has an advantage over me of knowing the State -- State  
13 system. We've had different experiences; his mostly in the  
14 State, mostly mine in the City.

15 But I would certainly be willing to qualify as  
16 a reference for Geoffrey and say that he could do an  
17 excellent job.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

19 MR. BLADINE: And that wasn't fair to put him  
20 on the same place with me, because I think both of us could  
21 do this job equally well. I have to be honest and say that,  
22 and I think he'd feel the same.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

24 MR. BLADINE: Sure.

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

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1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That was going to be my  
2 question.

3 CHAIR MATHIS: Really?

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That was.

5 CHAIR MATHIS: I stole it.

6 MR. BLADINE: Well, Geoffrey and I have a  
7 solution -- hire us both as co-leaders, kind of like co-vice  
8 chairs.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: There's precedent for that.

10 MR. BLADINE: Thank you. It's a legal term.

11 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Please.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Bladine, could you  
14 please describe the nature and the scope of any prior  
15 experiences you've had with redistricting efforts, and how  
16 those experiences or other similar professional experiences  
17 that you might have had would benefit the Commission.

18 MR. BLADINE: Okay. The experience that I've  
19 had in the redistricting is tangential, and that being that I  
20 was a part of the City of Phoenix executive team when we went  
21 through the redistricting process ten years ago. And I was  
22 probably at a department head level before that.

23 But for the first -- but, bottom line, is a  
24 man by the name of Rick Naimark, who was the person assigned  
25 to the City of Phoenix redistricting effort, worked with the

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1 mapping officials and worked with the council, and they had  
2 the public meetings. I watched it, I knew what the process  
3 was that was going on, but I was not directly, directly  
4 involved in it.

5 I'm not sure that I can think of a process  
6 that I have been involved in that's quite like redistricting.  
7 I've certainly been involved in a lot of things that are  
8 trying to bring people together and trying to solve problems,

9 but I think redistricting is a very different kind of animal  
10 that I've never been directly involved in.

11 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

12 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Bladine, what do  
13 you do when you're misquoted? what would you advise us to do  
14 when we're misquoted?

15 MR. BLADINE: It depends how bad the misquote  
16 is. I would -- what I've done in the past, if I felt I was  
17 badly misquoted, I've called the reporter, whoever, and  
18 explained why I don't think that was what I said. And they  
19 certainly have their right to hear it the way they hear it,  
20 but I think it's important to provide them input if you feel  
21 you were misquoted. Sometimes, quite frankly, it's not worth  
22 making a big issue about.

23 You know, if it is a substantial misquote,  
24 then I think you really need to follow up and set the record  
25 straight. One of the -- particularly, the print media, one

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1 of the problems I've learned is if you're misquoted and you  
2 don't follow up, that misquote is now in their archive. And  
3 every time a reporter decides that they're going to write  
4 another story, the first thing they do is read their archive.  
5 So the misquote of three years ago now becomes the fact of  
6 today.

7 So it's important, if it's big, to go back and  
8 try to get the reporter to, at least, make a note that there  
9 was a question about that. But having been around long  
10 enough to see things come back in the paper that are quoted  
11 as a fact, which were disputable some years ago, I think that

12 gives me more of a concern that if there's a substantial  
13 misquote, you really need to follow up on it.

14 Does that help?

15 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you. Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Commissioner --

17 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- or Madam Chair?

19 Mr. Bladine, obviously, this Commission is  
20 laying on you hard for a reason. You first made an  
21 application for the chair position and now have come forward  
22 to act as its executive director.

23 Describe to me what it is in your core right  
24 now that is placing you in this -- this is an extraordinarily  
25 difficult role and task that we, as volunteers, have taken

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1 on. But more so, you're stepping into something that is a  
2 role that you are going to be front and center of in a high  
3 profile position from the public's point of view and from a  
4 public service point of view.

5 Describe for me exactly why you are -- why you  
6 are here.

7 MR. BLADINE: Because I'm crazy. No. I got  
8 into local government in 1968 after graduate school with the  
9 belief that I wanted to leave the world a better place than  
10 when I came. And as trite as that may sound, that's true.  
11 That's why I got into public service, and I have stuck with  
12 that for the thirty years I've worked for Phoenix.

13 And ten years after, feeling that I have  
14 developed expertise that the taxpayers have paid for, as I've

15 grown older and more experienced -- I have a nice retirement  
16 from the City of Phoenix, the taxpayers have been good to  
17 me -- I need to give back. And that's really what I see that  
18 I might be able to do here is to -- is to give back.

19                   That may sound kind of Pollyanna-ish, but the  
20 truth is a lot us that have been involved in government, we  
21 got in it because we wanted to make a difference. And it  
22 didn't mean we were elected officials, which, clearly, you  
23 could make a difference, but behind the scenes, providing  
24 good administrative staff, providing good information for  
25 decisionmaking, making sure all points of view in the

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1 community is heard. Those are the things that have and  
2 continue to hold my interest.

3                   So my interest in doing this is to give  
4 something back to the community. I can't think of a more  
5 important topic than what you're all dealing with now. And I  
6 clearly understand my role would not be the role of the  
7 chairman, but, perhaps, I can, behind the scenes, provide  
8 that input that might be helpful to you to make better  
9 decisions. So that is my -- that is my motivation.

10                   COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

11                   CHAIR MATHIS: Are there any other questions  
12 for Mr. Bladine?

13                   COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Do we have time, Madam  
14 Chair, or are we up against our --

15                   CHAIR MATHIS: I think we're okay.

16                   COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I do then.

17                   CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

18                   COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: You've answered this  
19 prior to this, but I'm going to ask it a little different  
20 way. There are a number of different people and  
21 organizations in the state that have a stake in what we're  
22 about to do -- citizens, government groups, elected  
23 officials, political parties, the press to name just a few.  
24                   What do you do to stay informed about all of  
25 the currents that are going to be swirling around in the

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1 State, and how will you apply that to your job as executive  
2 director?

3                   MR. BLADINE: Not get any sleep and read  
4 everything you can read and watch everything you can watch.

5                   On the serious side, I would -- I always have  
6 been a reader; particularly, as much as I can get in terms of  
7 the print media. I do check web pages fairly frequently  
8 outside the Phoenix area, and I read the Phoenix paper.

9                   I have, in the past, you know, just taken time  
10 to talk to people who I know are experts in an area. And  
11 that, certainly, would be something that I would think I  
12 would continue to do.

13                   I guess part of it -- I mean, I think that  
14 meeting that role, primarily, is your role and responsibility  
15 of really feeling like you're plugged into what the community  
16 wants and what the community groups need to do. So I'd see  
17 that I'd be in a supportive role of making sure we, you know,  
18 monitor the kinds of information that is being discussed  
19 about the Commission.

20                   I know there are services out there that  
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21 provide headline clippings on topical areas. That might be  
22 one way to help keep the Commission informed of what's being  
23 said in other parts of the state or by different  
24 organizations.

25 So I guess I would say it would be to just

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1 keep scouting around, making contact with those organizations  
2 that have identified an interest in what the Commission is  
3 doing and trying to keep tabs on areas outside of the  
4 metropolitan areas in terms of issues that are coming up and  
5 their thoughts about that.

6 I don't think that's a very good answer, but  
7 it's the best I can do right now.

8 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It is, it is a good  
9 answer. And you've raised another question I'd like to ask  
10 as a follow-up.

11 One thing that will be very important is for  
12 us to keep in touch with rural communities and to make them  
13 an integral part of this process.

14 Have you had thoughts about, specifically, how  
15 we will go about doing that?

16 MR. BLADINE: Not very specific thoughts, but  
17 thinking about the parts of the state in terms of the  
18 communities and how we might link in with cities and regional  
19 organizations that might be out there would be a way to get  
20 information or disseminate information.

21 But having worked in Chino Valley for about a  
22 year and then helping them hire a town manager, you know, I  
23 understand that they have a whole different set of issues and

24 concerns, not necessarily about redistricting. But then the  
25 metropolitan areas, the same thing when I did some work in

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1 Show Low.

2 It just reminds you that there is the rural  
3 area, it is a very big part of Arizona, and we would have to  
4 make some effort to make sure that those voices are heard.  
5 They're not going to be heard as well as voices that are  
6 organized and, generally, in a metropolitan area.

7 But, no, I don't have a specific plan, but I  
8 certainly think that's an important issue to dwell on.

9 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I've got one question  
14 and then a follow-up.

15 (Whereupon, a cell phone rings, and the  
16 following was had:)

17 MR. BLADINE: I don't dance well either.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a Commission, the  
19 Constitution prescribes that we exercise our duties in a fair  
20 and independent manner. The word "independent" appears  
21 numerous times in the constitutional language. The executive  
22 director position is going to be an integral part of our  
23 Commission.

24 Is there anything in your background that  
25 either political party can use to draw into question your

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1 independence?

2 MR. BLADINE: I cannot think of any. But as  
3 we all know, it's kind of the approach nowadays to make  
4 mountains out of molehills, and that happens. But I can't  
5 think of a molehill that would be able to be turned into a  
6 mountain.

7 I have not been politically involved in any  
8 election campaigns. I have, basically, as you know, been a  
9 public administrator. And I cannot, Commissioner Stertz,  
10 think of anything that would allow that to happen.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a follow-up to that  
12 question, have you made donations to any political parties,  
13 political entities or political organizations that would be  
14 of public record that would be able to be brought up that  
15 might give bother to breaking your statement of being  
16 independent?

17 MR. BLADINE: Sure. I -- I don't recall that  
18 I have made a contribution to any political party or  
19 political organization. I have made donations to candidates  
20 in the past. But I don't recall that I have made a  
21 donation -- I may have made a donation to the -- I'm not even  
22 sure what it was, but it was at the national level. And it  
23 may have been the Democratic National Caucus when it was  
24 around some issue that they were supporting, that I  
25 supported. But it would have been like \$25 or something like

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1 that.

2 But I have not made it a practice of doing  
3 those. So, no, I don't think there is anything out there.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So if there was going to  
5 be a public search of your -- of giving that you have --

6 MR. BLADINE: Right.

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- your anticipation  
8 would be the answer would be little to no?

9 MR. BLADINE: Right. There'd be -- you know,  
10 again, I haven't made that many that I -- I know I made a  
11 contribution to a friend that was running for an office.  
12 I've done that a couple of times. But that's really it.  
13 I -- so you would find that I've made some donations to  
14 specific candidates. And in all of those instances, they  
15 were people that I know and felt would do a good job  
16 regardless of what their political party would be.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions? Mr. Herrera.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I do have a follow-up  
20 question to Commissioner Stertz's question. Let's just say  
21 you were -- you know, you were registered to a certain party  
22 and you even donated.

23 What kind of impact would that have if we were  
24 to hire you -- or just, generally speaking, on the executive  
25 director position that a person belonged to a party and was

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1 active -- any impact at all, do you think?

2 MR. BLADINE: I think you raise a good point.

3 It would be, more likely, someone trying to

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
4 make a mountain out of a molehill. But, no, it's not -- I  
5 mean, my whole history has been of being fair, of being  
6 nonpartisan, of working with mayors that are Democrats and  
7 mayors that are Republicans, council members that are  
8 Republicans, council members that are Democrats.

9 I don't ask what their -- you know, what their  
10 partisanship. I relate to them as a policymakers. And I  
11 think that's, really, what the role should be with this,  
12 regardless of what my political beliefs are.

13 I have political beliefs just like everyone  
14 else, but it's not -- it wouldn't be my role as executive  
15 director to be sharing that or dealing with you on that.  
16 That's my personal thing.

17 As an executive director, your point, I think,  
18 is right on. I need to provide fair and balanced service to  
19 everybody regardless of party affiliation, and that's what  
20 I'd do.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

22 MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Any further questions?

24 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I do have a final  
25 question. As executive director, you're going to have to

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1 deal with the stress of meeting our demands, meeting the  
2 demands of the staff, managing community perception, dealing  
3 with molehills made into mountains and so forth.

4 How do you manage that stress, and how do you  
5 maintain balance yourself?

6 MR. BLADINE: Well, that's a good question.

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
7 Over the years, I think the strategy has changed. As I've  
8 gotten older, one, I've learned not to take so many things  
9 absolutely seriously, and that this problem, too, shall pass.  
10 It may be painful going through it. So I guess I've gained  
11 some perspective that does allow me to deal with stress and  
12 not take it as personally as I did when I was -- when I was  
13 younger.

14 Second thing, I have found that, like  
15 everybody else, I do need to take some time to go sharpen  
16 the saw. So, periodically, I'll just try to find a weekend  
17 to get away and do nothing, so that I have a chance to come  
18 back and be fresh. I try to find enjoyment in those things  
19 that I do along the way, so that it counteracts kind of the  
20 stresses.

21 I can't tell you that I'm a jogger or  
22 meditator, but those would be good things for me to do if  
23 I -- if I were trying to manage it. But I think that,  
24 perhaps, the most important thing is that I've gotten to  
25 understand that I can't solve all of the problems, but I do

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1 my best and let the chips fall where they may.

2 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

3 MR. BLADINE: Uh-huh.

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions?

5 (No verbal response.)

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I think this concludes  
7 the interview, Mr. Bladine. Thank you very much for being  
8 here today.

9 MR. BLADINE: Thank you, Chairman Mathis. I

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
10 appreciate being here again and again and again. And I look  
11 forward to your decision. And, like I say, I don't think you  
12 could lose if you decide that Geoffrey better suits your  
13 needs. He would do an excellent job for you, and I know he  
14 feels the same about me. We've had a good working  
15 relationship over the years, and co-chairs might not be out  
16 of order for this group.

17 So thank you, Chairman.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, I think he  
20 can stick around for Mr. Gonsher's interview, right?

21 CHAIR MATHIS: I believe so, yes. You don't  
22 have to put the earphones on.

23 MR. BLADINE: Okay. I will -- I will go sit  
24 in the back, then --

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

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1 MR. BLADINE: -- and root for Geoffrey also.

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Great.

3 MR. BLADINE: Thank you for bringing that up.

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Herrera.

5 (Whereupon, Mr. Gonsher enters the room, and  
6 the following was had:)

7 CHAIR MATHIS: Hello, Mr. Gonsher.

8 MR. GONSHER: Good morning.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you for being here and  
10 congratulations on being a finalist for this executive  
11 director position.

12 MR. GONSHER: Thank you.

13 CHAIR MATHIS: And if I could ask you to be  
14 sure to speak into the microphone, just because our court  
15 reporter will be transcribing the proceedings.

16 We're just going to ask questions in a  
17 round-robin format, and if I could ask the commissioners to  
18 go ahead and begin.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

20 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Gonsher, thank you  
22 for being here.

23 MR. GONSHER: Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We've all had the  
25 privilege of getting to know you. The people in the audience

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1 probably don't. Anything you want to say or add that you  
2 didn't say last time -- any comments?

3 MR. GONSHER: Madam Chairman, Mr. Herrera, I  
4 do have some short introductory remarks if that's okay.

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Of course. Go ahead.

6 MR. GONSHER: For the public record, my name  
7 is Geoffrey Gonsher, and I am an applicant for the Arizona  
8 Independent Redistricting Commission Executive Director  
9 position. I do want to thank you for selecting me to be one  
10 of the finalists today. I believe that's a positive  
11 reflection on my 40-year career in public service.

12 During the interview last week, I emphasized  
13 that I am a public administrator. My experience includes  
14 directing -- being a director, an acting director, and a  
15 deputy director of five executive branch agencies, as well as

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
16 several years in management positions for the City of  
17 Phoenix.

18 I'm familiar with State procurement, personnel  
19 budget, and other administrative functions of State agencies.  
20 I'm just as comfortable with the external responsibilities of  
21 an agency director, the legal matters, media relations,  
22 customer service and stakeholder communications.

23 I've also worked very closely with policy and  
24 regulatory boards and commissions, and I understand the  
25 dynamics of these bodies.

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1 I also mentioned during the interview that  
2 I've worked in both nonpartisan and bipartisan environments.  
3 I believe I've earned the respect of public officials on both  
4 sides of our political business.

5 My priority has always been to serve and  
6 protect the public. And with that, I'll be glad to answer  
7 any questions.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Mr. Herrera, do you --

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I didn't know if you had  
11 a follow-up.

12 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

13 CHAIR MATHIS: Sure. Mr. Freeman.

14 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Gonsler, thank you  
15 for coming back and doing this again.

16 Do you have any personal goals for this  
17 Commission? And what is it that you expect to accomplish?  
18 And how would you evaluate whether your tenure as the

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
19 executive director was a successful one?

20 MR. GONSHER: First of all, personal goals,  
21 the first goal would be to ensure that this Commission  
22 reaches its deadlines in a manner that's consistent with  
23 federal and state law. I know from past experience that the  
24 issues that this Commission will deal with will be very  
25 controversial.

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1 And my job will be to make sure that this  
2 Commission is as comfortable as possible in dealing with all  
3 of that controversy and, at the same time, insuring  
4 compliance with all of the requirements.

5 Can you say the second two parts of that  
6 question?

7 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It was: How would you  
8 evaluate yourself as to how your tenure was as executive  
9 director?

10 MR. GONSHER: Mr. Freeman, when -- when one  
11 works for an elected official, the way he or she evaluates  
12 their self is how often or not as often your name ends up in  
13 the newspaper. And -- but that would be one of the -- one of  
14 the ways that I would evaluate my performance, is to ensure  
15 that the Commission's work and the Commission's comments and  
16 words are those that end up in the newspaper and not the  
17 executive director.

18 The executive director works for the  
19 Commission. He stands behind the Commission, protects the  
20 Commission, supports the Commission and ensures the  
21 Commission does its job properly. That would be a major

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
22 evaluation of my success.

23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 MR. GONSHER: And there was a third part to  
25 that question, I think.

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1 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I think there were two  
2 parts.

3 MR. GONSHER: Okay.

4 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Other questions?

6 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: This is a bit of a  
7 follow-up on the question that Commissioner Freeman just  
8 asked. One of our challenges is that the media is a very  
9 important part of engaging the public in the process we've  
10 been appointed to do.

11 But before we can get about doing that work,  
12 we have to do a careful job of building a solid foundation of  
13 staff and consultants, which doesn't make for very exciting  
14 news sometimes.

15 Tell us about your experience and strategies  
16 in overcoming this kind of challenge, and what the effect  
17 would be.

18 MR. GONSHER: I've had many years of working  
19 with the media, and my experience is both -- has been both  
20 positive and negative. You can probably Google some of those  
21 "New Times" articles.

22 I have found it's always best to be open and  
23 honest with the media. Any public information that's  
24 available, my feeling has always been it ought to be shared

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25 with the media at the appropriate time. It should never go

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1 to the media prior to the Commission receiving it. The media  
2 should never feel as if its being closed out on information,  
3 or that the individual sharing the information is being  
4 dishonest in conveying that information.

5                   It's difficult, at times, to deal with the  
6 media. They have a job to do, and it's the right job to do  
7 for the public. I'm -- I'm friendly with the media, I'm open  
8 with the media, but I'm never afraid to say to a reporter,  
9 "That's some information that, I'm sorry, I cannot share with  
10 you at this time, but here's when it may be available."

11                   COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

12                   CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions? Mr. Stertz.

13                   COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Gonsher, thank you  
14 very much for coming back and congratulations on making the  
15 finalists, yourself and Mr. Bladine.

16                   In the first actions that will be taken and if  
17 you were going to craft a responsibility matrix about who you  
18 responded to or who you worked for, how would you describe  
19 that; and as follow-up to that, the primary responsibilities  
20 about what your hiring practice is and what your priorities  
21 would be coming out of that engagement.

22                   MR. GONSHER: In response to the first part of  
23 that question, the executive director works for this  
24 Commission. You are the executive director's boss. You can  
25 tell the executive director what to do and what not to do.

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1 Individually, you may not be able to do that, but as a  
2 group or as a majority, you certainly have that authority.

3 And the executive director ought to be in the  
4 position to say, "Yes, sir," "Yes, ma'am," and get the job  
5 done and understand that he works exclusively for this  
6 Commission, not for any public -- not for any other public  
7 official, not for an elected official, not for -- not for the  
8 public even, though the public is very much a part of this  
9 circle. But the first priority is to the Commission itself.

10 And the second part of that question?

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And the follow-up was  
12 that if you were given the award of becoming the executive  
13 director, what would your immediate process be in hiring, and  
14 what would your criteria be for hiring -- who would those  
15 individuals be, what the roles would be, and how would you  
16 judge that criteria.

17 MR. GONSHER: I have already given a lot of  
18 thought to the staffing that's necessary for this process.  
19 And there are some initial positions that are very necessary  
20 to get on board immediately. One of them, of course, is the  
21 technology individual.

22 I have noticed that there's information about  
23 that issue on the agenda today. It's very important for the  
24 technological foundation to be built immediately, so that  
25 when it is necessary, as the weeks and months go on, it's

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1 available.

2 There's also a necessity to bring on board  
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3 a -- I'll call the position a community outreach manager  
4 position immediately. There is a need to start scheduling  
5 the first round of public meetings in June. In doing so, it  
6 means reaching out to those cities, those communities, those  
7 community organizations and those locations.

8                   The hiring of individuals to help with the  
9 logistics of going to Page or Safford or Flagstaff or North  
10 Phoenix or any place else. So that's another position that's  
11 essential to bring on board right away.

12                   I'm told that the Department of Administration  
13 is available to provide the administrative support initially,  
14 which is the procurement, budgeting, personnel and so on.  
15 And that's wonderful news, because there's nobody on staff  
16 yet who has that expertise or the time to do it.

17                   But at some point relatively soon, there will  
18 be a need to bring somebody on board who is an experienced  
19 contracts manager, which is -- which has one leg in the  
20 procurement process itself, but the more important part of  
21 that person's responsibility is in managing the contracts,  
22 ensuring that the organizations and the individuals are doing  
23 the jobs that they've bid do to do, that expenditures are  
24 being made properly. So that's -- that's an important person  
25 also.

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1                   So those are very important positions to have  
2 on board. I would rely upon the Department of Administration  
3 to initiate recruitment for those positions.

4                   However, there is so much work that needs to  
5 be done during the first thirty days, I would want to talk to

6 the Commission about reaching out to loaned executives,  
7 individuals who we may know, who are experienced in those  
8 fields and come on board and, perhaps, be on assignment from  
9 a city, a state or a county organization who can help with  
10 some of those initial activities.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Other question?

13 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr.  
14 Gonsher has touched on this, so I think I'll ask this now.  
15 There are going to be five chefs making a stew. And  
16 Mr. Stertz's has informed me it's going to be a jambalaya.

17 we will want to ensure that our legal and  
18 other consultants do the prep work that we assign to them,  
19 but I think it's important that we also ensure that they  
20 don't create the dish.

21 How can you help us with that?

22 MR. GONSHER: Excuse me. You said --

23 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: That they don't create  
24 the stew, they do the prep work. We create the stew, the  
25 five people sitting behind this dais. How can you help us

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1 with that?

2 MR. GONSHER: That's the job of an executive  
3 director to ensure that the information that's requested by  
4 the Commission and is prepared for the Commission is  
5 consistent with what you want and need.

6 And there's a lot of technical information  
7 involved, I understand that. But the executive director at  
8 times can be a gatekeeper to say, "I think you're way off

9 base, that's not what the Commission has asked for," or  
10 "You're not providing enough information, you're not  
11 clarifying the information or you're giving too much  
12 information, because you have to remember, it's the  
13 Commission that makes the decisions, not you,  
14 Mr. Consultant."

15 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: I'll ask a question.

17 You have had a very long and distinguished  
18 career in public service. And I'm just curious to know what  
19 you would say is the most rewarding aspect of that career.

20 MR. GONSHER: I've had so many wonderful  
21 opportunities. My -- my bosses have given me major  
22 responsibility and have given me a lot of fun activities to  
23 do also.

24 I think from an administrative perspective,  
25 being able to walk into an agency in which the governor has

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1 just fired the director, there's a negative auditor general's  
2 report sitting on the desk, there was a newspaper headline  
3 about that agency that Sunday morning, and being able to,  
4 within a short period of time, changing the culture of that  
5 agency, so that there are policies and procedures, so that  
6 the employees are involved in the decisionmaking process and  
7 the stakeholders are involved in the decisionmaking process  
8 also -- but to see that change occur over a period of time  
9 has been very gratifying for me, and I've enjoyed that.

10 I've also had a lot of fun experiences because  
11 of my bosses. I had an opportunity years ago to fly with

12 baseball Commissioner Bart Giamatti and his wife to the Hopi  
13 Reservation and spend an entire day with Mr. Giamatti.

14                   And I don't know if any of you remember  
15 Mr. Giamatti, but he was a former president of Yale, he was a  
16 baseball commissioner, a brilliant individual. And to be  
17 able to say that I was able to touch his brain for one day of  
18 his life has been very fulfilling for me.

19                   CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Thank you.

20                   Other questions?

21                   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, the question  
22 you had asked Mr. Bladine, I'll just ask Mr. Gonsher. I  
23 think you both know each other.

24                   MR. GONSHER: Yes, sir.

25                   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: You both know each other

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1 well. what you can you say about Mr. Bladine?

2                   MR. GONSHER: In response to that, I have some  
3 words in my closing remarks, and I'd like to refer to those  
4 if you don't mind.

5                   Mr. Bladine is a highly-respected, seasoned  
6 public administrator. As a younger staffer, I had the  
7 opportunity to watch him in my career at city hall, and I  
8 never saw any flaws. He was always honest, knowledgeable and  
9 well prepared for all matters before the mayor and the city  
10 council. He was helpful to me on several occasions that gave  
11 me some new direction in my career and as a professional.

12                   He was the deputy city manager who signed the  
13 approval for me to be a loaned executive to acting governor  
14 Rose Mofford on the first day of her -- in her new position.

15                   And I'm -- I'm honored to be here today, to be  
16 standing next to Ray Bladine. That makes me feel really  
17 good. He's a wonderful gentleman and a great administrator.

18                   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19                   CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

20                   VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

21                   CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

22                   VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Gonsher, each of us,  
23 as commissioners, I believe have strived -- worked  
24 independently and together, drawing upon our own strengths  
25 and under the leadership of our chair, to move forward

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1 together and as united as possible as a Commission. And I  
2 hope that continues, and it's my sense that it will.

3                   It's conceivable, however, that down the road  
4 there might come a time where commissioners have different  
5 opinions, honest, good faith disagreements on material  
6 matters. It's even conceivable -- although, I hope not, and  
7 I have no sense that it's coming -- that commissioners could  
8 have disagreements that are, perhaps, intractable.

9                   As the executive director, how would you --  
10 what would you view your role as in dealing with  
11 circumstances like that?

12                   MR. GONSHER: I see the executive director's  
13 role as being fair to all of the commissioners and treating  
14 all of you equally, providing all of the same information at  
15 the same time to teach of you, never sharing information with  
16 one without sharing it with the entire group, never following  
17 up on a directive from just one, without letting the rest of

18 the group know that this directive has been made. And if  
19 they're comfortable with it, that's fine; if not, then maybe  
20 we'd want to talk about it.

21 In all of my experience with boards and  
22 commissions, there are some -- there are always some who  
23 don't agree with the others. But they have always acted in a  
24 civil manner, both publicly and privately, and I would expect  
25 nothing less from this Commission.

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1 I've read your resumes, just as you've read  
2 mine. I've seen you in action at a couple of the Commission  
3 meetings. And I expect that the executive director, whomever  
4 you select, is going to have a very good relationship, not  
5 only with the entire group, but with each of you  
6 individually.

7 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Other question?

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

10 Mr. Gonsher, describe to me your management  
11 style.

12 MR. GONSHER: There are two components to my  
13 management style. One of them I simply call participatory  
14 management. And what that means is that everybody who is  
15 affected by the decision has a hand in the decisionmaking  
16 process. In my experience, it's been employees and  
17 stakeholders.

18 Two quick examples. When I moved into the  
19 racing department, the employees were very upset about the  
20 configuration of the work stations. All of them faced in

21 different directions. There was no rhyme or reason to the  
22 way they were structured. And they came to me and said,  
23 "Mr. Brand-new Director, will you change all of this and make  
24 it better?" And I said, "No."

25 I gave them a blank sheet of paper, showed

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1 them where my office was. And I said, "You, employees, work  
2 together and come up with a new game plan for how the office  
3 ought to look." I gave them only two specifics that were  
4 important to me. One was that every door to every cubicle be  
5 facing, in some manner, toward the front door of the agency.  
6 And the other was that similar functions be in proximity --  
7 not next to, but in proximity to each other. I think some of  
8 the people didn't want to be living next door to each other  
9 for some reason.

10 And they gave me a plan in which there was  
11 only one issue that I had to change, and that is one employee  
12 had her door still facing toward the outside stairway that  
13 left the building. I changed that. But I gave them complete  
14 authority to redesign an entire office.

15 A bigger example at racing is that I wanted to  
16 propose a drug testing program for employees of the tracks  
17 that had never been in existence before. And I came up with  
18 an initial game plan, which, admittedly, was way too  
19 stringent. And, as a result of that, got quite a reaction  
20 from the track owners and operators.

21 And so what I did was I gave that to them and  
22 I said, "Then you give me a plan that we can, together, put  
23 into place." Initially, their reaction was there's no need

24 for a plan, there's no need for any drug testing of our  
25 employees, all of our employee are clean. The records did

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1 not show that.

2                   But after several months of working together,  
3 I accepted their plan, which was much, much less stringent  
4 than what I'd initially proposed. But the important things  
5 were that, first, there was a plan in place to drug test  
6 employees, selected employees. The second was that I was not  
7 simply handing them a plan and saying, "This is what the  
8 policy is going to be."

9                   I said to them, "You are the ones who are  
10 affected by it. You are the ones who ought to have a hand in  
11 how this drug-testing plan ought to be designed. That's the  
12 first component.

13                   The second is communications. I think it's  
14 really important to always be communicating with your  
15 employees and your stakeholders and your customers --  
16 whatever you want to call them. I have always had an  
17 open-door policy, which means employees can walk in at any  
18 time and talk about anything they want.

19                   I've had employees who have disagreed with me  
20 but have not felt reluctant to walk in and tell me why  
21 they've disagreed with me. They're surprised at times, if  
22 they've disagreed on an issue and said, "This is the way we  
23 ought to do it," and I would turn back to them and say, "I'm  
24 not sure about that, but how about if you select two of your  
25 colleagues and do some research and come up with an idea and

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1 bring it back to me, and maybe it will be a better way for us  
2 to do it than the way that I'm doing it today." And, often,  
3 it's a better way.

4 I think it's really important for projects to  
5 be touched and seen by as many people as possible. It's rare  
6 in my career when anything I've written has ever left the  
7 office without three or four different people reading it and  
8 editing it. And not only changing grammar and punctuation,  
9 which at times is necessary, but changing the tone and  
10 substance of it at times. It's really important to get that  
11 different perspective.

12 And that's very much a part of my management  
13 style, is to reach out to all sorts of people to say, "what  
14 do you think about this? Tell me how I can make it better."

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

17 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair,  
18 Mr. Gonsler, kind of a follow-up on that. There are many  
19 different people and organizations in our state that have a  
20 stake in the work that our agency is going to do -- citizens,  
21 government groups, elected officials, political parties and  
22 the press just to name a few.

23 How do you stay informed about all of the  
24 currents that will be swirling around the state with regard  
25 to the Commission, and how will you apply that to your job?

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1 MR. GONSHER: Currently, I try to stay in  
2 touch with public issues by -- I read four newspapers a day.  
3 I go online, and I read political blogs, understanding the  
4 validity of -- the limited validity sometimes of the blog  
5 information. I think we've all read some of those. And  
6 there are some of them that are also very, very good.

7 I ask a lot of questions. I have colleagues  
8 in different public areas of the state, and we chat often  
9 about what's going on -- never sharing confidential  
10 information, of course. But I would certainly continue all  
11 of what I've done in the past.

12 what I would be doing in this position is part  
13 of the public outreach program, and that is to -- not only to  
14 plan these first round of public meetings, but also the  
15 second round of public meetings, but also to get into the  
16 social network environment.

17 I think it's also essential that whatever  
18 information is sent to the Commission ought to be available  
19 online to anybody and everybody who wants it.

20 At racing, we sent out our Racing Commission  
21 packet every month online to a couple of hundred recipients.  
22 And the packet was about this thick. And it was -- it was  
23 really helpful for people to be able to read information  
24 before they came to a commission meeting.

25 And I would expect that this Commission may

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1 want the same, that people who appear at the Commission  
2 meetings are educated and informed, so when they appear, when  
3 they make presentations, they are familiar with the

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4 information.

5 I would -- I would not see it as my role to  
6 meet individually with organizations, because of the  
7 impression of impropriety. I believe that if there are  
8 organizations, public officials -- whomever -- citizens who  
9 want to share a view, that view ought to be available to every  
10 Commission member and not necessarily the executive director.

11 Now with that said, the executive director  
12 does have a responsibility to educate people, if they are so  
13 inclined to be educated, if they have factual questions, if  
14 they want to know about the process, what's going to happen,  
15 what's out there and how it's going to change and what it's  
16 going to look like at the end and so on.

17 But opinions expressed by individuals who want  
18 to in some way -- some positive way influence the outcome of  
19 your product ought to be available to all of you in public  
20 session.

21 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

22 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions from other  
23 commissioners?

24 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

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1 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Gonsler, could you  
2 please describe for us the nature and scope of any prior  
3 experiences you've had with redistricting efforts; or if not,  
4 any other similar -- what you would regard as similar  
5 professional experiences you've had and how those experiences  
6 you've had would benefit this Commission.

7 MR. GONSHER: I actually had to reach back  
8 into my history in the early 1980s when the City of Phoenix  
9 went through its first districting process. Prior to that  
10 time, city council members were elected at large in the City  
11 of Phoenix. And because of the public vote, they were making  
12 the districts.

13 At the time, I was a managing assistant to  
14 Mayor Margaret Hance, and I was assigned the role of  
15 principal staff assistant to the project -- a position  
16 comparable to what the executive director is today.

17 The position did not require the technical  
18 development of information. That was done by a private  
19 contractor. It was the Rose Institute from the Claremont  
20 McKenna College.

21 But my job was to make sure that the elected  
22 officials always knew that their requests were being  
23 considered, and that they always knew what information was  
24 going to be prepared and when they were going to have a  
25 chance to review it.

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1 It was an administrative role, it was not a  
2 technical role, but it was exposure to the process. And so I  
3 have a little bit of experience.

4 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

5 MR. GONSHER: I have to tell you, though, Mr.  
6 Commissioner, times have changed considerably since the early  
7 1980s in terms of districting and redistricting and you know  
8 that.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, that leads  
11 me to my next question, which is: why are you here? what is  
12 placed on your heart that -- this is going to be an  
13 extraordinarily difficult task, and not just for the five  
14 volunteers that are here, but you, as a -- as a paid  
15 executive managing this process.

16 The other commissioners have touched upon it  
17 briefly, but what is placed on our heart that would want you  
18 to take this role of executive director, looking at our  
19 jambalaya and our stew and our chaotic condition, knowing  
20 that we're all -- we're all playing nice in the sandbox  
21 together, but there is going to come a time when there is  
22 going to be difficulty between the members of the general  
23 public and the members of the Commission, that we are going  
24 to be pulled in many, many different directions?

25 MR. GONSHER: When I first saw the recruitment

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1 bulletin online, I thought to myself, that's what I've done  
2 my entire career. And to continue doing what I've done  
3 successfully, I hope, was an attractive thing for me to think  
4 about.

5 Rather than going a completely different  
6 direction in my career, rather than going to the private  
7 sector, rather than becoming a lobbyist, which I have  
8 absolutely no interest in doing, rather than becoming an  
9 elected official, a candidate for public office, which I  
10 would never ever, ever have any interest in doing, I thought  
11 that this position would afford me the opportunity to do what  
12 I do best and that is manage.

13           The second reason is that what this Commission  
14 accomplishes -- and you know this -- is substantial. It's  
15 the basis for our voice in Washington, our voice down the  
16 street. That's so, so important to our population in  
17 Arizona. And to be a part of that process, I think, is  
18 personally fulfilling for all of us who would be part of that  
19 process.

20           The third reason is I'm too young, I'm too  
21 healthy and I'm too active not to be much more productive in  
22 life. And this gives me that -- this would give me that  
23 opportunity.

24           COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

25           CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

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1           COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair?

2           Mr. Gonsher, speaking of young and healthy,  
3 you're going to be subjected to a great deal of stress and  
4 meeting the needs of the members of this Commission and staff  
5 and the stress of the community's perception and of molehills  
6 being made into mountains.

7           Tell us how you maintain balance in your  
8 dealings with such things

9           MR. GONSHER: Ms. McNulty, if you ask my wife,  
10 she'd have a different answer than I have today.

11           COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Is she here.

12           MR. GONSHER: No. No, she's not.

13           when I left racing two and a half years ago, I  
14 knew I would be going into a period of my life in which I  
15 would not have as much structure. And so -- and I had heard

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16 from many, many people that when you go into that period of  
17 your life, you -- you experience negativity in many ways and  
18 so you have to be prepared for it.

19 Two months after I left the agency, I went to  
20 the Omega Institute in Upstate New York, which teaches  
21 people a term they use, which is used often, which is  
22 "mindfulness," the ability to think about what's important in  
23 a positive way. I mean, that's generalized. That takes  
24 thousands of other words and many, many discussions and so  
25 on.

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1 And I really try to think of things in my life  
2 in that manner, whether it's professional or personal. I --  
3 I always try to look at things in a positive way and think  
4 about the positive aspect of things. Yes, there are  
5 negativities. But when you think about it, life goes on.

6 You may get upset about something, you may not  
7 agree with something or somebody. But in the scheme of  
8 things, in our lives, life goes on and that's important to  
9 keep in mind.

10 I also work out at the Y three or four days a  
11 week, and I think that's important for everybody to maintain  
12 their healthfulness. And my dogs are tired of me petting  
13 them.

14 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

15 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions from the  
16 commissioners?

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I do have a final  
18 question, and then a follow-up.

19

CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead, Mr. Stertz.

20

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Gonsher, as a  
21 Commission, the Constitution prescribes that we exercise our  
22 duties in a fair and independent manner. The word  
23 "independent" appears numerous times in the constitutional  
24 language. The executive director position is going to be an  
25 integral part of our Commission.

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1 Is there anything in your background that  
2 either political party could use to draw into question your  
3 independence?

4 MR. GONSHER: It's no secret that I have  
5 worked for elected officials for most of my career. In  
6 working for those individuals, I've been involved in many,  
7 many public issues. One never knows in today's times how  
8 one's involvement in those issues might be reconstrued --  
9 misconstrued. You do the best job you can, and you hope for  
10 the best. But in today's political times, one never knows  
11 how something might be looked at by an individual.

12 I can honestly say to you that there has never  
13 been a time in my career when I have crossed the line of  
14 honesty. And I have tried to be as fair as possible in all  
15 of my projects and in all of my responsibilities to my  
16 bosses.

17 So I don't believe there's anything in my  
18 career, but with that I'll say what everybody says, you never  
19 know how somebody's going take a look at something you did.  
20 I can tell you, honestly, that I've had to make some very  
21 difficult decisions as the director of those agencies. And

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22 those decisions have made some people unhappy, more than  
23 unhappy. And those people probably do not consider me a  
24 friend today. And those people, if you were to ask them,  
25 might not say something positive about me today. That's the

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1 business we're in, and you just have to live with it.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a follow-up to that  
3 question, you, in your history, have you made contributions  
4 to any political party, political affiliation, political  
5 organization or individual running for political office that  
6 would come up in a public records search?

7 MR. GONSHER: Yes, sir. And I would hope that  
8 they would come up in a public records search, because that's  
9 how it's supposed to work. I've contributed to friends who  
10 have run for public office on both sides of the aisle. I've  
11 contributed to both parties at times in my career depending  
12 upon the times. So you ought to see where I have made  
13 some -- what I would consider to be minor contributions to  
14 these individuals and organizations.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Could you give us some  
16 examples of party contributions that you might have made?

17 MR. GONSHER: Sometime in the last five years,  
18 I made a contribution to the Democratic party, the local  
19 Democratic party here.

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Was it a substantive  
21 contribution, or was it a minor contribution?

22 MR. GONSHER: I'll tell you the amount, and  
23 you can decide if it was substantive or not, because it's  
24 hard to tell the difference between the two. I seem to

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25 recall it was about a thousand dollars, give or take.

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1 But it's been a few years, and I just don't  
2 remember the details. But probably in that neighborhood.

3 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I appreciate that.

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions? Mr.  
5 Herrera.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I do have a follow-up  
7 question, Madam Chair. Being a, you know, active citizen,  
8 where you are involved -- you, obviously, do other things  
9 outside of work, including, you know, donating to parties.

10 what kind of impact, if any, does that have --  
11 in terms of your -- your beliefs, your political beliefs,  
12 you donate to candidates, if we were to hire you, what impact  
13 would that have on your ability to do the job, if any?

14 MR. GONSHER: It would have absolutely no  
15 impact. This is an administrative job. It's in a  
16 controversial political arena, no doubt about that.

17 But the job of the executive director is one  
18 of as a public administrator. The executive director will  
19 not be making the decisions that you'll be making. The  
20 executive director's job is to make sure that you have the  
21 best information, in a timely manner, for you to make those  
22 decisions.

23 The fact that I've contributed to Candidate X  
24 two years ago will have absolutely no impact on the job that  
25 I would do for you, nor would I expect that Candidate X would

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1 ever approach me on the matters in which I would have to  
2 be able -- that would just be -- for any of the candidates  
3 I've ever worked for, that just -- it's not something that I  
4 would even anticipate, because they do know what kind of  
5 administrator I am.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

7 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions?

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: No.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Mr. Gonsher, thank you  
10 very much for your time and for coming today.

11 MR. GONSHER: Thank you very much.

12 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I think that takes us to  
15 Item III on the agenda, and that's a call for public comment.

16 Just a reminder for anybody who came in late,  
17 if you would like to address us during public comment, please  
18 fill out a Request To Speak Form. Right now I have two, so  
19 we'll go ahead and get started.

20 The first speaker, and if you'll please come  
21 up to the podium, is Douglas Johnson. He's the president of  
22 National Demographics Corporation. And he -- the subject  
23 today is Item 3, "Useful Resources From Last Commission."

24 MR. JOHNSON: Madam Chair, Members of the  
25 Commission, my name is Douglas Johnson. I'm president of

1 National Demographics Corporation. I mainly just want to say  
2 hello and offer any information and anything, really, that

3 would be useful to you.

4                   We were the technical consultants to the last  
5 Redistricting Commission, and I look forward to the  
6 opportunity of providing a bid to you.

7                   One thing I did want to mention is there are a  
8 couple of records. As you mentioned, you are working through  
9 the hiring process and getting up to speed. If people are  
10 looking forward to planning their testimony and how they can  
11 offer input that might help jumpstart this effort once you do  
12 get to that stage, it's probably useful to know that the last  
13 Commission left behind two things.

14                   One was a report on the districts that they  
15 adopted and the communities of interest that they looked at  
16 in each one. And the other was a -- from the court records,  
17 is a step-by-step process of how they looked at communities  
18 and made decisions on communities of interest.

19                   I, obviously, don't offer these as guidance  
20 for things that you should follow, more as a baseline that  
21 people looking to offer testimony can look at what's in the  
22 record already and how they might either agree with or  
23 disagree with that and give you guidance at this time.

24                   So I just want to point out a couple of  
25 resources that might be useful to you and to the public as

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1 they get ready for this fast and furious process. And just  
2 say "Hi" and offer any other advice or information that will  
3 be useful to you as you go forward. Thank you very much.

4                   CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

5                   COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Our next speaker is Steve  
7 Muratore, Publisher of "Arizona Eagletarian." The subject is  
8 "Executive Director Timeline And Procurement Code."

9 MR. MURATORE: Good morning, Madam Chairman,  
10 Commissioners. Good to see you again.

11 I wanted to say -- let's see. Let's talk  
12 about the timeline and procurement code first. I wanted to  
13 reflect on the frustration that was mentioned by a couple of  
14 commissioners last week and note that -- or recall that you  
15 guys signed up for what you knew was going to be a major  
16 demand on your time. So I'm very hopeful that you're not  
17 going to shortchange protections already in place for  
18 established procurement of big ticket money consultants just  
19 to save yourselves a little bit of time.

20 I understand the pressures, and I know you've  
21 got to balance the whole thing. But please don't shortchange  
22 Arizona taxpayers because you're pressured for time.

23 The other thing is I wanted to note that  
24 Mr. Gonsler has served, according to his resume in the  
25 documents available, extended periods time under governors of

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1 both parties. And I think that's a very good indicator of  
2 his ability to be impartial. And, obviously, both candidates  
3 are well qualified, but I wanted to make that point. Thank  
4 you.

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Muratore.  
6 That brings -- is there anyone else who wanted  
7 to speak today?

8 (No verbal response.)

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. That concludes public  
10 comment. We'll move to Item IV on the agenda, discussion and  
11 possible action on hiring an executive director. The  
12 Commission may vote to go into executive session for the  
13 purpose of discussing personnel matters.

14 So I open this up to the Commission to let me  
15 know how they'd like to proceed.

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, I'd like to  
17 move to go into executive session to discuss employment  
18 matters.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Do I hear a second?

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I'll second it.

21 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

22 VOICE VOTES: Aye.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Hearing none, we'll go ahead

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1 and go into executive session. The time is 12:30.

2 (Whereupon, a recess ensued at 12:30 p.m., and  
3 the following was had:)

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. The public session  
5 meeting will be coming to order now. It's 1:22 p.m.

6 Thank you for everyone's patience during the  
7 executive session and for sticking with us.

8 I'd like to first just thank both candidates  
9 for really excellent interviews both today and last week. We  
10 really appreciate having a choice between two very  
11 accomplished people and who have both long records of public

12 service. And we thank you for throwing your names in the hat  
13 and for going through this process with us.

14 So if there's no objection, I propose we  
15 nominate by unanimous consent Raymond Bladine to the position  
16 of executive director.

17 Hearing no objection, by unanimous consent Ray  
18 Bladine will be our next -- will be our executive director.

19 And I'd like to let commissioners comment on  
20 any of the -- of their thoughts on this executive director  
21 nomination that we've just made.

22 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

24 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Before we do that, I'd  
25 just like to close the circle on this appointment. I would

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1 move that the Commission authorize Commissioner McNulty to  
2 work with Susan Laurence of the Department of Administration  
3 to finalize the contract between the Commission and our new  
4 executive director.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

7 (No verbal response.)

8 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

9 VOICE VOTES: Aye.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

11 (No verbal response.)

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. The motion carries.

13 So, Commissioner McNulty, you will be working  
14 with Susan Laurence from ADOA to finalize a contract for

15 Mr. Bladine. And now if there's any comments from other  
16 commissioners on our nomination.

17 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

19 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I would just like to  
20 reiterate what our chair has mentioned. This was a very  
21 difficult decision for all of us, and we really put a lot of  
22 thought into it -- not an easy decision. We had some  
23 excellent, excellent candidates, all of whom could have  
24 stepped into this role. And I really was impressed, so my  
25 gratitude.

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1 I learned a lot from talking with them, and  
2 I'm very thankful that they applied and put them through --  
3 put themselves through this.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair? I --

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I echo the comments that  
7 Commissioner Freeman just made. It was difficult for me,  
8 definitely, because I could have gone either way. It was two  
9 very competent individuals. The good thing is that they --  
10 that they both like each other, made good comments about each  
11 other. I was hoping somebody would say something negative  
12 about each other and I'd be like, you know, I think I'm going  
13 to go with the other guy. But that didn't happen. So it  
14 was -- it was tough.

15 I wish Mr. Gonsler the very best. I wish we  
16 could have hired both of them. So thank you -- thank you  
17 both for participating in this, and I look forward to working

18 with Mr. Bladine.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Other  
20 commissioners?

21 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It really was a very  
22 difficult decision. I actually feel a little bit choked up  
23 about having two such dedicated and talented public servants  
24 offer to take this journey with us. It was very, very hard  
25 to choose, but we knew that we couldn't have them job share.

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1 Somebody has to take the lead.

2 And, although, I would have enjoyed working  
3 very much with Mr. Gonsher, I'm also very much looking  
4 forward to working with Mr. Bladine. I think he has an easy  
5 way about him and a sense of humor that I think will hold us  
6 in good stead.

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Gonsher,  
10 Mr. Bladine, I am extraordinarily impressed by your tenacity,  
11 your resumes, your willingness to serve, your willingness to  
12 step up to a plate that we don't even know what it's going to  
13 look like. It was a very, very challenging decision to make.

14 And I want to thank both of you for your  
15 willingness as individuals, as human beings when I asked the  
16 question about, well, what is it in your heart. This is a  
17 job that is going to be coming from your heart. And the five  
18 of us up here are recognizing what that means, and you'll be  
19 joining us, Mr. Bladine, in understanding that as well.

20 So as I -- I want to pass congratulations to  
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21 both of you. And, Mr. Bladine, I'm looking forward to  
22 working with you on the Commission.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Any other comments?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 CHAIR MATHIS: I have made mine. And I just,

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1 again, congratulate and applaud you both for going through  
2 this with us and appreciate your thoughtfulness in preparing  
3 for these interviews, too. You both did great jobs. And I  
4 look forward to moving forward with Mr. Bladine.

5 There might be one other person that I think  
6 we should talk about, and that's our interim executive  
7 director, Megan Darian, who has been assigned to us by the  
8 Arizona Department of Administration and has been helping us  
9 out for the past several weeks. She might be the one person  
10 who's more excited than the Commission to actually get the  
11 executive director position hired.

12 Thank you, Megan, for everything you've done  
13 for us. We really appreciate it. You've done an excellent  
14 job. And we look forward to having you help with the  
15 transition and facilitate Mr. Bladine's role.

16 So with that, I think we're thinking, since  
17 it's 1:30-ish, we might take a short recess and maybe give an  
18 opportunity for Ms. Laurence to speak with Mr. Bladine about  
19 steps. And if -- is a half-hour enough for everyone? Is  
20 that good for a recess?

21 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It works for me, Madam  
22 Chair.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: And just a quick lunch or

24 whatever. So we'll go ahead and recess, starting at 1:30.

25 And if everyone could be back by 2:00 to

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1 continue the meeting, that would be great. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, a lunch break was taken at 1:30  
4 p.m., and the following was had:)

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. The meeting will come to  
6 order. It's 2:15 or almost. Sorry for the delay. We went a  
7 little over our recess, but we're all well fed now, ready to  
8 go.

9 So it takes us to Item V on the agenda,  
10 discussion and possible action on office space options. And  
11 at our last meeting, I think Commissioner Stertz volunteered  
12 to work with Nola Barnes from the Arizona Department of  
13 Administration and folks from the Industrial Commission to  
14 talk about some space options in various locals.

15 And I'm hopeful today that we'll be able to  
16 actually choose a location. So I'm looking forward to  
17 hearing what Commissioner Stertz found.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Nola, first of all, I  
19 want to apologize, because I told you yesterday that I  
20 wouldn't be asking you to be bothered to come over here  
21 today. But can we go through a couple of these options?

22 MS. BARNES: Sure.

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks.

24 Madame Chair, in the packet that I've prepared  
25 this morning is a compilation of some real and some estimated

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1 data. The real data, some of it was derived by -- and  
2 there's a supplemental piece, and that was also prepared by  
3 Nola. And that was in the packet distributed this morning.

4 But what I was trying to look at was really a  
5 comparison of the two primary spaces that we're looking at,  
6 which is the building across the street, which we're  
7 referring to as the Evans building, and then three options  
8 that were discussed in a conference call between Nola and  
9 representatives from ICA, correct?

10 MS. BARNES: Right. Executive director and --

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Executive director.

12 Okay. The conversation started out that she  
13 did not have authority to make offer on any of these spaces,  
14 that they all had to be approved by their investment  
15 committee. But I wanted to share with you the -- and the  
16 rest of the commissioners the concept.

17 One, we know -- we know that the Evans -- and  
18 what I did was I broke it down into what I call the gross  
19 leasable area, then what we know the price per square foot is  
20 and an understanding of the utilities and some estimates on  
21 potential tenant improvement requirements, some current data  
22 that we have on data conductivity costs, some fixture,  
23 furnishings and equipment that may be required and/or  
24 purchased and/or picked up out of the bone yard and the idea  
25 about security, too.

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1 And then, lastly, the "Availability and  
2 Tenancy Relationship" would be the relationship we'd be with.  
3 I'm not sure if I -- and the reason, Nola, that I asked you  
4 to come over this afternoon is because you had mentioned  
5 something this morning that gave me an idea that maybe I  
6 should be thinking a little bit more probably about the ICA  
7 building.

8 Can we -- can we talk a little bit about the  
9 Options A, B, C in the ICA building?

10 MS. BARNES: Sure. I don't have a copy of  
11 that spread -- that particular spreadsheet, unless Megan  
12 does.

13 MR. BARTON: Nola, you can have it.

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And maybe you can  
15 explain the relationship between ADOA and ICA and the  
16 contracting rules, between the ease of -- the ease of  
17 contracting or if there's not an ease of contracting with  
18 ICA.

19 MS. BARNES: Okay. Well, basically, the  
20 relationship between the Commission and DOA is there's no  
21 commercial lease involved. The rate is set in the budget by  
22 the legislature. It's a nonnegotiable rate. Currently, it's  
23 15.08 a square foot.

24 whereas, with the Industrial Commission  
25 building, they would initiate a commercial lease scenario.

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1 They are un -- when I say "they," I mean the executive  
2 director would have to take these proposals back to her  
3 investment committee. She indicated she's unsure that they

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
4 would be willing to sign a lease on a short-term basis, which  
5 that may or may not be the case.

6 If we assume the Commission is for two years,  
7 that's what they would consider short term. Past the two  
8 years, we couldn't commit. So maybe we could build a lease  
9 that had, you know, renewals for every year thereafter. But  
10 such a lease of any Option A, B or C would have to go back to  
11 their investment committee for review and approval.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So if I can sort of cull  
13 that down, if we're -- their executive committee or their  
14 investment committee meets again on March 14th -- or May  
15 14th.

16 MS. BARNES: Right.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And so whatever proposal  
18 on the ICA building, the executive director gave us  
19 indication that she may be able to induce them to have a  
20 meeting prior to that, but she could not commit to that.

21 MS. BARNES: That's correct.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay. So, Madam Chair  
23 and the rest of the commissioners, the -- as a comparison  
24 right now of Evans versus ICA, Evans is a nonlease contract  
25 or noncontract. It's just -- basically, it's an agreement

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1 between this Commission to use this space and to compensate  
2 or do a line item transfer between entities of \$15.08 per  
3 square foot of the leasable square footage as defined on  
4 Plan -- on the very first plan in your packet, which is  
5 everything on the first floor of the Evans -- of the Evans  
6 House, which comes out to 27,000 -- approximately, \$27,898

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
7 per year.

8                   we do know that there may be some minor tenant  
9 improvements that may be required. So I had -- I plugged in  
10 an estimate for that. The data connectivity costs came from  
11 Buck, who gives a firm number of \$3,353, which gives us all  
12 of the data connectivity that we need.

13                   And I used the same estimate across the board  
14 for all three options for fixtures, furnishings and equipment  
15 for purposes of this analysis. Giving us a first year total  
16 of \$40,250, approximately, if we take the Evans House, put in  
17 the connectivity that we need, put in some furniture,  
18 fixtures and equipment and do some minor tenant improvements,  
19 which may include the upgrade to the existing security  
20 system. That was -- so that's -- that's how I got to that,  
21 to that analysis.

22                   And if you look at Options B, C and -- B, D  
23 and C, B -- or Option A -- excuse me -- Options A, B and C,  
24 Option A was a square footage that was very similar to the  
25 Evans House square footage; meaning, that by taking Option A

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1 space on the fifth floor of the ICA building, it would be  
2 1,913 square feet. Again, I want to say that this has not  
3 been offered to us as being available to take. We would be  
4 making an offer to ICA's investment committee whether or not  
5 they would consider taking this space.

6                   Option B is also -- it's a slightly larger  
7 space, but this has also not been an offered and approved  
8 option being presented by ICA. This would also have to go  
9 back to investment committee.

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10 Option C, which is a total of 3,303 square  
11 feet is a leasable square footage area at a square footage  
12 price of \$16.50 a square foot gross. And there would be --  
13 have to be no need to go back. That is something that has  
14 already been -- that's already been acceptable, because  
15 that's already in their marketing -- they're already trying  
16 to market that space as a whole.

17 MS. BARNES: That's right.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So there's no nuance to  
19 it. So if we're looking at something where a decision will  
20 be made today, it's -- the option would be Evans House versus  
21 Option C. If we are looking to continue the evaluation, we  
22 can make a presentation to the investment commission or the  
23 investment committee May 14th for either Options A or B.

24 Is that a good synopsis?

25 MS. BARNES: That's a good synopsis.

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1 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Commissioner Stertz  
3 and Nola for your help on this. We really appreciate the  
4 legwork. This is a great spreadsheet to kind of at a glance  
5 look at the options before us, and I think that's helpful so  
6 that we can compare amenities and costs.

7 Any thoughts from commissioners on the  
8 information in the packet?

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, a couple of  
10 things --

11 CHAIR MATHIS: Sure, Mr. Herrera.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can someone explain to me

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
13 the "F F & E Required" versus the "Estimate"?

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: well, we know that -- we  
15 know that in ICA Building Option A, there currently is some  
16 fixtures, furnishings and equipment --

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Oh.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- that we have been  
19 given knowledge by the executive director and confirmed  
20 yesterday that the intent would be that those partitions that  
21 are currently stacked up against the wall, that were in the  
22 offices, and the chairs that are stacked up on the wall were  
23 already there. So there wouldn't need to be a requirement.  
24 we just need to reassemble.

25 MS. BARNES: Right.

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1 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We also know that if we  
2 would go into B or C, those spaces are currently empty.

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And my next question is  
4 regarding the -- let's see -- the data connectivity and also  
5 the tenant improvement estimates. So we would be responsible  
6 for those fees and not the owners of the building or the  
7 State?

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I would hope that during  
9 the conversation of negotiations with the State that we would  
10 be able to be flexible with the Evans House. I'm going to  
11 guess that with the ICA, that it would part of the lease  
12 negotiations.

13 MS. BARNES: Depending on the extent of tenant  
14 improvements, I don't know if it was during our conversation  
15 or after we actually concluded the conference call, they

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
16 indicated that under a certain dollar threshold that they  
17 would prefer that the tenant improvements are paid up front  
18 by the tenant.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

20 MS. BARNES: If they were of a significant  
21 amount, they might consider amortizing those costs into the  
22 lease rate. But that didn't appear to be a consideration,  
23 unless you were going to do \$100,000. You know, they didn't  
24 throw out that number, but that's an example.

25 As far as the Evans House, the tenant

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1 improvements are paid up front to DOA from the client. But  
2 I -- I can't imagine there are -- there's a large dollar  
3 amount of tenant improvements you all are looking forward to  
4 move forward with at Evans House. It's --

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: At Evans House, I  
6 included that number as an upgrade to the security system to  
7 make sure that it was up in operation. Because right now,  
8 there is a security system there, but it is not --

9 MS. BARNES: And it's only an intrusion alarm  
10 there, right.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: It's an intrusion alarm,  
12 and it's not monitored as I understand.

13 MS. BARNES: Right.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: And I think Mr. Hernandez from  
15 ADOA was going to look into that fact, so that the security  
16 system would be -- you know, have a panic alarm or something  
17 and find out what that cost would be. So he told me he would  
18 be looking into that.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So I tried to use that  
20 number just as a equal number across the -- you know, for  
21 what those costs would be.

22 MS. BARNES: And -- oh. I'm sorry.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead.

24 MS. BARNES: Pardon me.

25 CHAIR MATHIS: No, no, please.

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1 MS. BARNES: The 15.08 is for fiscal year 12.  
2 So that is not for the duration of the Commission's tenancy  
3 in the building unless, for instance, the legislature  
4 continues that rate for the duration. Those rates fluctuate  
5 from year to year based on budget proposals.

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Is it true that the Secretary  
7 of State's Office has paid rent through June 30th of this  
8 year, or do we know?

9 MS. BARNES: Yes, they have paid rent --

10 CHAIR MATHIS: For Evans House?

11 MS. BARNES: -- for fiscal year 11. Yes.

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Ms. McNulty?

13 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Is the Evans House  
14 available now? We wouldn't have to wait until June 30?

15 MS. BARNES: You don't have to wait until June  
16 30th. It's ready to be occupied as long as you can get  
17 furnishings in there.

18 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: And the data  
19 connectivity, are there any delays associated with that  
20 issue, or is that fairly simple to address?

21 MR. FORST: It's fairly simple. A slight, you

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
22 know, lead time for working to get the installation taken  
23 care of. So --

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We discovered there's no  
25 trenching involved. That's good news.

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: That's good news. And I just  
2 want to also thank Buck for following through on those  
3 quotes. I appreciate that. I didn't acknowledge him  
4 earlier, but he did some legwork to get that information for  
5 us on connectivity. Thank you.

6 MR. FORST: You're welcome.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I guess my question to  
10 the Commission would be when do we want to -- do we have a  
11 deadline of when we want to move into the new place?

12 Because, obviously, if we do have a specific  
13 deadline, the Evans House would be the easiest option of  
14 these four. So I don't know how important for us to move  
15 quickly.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: I'm a fan of moving quickly. I  
17 would like to move forward, because I think we've been pretty  
18 deliberate in our investigations already. And that's -- to  
19 me, the sooner the better that we can get our executive  
20 director housed and begin to have other staff involved.

21 And as we just mentioned data connectivity,  
22 there is some lead time with that. And the sooner we can  
23 give them the go, the better.

24 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: would you entertain a

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
25 motion, Madam Chair?

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: I would.

2 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would move that we  
3 proceed with entering into a -- an agreement with ADOA to use  
4 the Evans House as our base of operations.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, would we  
8 want to amend the motion to include giving the go-ahead to  
9 ADOA for the data connectivity costs to proceed with that as  
10 well?

11 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would accept that  
12 amendment, yes.

13 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Does the motion -- the  
14 amended motion have to be seconded?

15 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, yes. You can just  
16 ask the person who made the second if he also --

17 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

18 MR. BARTON: -- accepts the --

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, I do.

20 CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Thank you, Mr. Herrera.  
21 Okay. Any other discussion?

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Who has the furniture?  
23 How does that work?

24 CHAIR MATHIS: We talked -- in like one of our  
25 first meetings, I recall talking about trying to go to

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1 surplus. And I would look to the ADOA to guide us and tell  
2 us how you do that, how you go about shopping for furniture  
3 in surplus.

4 MS. BARNES: We can -- I can put you in touch  
5 with the surplus folks. And if you don't find what you need  
6 there, we can give you the list of vendors for purchasing  
7 furnishings.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Perfect.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, given that  
12 our executive director -- soon to be executive director is  
13 here, I'd like to give him the opportunity just to, if he has  
14 any concerns about this, tell us about them now.

15 He's shaking his head negatively. Thank you.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Hearing no other  
17 discussion, all in favor?

18 VOICE VOTES: Aye.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

20 (No verbal response.)

21 CHAIR MATHIS: Great.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Just a quick -- as we did  
25 with -- as we've done with previous, when we've tried to

1 negotiate a contract, should we appoint -- have one person  
2 for this in case something that Ms. Barnes --

3 CHAIR MATHIS: A lead?  
4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- would need, you know,  
5 a commissioner to speak to without having to bring it back to  
6 the Commission?  
7 CHAIR MATHIS: I think that I'm fine with  
8 that.  
9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think Mr. Stertz is  
10 volunteering himself?  
11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Volunteering or being  
12 volun-told to do that.  
13 CHAIR MATHIS: "Volun-told" -- I like that.  
14 That's great. Thank you for the suggestion, Mr. Herrera.  
15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Do we need to vote on  
16 that?  
17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Let's make a motion.  
18 CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah. Do I hear a motion to  
19 authorize Commissioner Stertz to be the lead on getting the  
20 lease or the agreement set up with ADOA to take -- I don't  
21 want to say take possession, to lease the Evans House?  
22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes.  
23 CHAIR MATHIS: And explore any furniture,  
24 fixtures and equipment.  
25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And ancillary --

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: And ancillary --  
2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I make that option -- I  
3 make that motion.  
4 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Thank you. Do I hear a  
5 second?

6 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Second.  
7 CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?  
8 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Would you accept an  
9 amendment to the motion that this will be done in cooperation  
10 with our new executive director?  
11 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes. Great suggestion.  
12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I amend my motion.  
13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Accepted.  
14 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor of this amended  
15 motion?  
16 VOICE VOTES: Aye.  
17 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?  
18 (No verbal response.)  
19 CHAIR MATHIS: Wonderful. Thank you to the  
20 ADOA, to Buck and Nola and Megan for all the legwork you guys  
21 have done on this. We're really excited about the new space,  
22 and I think it's pretty exciting to go -- you know, just even  
23 with the Centennial coming up next year, I just think it's a  
24 neat iconic building to be located in. And I'm excited about  
25 occupying it, so --

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1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And, Madam Chair, also --  
2 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.  
3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- I'd like to thank  
4 Commissioner Stertz for his work on this. He knows more than  
5 I do about buildings and square footage and gross lease costs  
6 per year, so thank you Mr. Stertz.  
7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My pleasure.  
8 CHAIR MATHIS: I agree. Thank you,

9 Mr. Stertz. And thanks for the great spreadsheet you put  
10 together.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Oh, thank you. And,  
12 Nola, again I apologize for dragging you back over here  
13 today. It was imperative, so I really thank you.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Great. Moving to Item  
15 VI on the agenda, discussion and possible action on hiring  
16 process for executive director, public information officer,  
17 information technology support, community outreach officer  
18 and other administrative support positions.

19 As we've discussed in previous meetings, Ron  
20 Loyd is handling the rest of the HR processes for us for any  
21 other position we opt to fill. And we've had numerous  
22 discussions in past meetings about this IT support specialist  
23 position due to the importance of having as much connectivity  
24 at our meetings as possible and allowing the public to  
25 provide input and that there be lots of transparency for us

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1 going forward.

2 So we know that IT support's going to be very  
3 important; and, especially, as we occupy this new space. So  
4 Mr. Loyd has created for us this IT specialist position based  
5 upon conversations we've had, and we all liked his  
6 description of the position.

7 And the good news is that the ADOA director,  
8 Scott Smith, expedited our request or Justification To Fill  
9 that position. And, fortunately, it was approved. And I  
10 thank Mr. Smith for that and his colleagues for getting that  
11 approved quickly. And so that means, under the hiring

12 freeze, we can go ahead and move forward on that position.

13                   This position is uncovered; meaning, that --  
14 and maybe Mr. Loyd would be the best person if someone has  
15 additional questions on that. But my understanding is  
16 because it's classified uncovered, we can actually as a  
17 Commission appoint someone that we want to fill that  
18 position.

19                   I have received an expression of interest from  
20 Mr. Buck Forst, who is the person who has been helping us so  
21 far on all of our data connectivity issues and web site. And  
22 so we have some alternatives. We can appoint someone today,  
23 or we can go through a normal hiring process of posting the  
24 position, looking at resumes and making a decision.

25                   So I open the floor for discussion on thoughts

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1 on that position and how we move forward.

2                   VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

3                   CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

4                   VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Just for clarification,  
5 the PDQ created the IT position. That has been posted,  
6 correct?

7                   CHAIR MATHIS: It has not been posted. It  
8 is -- and I would appreciate Mr. Loyd's explanation of what  
9 the PDQ does, but the position has not been posted.

10                   VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay.

11                   CHAIR MATHIS: So if you could explain, Mr.  
12 Loyd. And thank you for your help also.

13                   MR. LOYD: Certainly. Certainly. What has  
14 been done with the -- there was no position. It had not been

15 established yet. So the first part of establishing a  
16 position is to get the justification approved so we can go  
17 ahead and do that.

18 We got the mission critical the same time we  
19 were getting the position description, which you approved.  
20 So we've already -- we have a position now. It just means  
21 it's available. We have not done any postings on the State  
22 web site or anything, so the position hasn't been posted.

23 It's an uncovered position; meaning, it's not  
24 covered by the State merit system. It's not covered by the  
25 ADOA personnel rules, which means you have the option to

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1 either appoint somebody that you believe has those  
2 qualifications or you can go through the hiring process,  
3 which would start with a posting, which we have prepared, I  
4 believe, and was sent. So you've had a chance to look at  
5 that.

6 We -- we could post that on the State web  
7 site. We could also post it anywhere else that you want to  
8 post it for a fee. But, you know, that would be up to the  
9 Commission, or you could give it to the executive director,  
10 because he has authority to do the hire process, to go ahead  
11 and have the executive director proceed on that. That would  
12 be the option of the Commission.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Once posted, are we  
14 committed to follow through with that procedure?

15 MR. LOYD: No. It's an uncovered position.  
16 So once posted, you could -- you don't have to -- you don't  
17 have what we call a rule of three, which, by the personnel

18 rules, you have to interview, at least, three. You don't  
19 have to do that with an uncovered position.

20 So you can just -- if you found somebody right  
21 away that you thought was, you could bring them in for an  
22 interview and you could -- you could hire them.

23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 CHAIR MATHIS: Other thoughts?

25 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr. Loyd,

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1 if we were to appoint someone, how is the contracting and  
2 salary scale and the terms of the contract done?

3 MR. LOYD: It's a State employee, so there's a  
4 salary range for that position. It's a very broad salary  
5 range on -- it's a C-4 position. I think on -- we -- I  
6 forget the exact range, but I probably have it here. I don't  
7 know if it's on this one or not. I don't see it.

8 But it's a broad range for a Grade C-4, and  
9 you'd be committed somewhere in that range. We can -- you  
10 can make an offer and negotiate that salary in that range.

11 So it's -- it's up to the Commission how much  
12 they want to pay that individual based on all of the other  
13 factors that may come up.

14 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Loyd, would you  
15 assist us in that process if we were to take that route, in  
16 the same way that Ms. Laurence would be assisting on the --

17 MR. LOYD: I could certainly --

18 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- executive director  
19 position?

20 MR. LOYD: It's normally not my role to do

21 that, but I would give any assistance to the Commission that  
22 you request, yes. That as far as helping the Commission and  
23 the executive director as far as the normal process we go  
24 through, we can provide interview questions.

25 If -- if you needed some kind of a test that

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1 you want the individuals to take to screen to see if their  
2 knowledge was there for certain areas, we have some tests  
3 available -- go through what we have available and what  
4 you're asking for. And as long as it's not -- not an  
5 unreasonable number. We like to narrow it down, because we  
6 don't have that many tests that we purchase. So we can't  
7 screen, say, five or so. We could test that many.

8 And if we narrow it down, we probably couldn't  
9 test, you know, twenty-five or thirty people, because we just  
10 don't have that many tests left for the year.

11 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: But with the actual  
12 hiring process, I was thinking of the actual hiring  
13 process --

14 MR. LOYD: As far as we would help post --

15 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- you would set --

16 MR. LOYD: Yes, we would certainly help post  
17 when you approve the posting. We could help post it. We  
18 would get the resumes in for you. We could screen them for  
19 you if you like. We could forward all of the resumes to you,  
20 whichever you prefer, because it's an uncovered position.

21 we would -- we could set a hiring list up for  
22 you, so that you could -- and we could help with the  
23 interview questions. And we can help as far as if you want

24 to set how you would like the interview, if you want to do  
25 one-on-one interviews or panel interviews. We're available

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1 to do all of that.

2 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: And if we wanted to  
3 interview one person and do it right now and enter into a  
4 contract, would you help us with that contract and deciding  
5 the salary range for --

6 MR. LOYD: It would just be an offer letter.  
7 Yes, we could probably do that. I don't have one with me  
8 right now, but we could certainly -- we could certainly make  
9 a verbal offer to that individual and prepare the paperwork  
10 later, so...

11 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Why I'm talking so  
12 much, Madam Chair, sorry --

13 CHAIR MATHIS: No, no, please.

14 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I might as well just  
15 spit it out. I'm excited to hear that Mr. Forst is  
16 interested. There's, you know, nothing like success. To me,  
17 it's all a mystery. And all I care about is that it works,  
18 and everything he's done for us has worked.

19 And I'm not sure why he'd want to do this, and  
20 I'd be curious to hear about that. But if he's interested in  
21 doing it, I'm all for it.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Mr. Stertz.

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'd like to get the  
25 opinion of our newly selected executive director.

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Bladine.

2 MR. BLADINE: My -- I guess I should put it on  
3 the record.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

5 MR. BLADINE: My opinion would be if that's  
6 what you feel is the right thing to do, do it. You,  
7 obviously, have had the opportunity to work with the  
8 individual, and if the individual's provided you good service  
9 and I know all of you feel that time is of the essence, I  
10 would say go ahead and do it.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My next question is  
12 that -- again, for -- I think it's going to be for ADOA.

13 How is Mr. Frost been compensated -- or  
14 Forst -- Mr. -- how has he been compensated over the -- over  
15 the term that we've been utilizing his services so far?

16 MR. FORST: I'm sorry. I don't really  
17 understand the question.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Is anything coming out  
19 of our budget paying you right now?

20 MR. FORST: The only thing that I have been  
21 paid for so far -- or my department that I work for been paid  
22 for so far is the web site design.

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And in regards to the  
24 web site design and the -- currently -- currently, we are  
25 getting back -- we've got audio available on the web site,

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1 we've got -- who got us to the point that we are on the web  
2 site?

3 MR. FORST: I did.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay. That is the  
5 answer I needed. Thank you. Are you going to put this in  
6 the form of a motion?

7 MR. BLADINE: Madam Chair, I just had, I  
8 guess, one question.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Sure.

10 MR. BLADINE: It probably would be good to  
11 make clear as to what the future employee thinks.

12 Is he going to be coming over here as a  
13 transfer, a loan or complete rehire, that he might lose other  
14 State seniority. That would be the only question I have, so  
15 that we don't get down the road and wonder.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah. It's a great question.  
17 And it's one that I kind of asked about as well, because I  
18 wasn't sure how that would work in kind of a transfer.

19 So I don't if Mr. Forst has any comments to  
20 that question.

21 MR. FORST: I'm not -- I'm not quite sure how  
22 that would work to be honest with you.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Mr. Loyd does --

24 MR. LOYD: I can probably --

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Sorry.

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1 MR. LOYD: -- answer that question.

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

3 MR. LOYD: Since you -- since the position is

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4 yours, it's Redistricting Commission's position, the  
5 individual would have to transfer over. We would transfer  
6 that individual. It would be a straight transfer. It's an  
7 uncovered position, so it's available for hire, because  
8 you've got the justification for the mission critical, so you  
9 can make an offer within the salary range. And we'd just  
10 move the individual. There'd be a requirement for us to  
11 transfer it, and we can do that internally. Our office does  
12 that, so it shouldn't be a hard process.

13 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Loyd. Other  
14 comments from other commissioners, questions?

15 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would move that we  
16 make an offer to Mr. --

17 MR. FORST: Forst.

18 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- Forst -- thank you.  
19 I was about to say Horst -- to serve as our information  
20 technology staff person, and that Mr. Loyd work with Mr.  
21 Bladine to do the necessary paperwork.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

24 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair?

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Barton.

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1 MR. BARTON: Just that we have the record  
2 clear, does "necessary paperwork" include negotiating the  
3 salary?

4 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I wanted to actually  
8 appoint one of the commissioners to join in that negotiation  
9 if needed. I think it makes sense. We did that with the  
10 other, you know, contract negotiations.

11 So anybody here interested in doing it?

12 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: If you're volunteering,  
13 Mr. Herrera, I would add that to my motion.

14 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: That'll teach you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure. Sure. That's  
16 fine.

17 CHAIR MATHIS: That's it, that's affirmative?

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That's affirmative.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Great. Any other  
20 discussion?

21 (No verbal response.)

22 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

23 VOICE VOTES: Aye.

24 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

25 (No verbal response.)

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Great. The motion carries.

2 So going forward, Mr. Loyd and Mr. Bladine  
3 will work together to provide the necessary paperwork and  
4 negotiate salary. And Commissioner Herrera will join in on  
5 that process and facilitate as well. And thank you very much  
6 for helping us get that position filled.

7 And congratulations to Mr. Forst.

8 MR. FORST: Thank you very much.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you for the superb work

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10 you've provided and the service you've provided to us.

11 MR. FORST: Thank you very much. It's been a  
12 pleasure.

13 CHAIR MATHIS: Thanks. All right.

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I must add that our  
15 expectations are extraordinarily high.

16 MR. FORST: I expect that.

17 CHAIR MATHIS: On this agenda item, we say  
18 "and other administrative support positions." And we heard  
19 Mr. Bladine in his interview today reference the executive  
20 assistant position or some kind of support for the executive  
21 director. And we've all talked about these other positions  
22 that the last Commission hired, too.

23 And I just wondered the commissioners'  
24 thoughts on any ideas for moving forward with some of these  
25 other positions and what you see as important to fill next.

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1 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

3 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I think this is the time  
4 and place where the executive director brings forth his  
5 outline and his structure and has preparation for this to be  
6 an agenda item at our next meeting to give us his  
7 recommendations and structure about how he intends to run his  
8 office and start to develop a schedule of how he intends to  
9 operate our -- our next couple of months and then the six  
10 months thereafter.

11 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I would agree with that.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Same here, I agree with  
15 that all.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah, I think we're all in  
17 agreement. It's a great suggestion, Mr. Stertz.

18 So, Mr. Bladine, you're on the hook for --

19 MR. BLADINE: Great.

20 CHAIR MATHIS: -- coming up with a plan, a  
21 staffing plan for the office and what you recommend we fill  
22 next. So --

23 MR. BLADINE: Great. Thank you.

24 CHAIR MATHIS: -- that will be an agenda item  
25 for our next meeting. Great. Thank you.

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1 Any other comments on these positions, Item  
2 VI, before we move on?

3 (No verbal response.)

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Hearing none, Item VII,  
5 discussion of evaluation process for RFPs, Request For  
6 Proposals, for legal counsel and mapping services.

7 I believe, yeah, John Red Horse is here from  
8 the State Procurement Office. Thank you, John, for being  
9 here. John's been a great assistance in helping us get our  
10 Request For Proposal for legal counsel drafted, as well as  
11 issued. And I thought it would be great to have him tell us  
12 where we are in the process, and we can go ahead and ask  
13 questions after that.

14 So thank you for all of your help and hard  
15 work on getting that issue.

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16 MR. RED HORSE: Absolutely. Thank you. Good  
17 afternoon.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Good afternoon.

19 MR. RED HORSE: Status, it is -- has been  
20 issued. It is on the street. I've gotten several inquiries  
21 about, you know, how to respond, and, you know, what is it  
22 for and things of that nature from several firms. It  
23 closes -- I believe it's next Thursday, the 28th, at 3:00  
24 p.m.

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Red Horse, Madam

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1 Chair, which RFP are you referring to -- the legal services?

2 MR. RED HORSE: I'm sorry. This is the legal  
3 services RFP.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you for clarifying  
5 that. Madam Chair?

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I have not seen a copy of  
8 the mapping services RFP.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Right. Yeah. I don't think  
10 that's been issued yet. We'll get to that in a minute. I  
11 don't -- is Don Ellwanger --

12 MR. RED HORSE: No.

13 CHAIR MATHIS: -- here? Okay. So we only  
14 have John from State Procurement with us. So let's deal with  
15 the legal counsel one for now. Any other comments or  
16 questions for Mr. Red Horse on the evaluation process and  
17 what our next steps are?

18 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

19

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

20

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: So the plan, then, is on April 28th at 3:00 p.m., would the Commission then be provided with responses, or do you need to do -- is there an additional step before you send them on to us?

24

MR. RED HORSE: The initial step would be for me to physically open the bid in ProcureAZ. At that point,

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1 I'll have access to all of the proposals. The plan that has  
2 been discussed so far has been to burn all of those proposals  
3 onto a disc for each commissioner. I understand that each  
4 commissioner's going to be on the evaluation committee, at  
5 which point those will be given to you for evaluations.

6

In the effort of speeding this up, you would do that on your own time. And then we would convene at the next meeting immediately following when it closes to actually go through and then evaluate the responses based upon your initial review.

11

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

12

CHAIR MATHIS: And I understand we need to sign a nondisclosure agreement in order to take --

14

MR. RED HORSE: That's correct.

15

CHAIR MATHIS: -- possession of that CD?

16

MR. RED HORSE: That's correct.

17

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

18

MR. RED HORSE: And those were e-mailed to Megan. I believe they were passed out to the Committee today.

21

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

22 MR. RED HORSE: So if I collected those -- I  
23 just need to collect those before I actually deliver the  
24 discs with the proposals on them.

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Red Horse, Madam

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1 Chair, can you explain the nondisclosure statement, please?

2 MR. RED HORSE: The disclosure (sic) statement  
3 is, you know, as you review it, a basic understanding that  
4 you will, you know, adhere to certain rules and guidelines  
5 keeping these proposals confidential, not discussing, not  
6 disclosing. That you don't -- that you don't have any  
7 conflicts of interests with any offers that have been  
8 proposed, at which point, you know, we will know when the  
9 offers are in.

10 But it turns out I do have something with  
11 these three, then we can address those at that time.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

13 MR. RED HORSE: But it's, essentially, that  
14 you will take guardianship of these and keep them  
15 confidential and agree to evaluate in all fairness, unbiased,  
16 et cetera, et cetera.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, Mr. Red  
18 Horse, this is a one-page document; is that correct?

19 MR. RED HORSE: Yes.

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Is that all you need?

21 MR. RED HORSE: Yes.

22 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions for Mr. Red  
23 Horse and questions about our plan to move forward? I think  
24 it was well articulated.

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Ms. McNulty.

2 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Red Horse, thank  
3 you. That sounds like a plan to me.

4 MR. RED HORSE: Okay. And then the process  
5 would be, again, similar for the mapping services. We'd have  
6 you sign the same form. And, again, to expedite, the intent  
7 is the same thing -- you know, burn discs, deliver those  
8 discs, evaluate, you know, on your own, at your pace. And  
9 then at the very immediate meeting following that, assuming  
10 that -- you know, again, if we get a hundred proposals, that  
11 may not be possible. But the intent is as quickly as  
12 possible then to come together to finalize it.

13 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: One question. Will we  
14 get one of these nondisclosure statements from our executive  
15 director, or will this be a committee of five?

16 Will we typically want our executive director  
17 to be reviewing these and commenting on these also?

18 CHAIR MATHIS: That's a good question.

19 Mr. Red Horse, in other commissions, in your  
20 experience with those?

21 MR. RED HORSE: He could be if he, you know,  
22 has the background. And it's not something that I would say  
23 would be a definite no. And, in all likelihood, it could  
24 be -- it could be a yes. So there really isn't anything  
25 coming from my end that would preclude him from being on the

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1 evaluation committee.

2 I would, again, just need to, you know, get a  
3 signature. And I can get him a form directly.

4 CHAIR MATHIS: I would only comment I think it  
5 would be helpful to have him, because if we're expecting  
6 Mr. Bladine to do any kind of contract management work with  
7 our responders, that it would be probably useful to have him  
8 from the beginning to hear that discussion. But --

9 MR. RED HORSE: And if -- there is also an  
10 option if the voting -- if the Commission prefers that the  
11 voting stay with you five, he can be added as a technical  
12 advisor to where he may not have voting rights, but he  
13 definitely would have input and insight as well.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: Good. Okay. Any other  
15 questions or thoughts, comments?

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, Mr. Red  
17 Horse?

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: When do we decide that?

20 Let's just say we want -- obviously, we have a  
21 couple of options for Mr. Bladine. And if the option is to  
22 have him as a technical advisor, nonvoting member of the --  
23 of this interview group, when do we -- when do we decide?

24 Do we decide now or --

25 MR. RED HORSE: I would just need a decision

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1 before I passed out those discs. So if that would be next  
2 Friday, if you had a meeting next Wednesday, it could be done

3 there. It could be addressed now.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We're -- Madam Chair?

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We're not meeting next  
7 week.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Right.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm going to suggest  
10 that Mr. Bladine provide under signature the evaluator  
11 contract of interest form, so it is on file so that -- and  
12 act in the capacity of a technical advisor.

13 And that this Commission stays as a voting  
14 Commission, and that our executive director stays in the  
15 capacity as executive director and technical advisor.

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

17 CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

18 (No verbal response.)

19 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

20 VOICE VOTES: Aye.

21 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

22 (No verbal response.)

23 CHAIR MATHIS: The motion carries. Great.

24 So Mr. Bladine will be a technical advisor to  
25 this process. So we'll make sure that he gets one of these

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1 NDAs to sign. And anything else on the legal counsel RFP  
2 that we want to talk about today?

3 Okay. Mr. Red Horse.

4 MR. RED HORSE: I do have a couple of items  
5 that we would need to address for the evaluation that would

6 need to be handled in executive session that I don't  
7 anticipate would take very long.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: And are you proposing we would  
9 do that today --

10 MR. RED HORSE: If --

11 CHAIR MATHIS: -- April 20th?

12 MR. RED HORSE: If there's not going to be a  
13 meeting before it closes --

14 CHAIR MATHIS: Right.

15 MR. RED HORSE: -- and we go into evaluations,  
16 yes.

17 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Do I hear a motion to go  
18 in executive session to --

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

20 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We still have one more  
22 item that's left regarding minor discussion on the mapping  
23 consultant. Let's get that, just so that --

24 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Referring to that  
25 first --

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1 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- the rest of the  
2 Commission has an understanding before we --

3 CHAIR MATHIS: Sure.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- lose everyone.

5 CHAIR MATHIS: Sure.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And I'll butcher his  
7 name. Mr. Zalwanger -- close?

8 MR. RED HORSE: Ellwanger. Close, yes.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you. -- and I  
10 have been in communication. And, Madam Chair, you've been --  
11 you've been copied on all of our communications. We're in  
12 development of and coming to the finish line on the mapping  
13 consultant RFP. And we're nuancing it.

14 And my recommendation's going to be that we  
15 follow the identical procedure that we are handling in the --  
16 in the acquisition of legal services for the mapping  
17 consultant.

18 It is crystal clear to me that we are -- as  
19 Coach Woodsen would say, "We are -- we are being quick, but  
20 we're not" --

21 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Hurrying.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- "hurrying." So I  
23 truly appreciate your understanding. And as we're moving  
24 this thing forward, we are moving in the appropriate steps  
25 and the appropriate time frame.

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1 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

3 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Just with respect to the  
4 mapping consultant RFP, a couple of weeks ago we had an  
5 extensive session where we worked -- we ensured that the  
6 scope of work we had developed at the previous hearing was  
7 incorporated in the RFP, and then there was going to be a  
8 final step -- at least, my understanding was -- where some  
9 final small changes were made and then approved and it was  
10 issued.

11 what -- what has been transpiring -- I guess  
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12 this is a question for Commissioner Stertz -- between that  
13 hearing, which was down in Tucson and today?

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: In regards to the scope  
15 of services, we -- there's been -- it's been mostly in the --  
16 in Mr. Ellwanger's crafting of the sort of preamble contract,  
17 terms, conditions, scope.

18 And he is working on an evaluation process  
19 that is going to -- he wants to present to us in such a way,  
20 so that we have a clear understanding about how to evaluate  
21 these proposals when they come in. That's really what his  
22 focus has been on.

23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay. So Madam Chair,  
24 Commissioner Stertz, this, it sounds like to me, is something  
25 that's going to need to be reissued to the Commission and all

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1 of us take a look at again --

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

3 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- and approves.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes. Yeah, the scope --  
7 the scope of the discussion that we had for the length that  
8 we had it is staying -- is staying for all intents and  
9 purposes intact.

10 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And you would anticipate  
11 that we would -- the Commission will be provided this in  
12 advance of our next meeting --

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: That's correct.

14 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- when it's contemplated

15 on May 3rd or 4th, I believe, at this point?

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: That's correct.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, just to  
18 confirm, so the RFP for the mapping services will not go live  
19 until the Commission has one final look; is that correct?

20 CHAIR MATHIS: That's what I'm hearing.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. I just wanted to  
22 make sure.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Is there any way around -- this  
24 is in terms of expediting this. Is there anything we can be  
25 doing to help accelerate it, or is it pretty much we're going

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1 to have to review it again?

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We're going to have to  
3 review it again. It's incumbent upon us to have one last  
4 review on it before it goes out the door. We did this --  
5 with this, we should follow the same process. We're not --  
6 again, we are being quick, but we're not hurrying.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I agree.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner McNulty.

9 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, I -- I  
10 have two thoughts, two questions. One is that I think we --  
11 it may make sense to meet next week if we need to to get that  
12 wrapped up, because I do think we need to get that out of the  
13 door. I think it's absolutely essential. Of all of the  
14 things we're looking at, I think that's the most important to  
15 get underway.

16 I also -- I also would ask why we're including  
17 an evaluation process in the RFP. It seems to me that that

18 is something that we should be working on after we issue the  
19 RFP. Because I don't think we built an evaluation process  
20 into our legal counsel RFP. But I would like to just get it  
21 out the door.

22 MR. RED HORSE: A lot of how you want to craft  
23 the RFP is going to be based upon how you're going to  
24 evaluate the requirements. So a lot of times you have to  
25 know the ending to know what you put in, so you get those

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1 correct responses back in the offer. So -- you know.

2 And given the technical nature of the mapping  
3 services with Commissioner Stertz and Don going over, you  
4 know, where they've looked at, there is this need to be a bit  
5 more -- I don't know if it's thorough investigative, but  
6 concise than what is needed with the legal services RFP.

7 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, all of the  
8 commissioners, I think last time, as Mr. Freeman said, it was  
9 our understanding that we were going to be plugging the scope  
10 of work into an RFP that looked very much like what had been  
11 given to us and what had gone out last time.

12 And I do think we know that the end game is  
13 the Arizona Constitution and the ability to provide us with  
14 mapping that complies with that. And that we, as  
15 commissioners, once we receive the applications are going to  
16 have a pretty good sense how to evaluate whether or not the  
17 consultant is in a position to provide those services.

18 So, again, I would like to see the RFP  
19 finalized if possible this coming week and out the door, so  
20 that we can start getting applicants to evaluate.

21 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair --  
22 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.  
23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- and Commission Stertz,  
24 how -- what's your sense of how quickly it could finalized?  
25 Perhaps, then, we could have a meeting

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1 where -- of course, we'd provide public accommodations, but  
2 we appear by phone for one agenda item, which is to review  
3 the final -- the final document and approve it. So I guess  
4 the timing is my question.

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My last -- Commissioner  
6 Freeman, my last -- my last go-round was about 4:30 yesterday  
7 afternoon, where I got my last sort of criteria outline from  
8 Mr. Ellwanger. And I think it's going to take one more phone  
9 call from him and say, "Listen, let's just tighten this up."

10 Because the last conversation that I had with  
11 him in person was yesterday morning, and I said, "I think  
12 we're -- I think that we can tighten it up, go to the street,  
13 define that the criteria's going to be constitutionally  
14 based." It's really reflective of what you just said,  
15 Commissioner McNulty.

16 His concern was that -- was -- was -- was more  
17 how are we going to grade it. How are we, as a Commission,  
18 going to be able to grade these after the fact the questions  
19 are asked. I think that I'm -- I think we've got a strong  
20 enough Commission that we're going to be able to set up a  
21 grading process that when we ask questions that are all  
22 constitutionally based, it's going to be relatively easy for  
23 us to get -- to be able to evaluate these and score these

24 things properly.

25 So I'm not uncomfortable with getting this

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1 thing -- unfortunately, I'm going to be unavailable next  
2 week. And if there's a call-in for a one-time meeting, that  
3 we do a call-in for review and approval. I think I can speak  
4 with Don later today or tomorrow, and let's see if we can get  
5 this thing buttoned up, so we can get it distributed, have a  
6 call-in meeting next week, and get this thing on the street.  
7 I'm all for it.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: I agree. I would like to have  
9 a call next week if we could to finalize this document. I'm  
10 getting requests, actually, for -- it has ramifications for  
11 proceeding in other areas. Because I'm getting requests from  
12 the voter registration file and information, and it's my  
13 understanding from counsel that in our March 1st meeting, I  
14 think it was when I was sworn in, there was an agenda item  
15 regarding releasing data.

16 And we agreed, as a Commission, that the  
17 secretary of state, who is housing that data won't release it  
18 until we direct them to. And we're kind of waiting to see  
19 who we decide on for these mapping services in order to  
20 release that data.

21 So I think -- I think time's of the essence,  
22 and we should go ahead and plan on a call if we could. I'll  
23 find a time next week to finalize.

24 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr.  
25 Stertz, when would we anticipate receiving the draft? By

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1 Friday, perhaps?

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm going to have to  
3 confer with Mr. Ellwanger.

4 MR. RED HORSE: If you guys can get together  
5 this afternoon or tomorrow, that's -- yeah, we could do that.

6 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would like to request  
7 that if at all possible.

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We'll make that happen.  
9 Because he got -- he got really focused on the  
10 grading system --

11 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I understand.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- and started to back  
13 out of the grading system into the RFP.

14 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I think we just need to  
15 focus in on that we're going to have a really small number of  
16 applicants, and we aren't going to need a grading system that  
17 will work for a position which we're going to have a hundred  
18 applicants. And it's all going to be probably like what we  
19 did earlier today. It's going to come down to some  
20 intangible center.

21 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So any other questions  
22 or thoughts on either RFP we'll deal with when we're meeting  
23 later in the agenda?

24 (No verbal response.)

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Hearing none, Mr. Red Horse,

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1 thank you for being here today and for your help in  
2 getting that legal -- oh, sorry. Mr. Barton.  
3 MR. BARTON: Well, Madam Chair, there was the  
4 idea, and I think we actually had a motion for executive  
5 session.  
6 CHAIR MATHIS: Oh.  
7 MR. BARTON: I'm not sure if we had or not,  
8 but -- to deal with some questions that need to be dealt with  
9 confidentially.  
10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?  
11 CHAIR MATHIS: I'm sorry. I forgot --  
12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- is there anything  
13 else on the agenda --  
14 CHAIR MATHIS: -- about that. Yes.  
15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- that could be dealt  
16 with at this time that we could --  
17 CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Release --  
18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- release the --  
19 CHAIR MATHIS: -- the public?  
20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- the public?  
21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, before we --  
22 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.  
23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I have a quick comment.  
24 CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead.  
25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: The scope of work for

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1 both the RFP for legal counsel and also for the mapping  
2 consultants were done -- they were done in public.  
3 what could we possibly be discussing in

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4 executive session that we haven't already discussed with the  
5 scope of work being done in public?

6 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, Commissioner  
7 Herrera, as you'll recall, we actually went into executive  
8 session -- and this, I believe, was when you were  
9 telephonically, so it may not be as strong a memory -- but  
10 when we were actually crafting specific issues with the RFP,  
11 which we -- those documents are confidential until -- until  
12 the bid is disclosed.

13 we did go into executive session for that, and  
14 I believe this is tweaking some of the matters in the RFP.

15 Again, I think it's actually the evaluation  
16 process; is that right?

17 (No verbal response.)

18 MR. BARTON: So these are -- these are  
19 adjustments to components of the RFP, which is a -- it's a  
20 personnel matter in the sense that it's hiring a lawyer, but  
21 then it's also sort of a confidential document matter.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr.  
24 Barton, how would the RFP, when it's ready, be issued?

25 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, Commissioner

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1 McNulty, this goes, I think, to something you said earlier  
2 about when you use different parts of the RFP. The RFP  
3 contains within it the evaluation criteria. And so I believe  
4 Mr. Red Horse has some questions about just sort of  
5 clarifying some components that are not a part, necessarily,  
6 of what the applicants would use, but are just a part of what

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
7 the body uses in evaluating.

8                   So, for example -- and I'm -- these are  
9 entirely fictional now. Say you had, you know, two -- two  
10 criteria and you weighted one more than the other. That's  
11 not something that's released to the applicants, the people  
12 that are responding to the proposals, necessarily, but it is  
13 something that the body uses in evaluating it.

14                   And so I think there's just some questions --  
15 just some questions to clear up on that score.

16                   COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

17                   CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions?

18                   (No verbal response.)

19                   CHAIR MATHIS: Do I hear a motion to go into  
20 executive session to discuss the evaluation process for the  
21 RFP for legal services?

22                   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, before we --

23                   CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

24                   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- second the motion, I  
25 think Commissioner Stertz made a comment that --

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1                   CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Did I miss something?

2                   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- there was anything we  
3 can discuss now before we went into executive session.

4                   CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. That's right.

5                   Is there -- yeah, do we want to move -- is  
6 that okay to take agenda items out of order, Mr. Barton,  
7 and --

8                   MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, yes. You can take  
9 agenda items out of order.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: So the next item on the agenda  
11 is the -- so, Mr. Red Horse, if you don't mind just sitting  
12 down --

13 MR. RED HORSE: Yes.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: -- and waiting. I appreciate  
15 your help. Thank you. Next item on the agenda, then, is  
16 Item VIII, approval of the April 8th, 2011, minutes, the  
17 April 8th, 2011, minutes in the form of a transcript, and the  
18 April 14th, 2011, minutes.

19 At our last meeting, Mr. Freeman agreed to  
20 take the lead on edits to the April 8th minutes, because  
21 there were numerous ones last time and we ended up tabling  
22 the item until today. So if we could start maybe with Mr.  
23 Freeman.

24 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair,  
25 Commissioners, I apologize. I did not complete my homework

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1 assignment.

2 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Oh-oh.

3 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I thought it prudent to  
4 review the transcript of that hearing as I revised the  
5 minutes. I received the transcript; it was e-mailed to me  
6 yesterday. And I looked at it yesterday afternoon, and I  
7 just didn't have enough time.

8 I did complete a redraft of the minutes of the  
9 public session of our April 8th meeting, and I'll be happy to  
10 provide a copy -- I wouldn't expect us to approve them  
11 today -- to everyone before they leave. And I will have the  
12 draft of the minutes of our executive sessions -- or

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13 executive session -- no, executive sessions, we had two -- at  
14 our next hearing.

15 So I would suggest with respect to the minutes  
16 for the April 8th meeting, we table that again until our next  
17 hearing.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: And how about the April 14th,  
19 2011, minutes -- the same?

20 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: well, we have a draft of  
21 those.

22 CHAIR MATHIS: Right.

23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And I have one or two  
24 minor comments if we want to go through those at this time.

25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ. Madam Chair,

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1 Commissioner Freeman?

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

3 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Is it not the intent of  
4 Commissioner Freeman to reformat the minutes to be a  
5 consistent way. And I did not find that in the last draft  
6 that was distributed.

7 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Commissioner Stertz,  
8 Madam Chair, the draft of our April -- of the minutes of our  
9 April 14th meeting is, essentially, the format that I've  
10 reformatted our April 8th minutes.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

12 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And these were not  
13 prepared by me. So I think I'll then forward it -- and I'll  
14 prepare some guidelines for the minute takers, but -- as  
15 well, but I think that's sort of the format I will be looking

04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt  
16 for us to maintain throughout if the rest of the  
17 commissioners -- rest of the Commission likes that sort of  
18 format.

19 It identifies our meeting date, location,  
20 who's attending. And, basically, tracks our agenda in a  
21 concise bullet form manner, sort of summarizes matters  
22 discussed and with some precision identifies action taken by  
23 the Commission, which I think is the most important thing our  
24 minutes set forth.

25 If we want to go through the April 14th

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1 minutes -- why don't we do that now -- I have very few  
2 changes to those minutes.

3 CHAIR MATHIS: Can you just clarify, Mr.  
4 Freeman. I missed it. The format that you are proposing we  
5 use is this April 14th version with the bullets?

6 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes, essentially.

7 CHAIR MATHIS: The only thing I would say  
8 format-wise on that is I've seen minutes before where  
9 motions -- anything to do a motion is emboldened in a darker  
10 font, so that it just stands out. And I think that would  
11 just be helpful if we could incorporate that into future  
12 minutes. That's it.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: On the April 14th  
14 minutes, a couple of things. First -- and I'll ask this to  
15 Mr. Barton -- does a comma go after your name, before the  
16 Roman numeral II? What's the convention on that?

17 MR. BARTON: Commissioner Freeman, it does  
18 not. No comma.

19 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And then I think  
20 Mr. Barton should be defined as Assistant Attorney General.  
21 And going to Page 3 of those minutes, Item No.  
22 8, third bullet point. And this, perhaps, is for Mr. Barton  
23 as well. I believe you said the prior Commission had an  
24 executive director in place by March 20th; is that correct?  
25 Because our minutes say March 30th.

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1 MR. BARTON: Commissioner Freeman, I believe  
2 that it was -- the way it's -- the way it reads is it's three  
3 one as I recall. So it's March 1st is what it said.  
4 But, yes, it was March 20th. But did they say  
5 March 30th?  
6 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It said March 30th.  
7 MR. BARTON: Okay. It should be March 20th.  
8 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And those were the only  
9 changes I had to the minutes of our public session.  
10 With respect to the minutes of our executive  
11 session -- which there's some question as to where we can  
12 discuss changes to those -- the only changes I had are  
13 formatting changes to identify you assistant attorney  
14 general.  
15 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other comments from other  
16 commissioners on edits to these April 14th minutes?  
17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?  
18 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.  
19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: On Page 3, No. 9, the  
20 first bullet point says Commissioner McNulty contacted the  
21 Department of Justice to get a sense of the process and

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22 timing of events. I just want to clarify if she really did  
23 say that.

24 CHAIR MATHIS: Did you say that, Ms. McNulty?

25 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Did you --

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1 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Yes. Well, it wasn't  
2 quite like that, but I did place a call to the Department of  
3 Justice to ask them if they would talk with us in the  
4 future --

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- about those things.  
7 We're still trading phone calls.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Any other comments or  
9 questions on these minutes?

10 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I do have one comment.  
11 Mr. Barton, if it concerns the minutes of the  
12 executive session, how do we address that?

13 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, Commissioner  
14 McNulty, if you can address it without disclosing the  
15 confidential nature of the minutes, then you can talk about  
16 it now. If it is something that discloses what we discussed  
17 in executive session, then the Commission would have to go  
18 into executive session to discuss it.

19 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Okay. I'm going to  
20 give it a try, but we all need to have the minutes in front  
21 of us, the Thursday, April 14th, 1:00 p.m., Executive Session  
22 1. Under the interview of Kristina C. Gomez, seventh line  
23 down, after the seventh word insert a period, remove the  
24 words "other than working," substitute capital S, she worked.

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25 That's all.

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other comments or edits to  
2 the minutes, public or executive session?  
3 (No verbal response.)  
4 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Hearing none, do I hear  
5 a motion to approve the April 14th, 2011, minutes as amended  
6 with the edits and corrections mentioned today?  
7 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: So moved.  
8 CHAIR MATHIS: Second anyone?  
9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Seconded with the  
10 removal of the "Draft # 1" on each one of the title pages.  
11 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.  
12 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Second.  
13 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?  
14 VOICE VOTES: Aye.  
15 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?  
16 (No verbal response.)  
17 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Those minutes carry for  
18 the April 14th, 2011.  
19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?  
20 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.  
21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I move to go into  
22 executive session.  
23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: well, we still have  
24 the -- Madam Chair, we still --  
25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry.

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1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- have a couple of more  
2 items.

3 CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah. Agenda -- the next item.  
4 Okay. I think we're okay on the minutes. So just on the  
5 April 8th, '11, minutes, just so I understand, Mr. Freeman,  
6 you're going to, I guess, give them to Megan or Mr. Bladine,  
7 and they'll distribute to all of the commissioners the  
8 redraft of those April 8th minutes?

9 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you very much.

11 Okay. Let's move to Item IX, agenda items and  
12 dates of future meetings. So we've talked about how we want  
13 to have a meeting next week to discuss the RFP for mapping  
14 services. And if there's any other agenda items that anyone  
15 would like to raise now, this would be the time. But that's  
16 definitely the focus of that meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: May I ask Mr. Bladine if  
20 there are any agenda items that he would like to add to next  
21 week's meeting specifically, other than -- because we'll  
22 solely be discussing the mapping consultant.

23 MR. BLADINE: I don't. But, Chairman Mathis,  
24 Council Member Stertz, I don't have anything right now that I  
25 can think I would suggest, but I can see that I have some

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1 homework to do.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.  
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3 MR. BLADINE: Thank you, though.  
4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks.  
5 CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Good suggestion.  
6 Any other agenda items anybody has?  
7 (No verbal response.)  
8 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So we'll be addressing  
9 that RFP, finalizing the RFP for mapping services so that  
10 that can be issued. Let's talk about dates and times and  
11 what might work for folks. Any other -- any conflicts that  
12 don't -- that do or don't work?  
13 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I have a conflict  
14 wednesday afternoon. That's all.  
15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Monday, Tuesday and  
16 Friday are out for me. And telephonically, I'll be in  
17 Orlando, so --  
18 CHAIR MATHIS: So that leaves --  
19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- knowing -- knowing  
20 the schedule for -- I'll be -- what is it, two hours ahead or  
21 three hours ahead?  
22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Three.  
23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Three, so --  
24 CHAIR MATHIS: And you said no on wednesday  
25 afternoon?

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1 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: wednesday afternoon.  
2 CHAIR MATHIS: So wednesday morning is a  
3 possibility. That is the 27th, a week from today.  
4 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It's good for me.  
5 CHAIR MATHIS: wednesday morning. Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yeah.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What time?

8 CHAIR MATHIS: And this will be a telephonic  
9 meeting; is that my understanding?

10 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair?

11 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Barton.

12 MR. BARTON: A purely telephonic meeting is  
13 very difficult to do. We need to have ways for the public to  
14 call into it. However, you know, if you have a meeting where  
15 you expect, you know, multiple commissioners to appear  
16 telephonically, we could -- we could work to get a location  
17 where there's plenty of room for the public to attend the  
18 meeting, but you could just set up a -- you could sort of set  
19 up a speaker phone that would allow the meeting to be held  
20 that way.

21 And this might be an opportunity, for example,  
22 if one of the vice chairs is going to be here in person, if  
23 you're going to be appearing telephonically, it might make  
24 sense for one of them to convene the meeting. That's  
25 something that -- those are options.

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1 So if the Commission's intention is to do a  
2 purely telephonic meeting, that's very difficult. I would  
3 have to look into how -- how we do that, how we get the phone  
4 number out, and how we get the capacity of the line.

5 If you want to do a meeting that you just  
6 expect a number of commissioners to appear telephonically,  
7 that's relatively easy.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Mr. Freeman.

9                   VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair, I probably  
10 work the closest to this. I'd be happy to, quote/unquote,  
11 host it. And I believe we'll be in executive session for  
12 much of this meeting to hash out the final details of this  
13 RFP. So I'll be happy to sit here in front of the phone  
14 and -- in front of a speaker, basically, and host the meeting  
15 if that's what you want to do.

16                   CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Freeman.  
17 Timewise, is 10:00 a.m. good for everyone?  
18 (No verbal response.)

19                   CHAIR MATHIS: Wednesday morning, the 27th,  
20 will be our next meeting, then. We'll work with Megan and  
21 Mr. Bladine to find a space and also provide -- we'll still  
22 need to provide a number for the public to dial in --  
23 right? -- or -- I don't know. If --

24                   MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, no.

25                   CHAIR MATHIS: If commissioners are --

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1                   MR. BARTON: And, actually --

2                   CHAIR MATHIS: -- appearing telephonically.

3                   MR. BARTON: -- if everything that's going to  
4 be discussed -- and we've noticed the meeting ahead of time  
5 as executive session. Everything that's going to be  
6 discussed is executive -- it's going to be an executive  
7 session. And if we want to do that, then the commissioners  
8 should vote right now to go into executive session during  
9 this meeting on Wednesday.

10                   The Commission can do that, and then it  
11 already has a vote on record that everything's going to be in

12 executive session.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And if we do that, then  
14 we can all appear by phone then --

15 MR. BARTON: Yes.

16 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- is that correct?

17 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would move that we  
18 state that the meeting will be an executive session.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Do I hear a second?

20 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I second it.

21 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

22 VOICE VOTES: Aye.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Oppose.

25 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. One opposed, Mr.

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1 Herrera. Okay. So our next meeting will be wednesday, 10:00  
2 a.m. It will be all executive session, and commissioners  
3 will be able to dial in telephonically.

4 And can we rely upon Megan or Mr. Bladine to  
5 help set up a phone number, a dial in? I don't know if ADOA  
6 has --

7 MS. DARIAN: Madam Chair?

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

9 MS. DARIAN: we have the phone number.

10 CHAIR MATHIS: Great.

11 MS. DARIAN: I set it up for the Commission.

12 And it is a permanent number every time that you want to have  
13 an executive session.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: wonderful. Thank you. So  
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15 we'll get that -- the details from Megan for dialing in.

16 Okay. Next meeting after that. I apologize.

17 At our last meeting, we had said May 2nd and I had a work  
18 conflict that I wasn't aware of until I got home and saw it.

19 So I'm requesting that we meet after May 2nd.

20 That was a Monday and is a Monday. So we talked about May  
21 3rd or 4th, and I'm wondering if those days work. I believe  
22 Megan has done some research into meeting space on both of  
23 those days. Can you refresh our memories on that?

24 MS. DARIAN: Yes, Madam Chair. We have two  
25 places on the 3rd and 4th. One of them is we'll rent out a

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1 room in SOS, and the other one is in Scottsdale at the Board  
2 of Medical Examiners, the 3rd and 4th.

3 CHAIR MATHIS: They're available both days,  
4 all day?

5 MS. DARIAN: Yes, both places.

6 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So -- and we've met in  
7 the Scottsdale room before. And then, of course, we've met  
8 in the Secretary of State Miranda Room as well.

9 Any preferences or thoughts and then days for  
10 a meeting?

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And Monday got moved. I  
14 loaded everything to Wednesday. So I only have Tuesday  
15 available.

16 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And I'm available all  
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18 day Tuesday.

19 CHAIR MATHIS: Great. How about others, are  
20 you available May -- May 3rd --

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes.

22 CHAIR MATHIS: -- Tuesday, May 3rd?

23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes, I am.

24 CHAIR MATHIS: Wonderful. Okay. Ms. McNulty?  
25 (No verbal response.)

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So we'll plan on May  
2 3rd. I think we should probably start early in the day,  
3 earlyish, so that we can -- we may -- we just don't know what  
4 kind of response we're going to have to the legal counsel  
5 RFP, and we'll be considering those responses at that  
6 meeting, so...

7 Ms. McNulty, did you have something?

8 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: No.

9 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So --

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

11 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: May I ask that the --  
13 that on Friday, when the CDs are cut, that they are  
14 overnighted for weekend delivery, so that we have as much  
15 time available to us prior to that Tuesday meeting?

16 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, I agree. And I see  
17 Mr. Red Horse shaking his head "yes" in the back  
18 affirmatively. We will definitely request to do that.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

20 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So start time May 3rd  
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21 is -- what's the pleasure of the Commission? Is 9:30 a.m.  
22 good or -- I think we've started then before.

23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: 9:30 works for me. And  
24 Mr. Bladine will be bringing the donuts?

25 CHAIR MATHIS: That's what I heard. I don't

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1 know if we put that in the job description, but...

2 MR. BLADINE: I thought it would be  
3 vegetables.

4 CHAIR MATHIS: That's better.

5 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, that works  
6 for me. I would prefer to meet at the Secretary of State's  
7 office if there's a place there where we can meet in  
8 executive session without uprooting the public. I'd really  
9 like to find a place we can meet so --

10 MS. DARIAN: I'll have to check that.

11 CHAIR MATHIS: I believe there is, though.  
12 Because I think that's the room where we --

13 MS. DARIAN: Yeah.

14 CHAIR MATHIS: -- had our first two meetings,  
15 and you all went into executive session.

16 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: We went into  
17 Mr. Bennett's office.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I'm not sure that he's  
20 going to want us to kick him out now.

21 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, that wasn't -- that  
22 actually wasn't the secretary's office. That was the old  
23 supreme court chambers.

24 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Can we use that?  
25 MR. BARTON: I'm not in charge of scheduling,

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1 but I would assume that we could.

2 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So we'll plan on 9:30  
3 a.m. Our preference, Megan, would be to try for the  
4 Secretary of State's Office and confirm that there is ample  
5 executive session meeting space.

6 MS. DARIAN: Outside of the Miranda Room?

7 CHAIR MATHIS: Right. That would be great.  
8 Thank you. Do we want to set any future -- well, first, are  
9 there any agenda items that we know we want to cover at that  
10 May 3rd meeting?

11 I think we talked about one earlier, where  
12 we're hopeful that Mr. Bladine can provide us with his ideas  
13 for staffing the office and what would make sense for him.

14 Any other --

15 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam --

16 CHAIR MATHIS: -- agenda items?

17 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

19 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Would it make sense to  
20 have a standing agenda item for a report from our executive  
21 director -- or, perhaps, is that too broad of an item?

22 CHAIR MATHIS: Great idea.

23 MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, that's fine. A  
24 report from the executive director is a fine item to be on  
25 the agenda.

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Any other --

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, what about  
3 an update on the -- our headquarters?

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Good idea. Yes. We can  
5 finally take all of those other locations off our agenda.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I might go over there  
7 and have lunch over there.

8 CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Any other agenda items?  
9 And then -- well, this won't be our last  
10 opportunity, of course, because a draft agenda will come out  
11 and you will have the opportunity to provide agenda items if  
12 you think of something later.

13 Do we want to set any future dates of the  
14 Commission meeting looking into the week of -- you know, post  
15 May 3rd, so May 9th -- the week of May 9th?

16 I'm actually going to have a conflict May 17  
17 through the 19th. That's the next week, but I just wanted to  
18 raise that now, so that people are aware.

19 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, I think it  
20 would be helpful to have some set dates going forward, but,  
21 perhaps, Mr. Bladine can help us pull that together once he's  
22 on board.

23 CHAIR MATHIS: That would be great, to provide  
24 some sanity to our scheduling. We'd love that. Then  
25 everyone clears their calendars for that particular day.

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I think that concludes  
2 Item IX, unless there's any other comments on agenda items  
3 and future dates.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Is there any other  
5 business?

6 CHAIR MATHIS: I don't think -- I think we're  
7 at the end of the agenda, except just going back to deal with  
8 the executive session for discussing the evaluation process  
9 for RFP for mapping services -- I mean, for legal counsel,  
10 excuse me.

11 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

12 CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I propose that we take a  
14 quick break before we go into executive session.

15 CHAIR MATHIS: Certainly. How about a  
16 ten-minute break?

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That's more than enough.

18 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Maybe even five. So  
19 just --

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Five is good.

21 CHAIR MATHIS: And then -- and then we'll go  
22 into executive session after that.

23 Okay. It's 3:30 p.m. So a quick five-minute  
24 break.

25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

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1 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Do we have to have a  
3 motion in order to go into executive session?

4 CHAIR MATHIS: Do we have to have one?  
5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.  
6 CHAIR MATHIS: Yes. But I didn't know if we  
7 could do that when we came back from break.  
8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We can do that if you'd  
9 like.  
10 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. We'll have a quick  
11 break, and then we'll come back. Thanks.  
12 (Whereupon, a break was taken, and the  
13 following was had:)  
14 CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Let's go back into our  
15 meeting. Do I hear a motion to go into executive session for  
16 the purposes of discussing the evaluation process with regard  
17 to the RFP for legal counsel?  
18 COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I'll make that motion  
19 as you've stated it.  
20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.  
21 CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?  
22 VOICE VOTES: Aye.  
23 CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?  
24 (No verbal response.)  
25 (Whereupon, a recess ensued at 3:41 p.m., and

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1 the following was had commencing at 4:38 p.m.:)  
2 CHAIR MATHIS: And now that we are at the end  
3 of the agenda as well, the meeting is adjourned.  
4 (Whereupon, the public meeting concluded at  
5 4:38 p.m.)  
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA )  
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

3  
4 I, Debra Galvin, hereby certify that the foregoing  
5 pages 1 to 140, inclusive, constitute a full, true, and  
6 accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the above  
7 matter, all to the best of my skill and ability.

8  
9 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 4th day of May,

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Debra M. Galvin, CSR #50375

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