

# I. Meeting Packet



**State of Florida**  
**Public Service Commission**  
**SPECIAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**AGENDA**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014  
Immediately Following Special Agenda Conference  
Room 148 – Easley Building

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1. Discussion on Interim General Counsel. (No attachment).

BB/sc

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

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

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

# III. Supplemental Materials for Internal Affairs

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

# IV. Transcript

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ART GRAHAM  
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR  
COMMISSIONER RONALD A. BRISÉ  
COMMISSIONER EDUARDO E. BALBIS  
COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN

DATE: Wednesday, October 22, 2014

TIME: Commenced at 9:05 a.m.  
Concluded at 9:17 a.m.

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

REPORTED BY: LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR  
Official FPSC Reporter  
(850) 413-6734

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

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2           **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** The only thing we have on  
3 the Internal Affairs, special Internal Affairs docket  
4 today is the approval of an interim General Counsel.  
5 And I believe that everybody has met with the proposed  
6 candidate. Are there any words, discussions, comments?

7           Commissioner Edgar.

8           **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
9 As you described, per your suggestion at, I believe, our  
10 last Internal Affairs meeting a few weeks ago and your  
11 suggestion that we meet with Mr. Beck, I did have the  
12 opportunity to meet with him and discuss his thoughts as  
13 to the role of General Counsel and share some of my  
14 thoughts as to the role of our General Counsel working  
15 with our legal staff. And we had a very positive  
16 conversation. I'm very pleased that he is interested in  
17 working with us, and I look forward to working with him  
18 as we move ahead.

19           **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Thank you very much.

20           Commissioner Brown.

21           **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** Thank you. I also had a  
22 chance to meet with Mr. Beck last week. And at first I  
23 wasn't really sold on the interim concept for a couple  
24 of reasons. I thought why not just promote someone from  
25 within if we're going to do interim or -- pardon my

1 voice, I'm a little under the weather -- or hire someone  
2 permanently since we've known Mr. Kiser has been  
3 retiring for a few months now. But after meeting with  
4 him, I was definitely impressed with his field of  
5 knowledge. I think, you know, to be qualified in this  
6 pool, there's only a certain group of folks that really  
7 would be qualified. I think he meets that. He has a  
8 great understanding of the law, the matters we regulate,  
9 he's worked with the lawyers in our office, he's worked  
10 with the parties that we regulate.

11 I am a little skeptical of two things though.  
12 Pardon my voice. It's horrible. The first thing that  
13 I'm skeptical -- you know, he really committed to just  
14 six months to me. He said he has no intention of doing  
15 it any longer than six months. So getting, I guess, up  
16 to speed on how we do business in the legal department  
17 in a matter of six months was a little bit concerning to  
18 me.

19 I know when he was Deputy Counsel at OPC he  
20 did manage a few folks. Obviously our legal department  
21 is much bigger than the Office of Public Counsel, so I'm  
22 a little skeptical on that. You know, his 27 years of  
23 experience though definitely gives me some comfort and  
24 some confidence.

25 You know, I asked him also -- like I said, he



1 said he was committed firmly to six months and six  
2 months only. So I asked him, "Well, would you  
3 memorialize that in writing," because, you know, we've  
4 had interim folks that have gone beyond the intended  
5 purposes. And so I was comforted with that. He said  
6 that he was definitely doing it. And I asked him why he  
7 wanted to do it, because he seemed to be enjoying  
8 retirement very much and -- lucky guy. And so I asked  
9 him, "Why do you want to do it?" And he said, "Well,  
10 you know, I'm up for the challenge. It is only six  
11 months."

12 I care a lot about our legal department. I  
13 care about the attorneys that work in our legal  
14 department. I hope that the transition of hiring him  
15 will go smoothly.

16 Again, my only, the only thing I'm really  
17 skeptical is how is he going to get up to speed in  
18 enough time. He's never worked at the Public Service  
19 Commission. That's not a downfall. But it is interim,  
20 but I will support him.

21 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Commissioner Balbis.

22 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23 I did have the opportunity to meet with Mr. Beck, and I  
24 was very impressed with him. He seemed to be, even  
25 though he, as Commissioner Brown said, is committed to

1 only six months, he seemed to be passionate and excited  
2 about the opportunity, and he seemed to have a firm  
3 grasp of obviously what the Commission does, especially  
4 with the number of years he spent at the Office of  
5 Public Counsel.

6 To be perfectly honest, you know, once he  
7 indicated to me that he's only committed for six months,  
8 I kind of looked at it in a different light in that, in  
9 that, you know, I wanted to focus on what his thoughts  
10 were to make sure it just wasn't an extension of his  
11 retirement, which certainly was not the case. He was  
12 very excited about it. He even had some ideas about how  
13 to improve the Commission and how we operate in that  
14 short period of time, which tells me it's someone that  
15 would take the job seriously and is excited to do it.  
16 I'm fully supportive of him.

17 I'm not sure, and I think, as Commissioner  
18 Brown indicated, that it's the best process but -- with  
19 hiring an interim. At this point I think he's a good  
20 candidate for that.

21 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Commissioner Brisé.

22 **COMMISSIONER BRISÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
23 And I too had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Beck. I  
24 found that he meets all the qualifications in terms of  
25 what I'm looking for in an interim.

1           And so let me define what I'm looking for in  
2 an interim. Someone who understands what we do and how  
3 we do it. Someone who can come in and take a look at  
4 some of our processes and things that we might need to  
5 look at before we bring in someone to take on the role  
6 full-time. When I say full-time, in terms of long-term  
7 or permanently.

8           So it gives us an opportunity to take a strong  
9 look at what we have currently. And so we talked about  
10 that in my conversation, recognizing that, as in most of  
11 our agencies, there's an issue of people getting ready  
12 to retire, and having someone look at that, knowing that  
13 they're not going to be here long-term, that gives them  
14 an opportunity to address that particular issue and what  
15 processes we can establish and put in place as we  
16 recruit and look at what our challenges are long-term as  
17 an agency.

18           So I think from my perspective Mr. Beck can  
19 help us in that regard. I think he's respected within  
20 the regulatory space in our state. And recognizing  
21 where we are in time, that is definitely an asset for  
22 this agency.

23           **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** I'd like to thank all my  
24 colleagues for taking the time to sit down and interview  
25 and to vet Charlie Beck. I'm very excited about the

1 choice. I think somebody that's sat on the other side  
2 of the table for 29 years has a perspective to add. I  
3 think -- I'm sure there's a lot of things that he said  
4 that "I wish they would have" or "didn't they ever think  
5 of" and that sort of thing.

6 So I think when you get on this side of the  
7 table, number one, you understand the reasons why we do  
8 some of the things we do. Number two, you can challenge  
9 us to do some of the things that you've always thought  
10 that we should have done maybe a little different, a  
11 little better. And so I think that six year -- six  
12 months to a year interjection into this agency I think  
13 is going to be a great thing. I think it's a great fit.  
14 And with that, I'll entertain a motion from Commissioner  
15 Edgar.

16 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
17 And I appreciate the comments of each of my colleagues.

18 Just to sum up, in my conversation with  
19 Mr. Beck and hearing the comments from each of you here  
20 with us today, I agree. I believe he seemed excited  
21 about the possibilities and I like that. He is clearly  
22 very qualified and, as has been stated, very well  
23 respected for his years of experience and knowledge.  
24 And I do believe he understands what we do and the role  
25 that we play and is clearly very experienced with the

1 procedural requirements and processes.

2 We also discussed one of my passions, which is  
3 helping to mentor younger staff and giving them  
4 opportunities for professional growth. I think that's  
5 very important. And as somebody who's been involved in  
6 state government for many years, I really, I think it's  
7 a great strength that he can also bring to our work.

8 So with that -- or let me just add, I did not  
9 get into the discussion about a specific period of time.  
10 It just didn't come up in our conversation. My  
11 understanding prior was six months to one year. So what  
12 I would ask or what I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, is  
13 that on behalf of the agency that you negotiate with  
14 Mr. Beck and offer him a position and that you discuss  
15 the terms of that as well as salary and any timeline.  
16 And that is a motion.

17 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Thank you. It's been moved  
18 and seconded. Any further discussion on the job offer  
19 to Mr. Beck? Seeing none, all in favor, say aye.

20 (Vote taken.)

21 Any opposed? By your action, you've extended  
22 the offer.

23 **MR. KISER:** Mr. Chairman?

24 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Yes, sir.

25 **MR. KISER:** I observed something this weekend

1 that I thought I really should bring to the attention of  
2 the Commission. As many of you know, the Florida State  
3 Seminoles hosted Notre Dame Saturday night here in a big  
4 football game, and I personally, in driving to the game,  
5 I personally observed a formerly respected member of the  
6 Public Counsel staff directing cars and parking them for  
7 the outrageous price of \$50. And Mr. Steve Reilly was  
8 doing it quite aggressively, and the parking lot was  
9 almost full. And everyone in my car was shocked at  
10 those what seemed to be unfair prices, and I would have  
11 thought he'd have been more sensitive about stuff like  
12 that.

13 **MR. REILLY:** The price down the street was  
14 \$80.

15 (Laughter.)

16 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Mr. Beck, if I can get you  
17 to stand, please. Thank you very much for your coming  
18 out of retirement and to, and help us through this  
19 process, and for that I'd like to give you a round of  
20 applause.

21 (Applause.)

22 In the next few days my office will contact  
23 you, and we can work through the details at that point.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 Okay. So that is all we have for the special

1 IA meeting.

2 I have -- the clock in the back of the room is  
3 17 after the hour of 9:00. We will convene the clauses  
4 at 9:30. Thank you very much and enjoy your day.

5 (Internal Affairs concluded at 9:17 a.m.)

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STATE OF FLORIDA )  
 :  
 COUNTY OF LEON ) CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

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

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

DATED THIS 29th day of October, 2014.

*Linda Boles*

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