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BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:  
  
Election of Commission Chairman  
for a two-year term beginning  
January 2, 2024.  
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PROCEEDINGS:                    ITEM NO. 1

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING:                CHAIRMAN ANDREW GILES FAY  
    COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM  
    COMMISSIONER GARY CLARK  
    COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA  
    COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE:                              Thursday, November 9, 2023

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

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

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

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

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: All right. Good morning,  
3 everyone. If you would like, you can join  
4 Commissioner Clark in the invocation and pledge  
5 before we start today's meeting.

6 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.)

7 CHAIRMAN FAY: All right. Thank you,  
8 Commissioner Clark.

9 All right. Commissioners, Christmas has come  
10 early today. We have Agenda, Special Agenda and  
11 Internal Affairs, so we have a packed day. We are  
12 going to try to make sure we get through  
13 everything.

14 I did want to go ahead and start our Agenda  
15 Conference meeting off with recognizing  
16 Commissioner Graham for some comments.

17 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 This is the time of year, or every other year,  
19 I guess, where we nominate somebody for the  
20 upcoming Chairman, and my nomination this year is  
21 going to be for -- and believe it or not, it's not  
22 me this year -- it's going to be for Mike La Rosa,  
23 and I have three reasons why that I thought Mike  
24 would be the best for this job.

25 Number one, when I first met Mike, he was a

1 legislator and he was sitting on the nominating  
2 council. And when I got there in front of the  
3 podium -- and I can't remember if it was the first,  
4 second, third or fourth time I did a nominating  
5 counsel, but it was one of those times, and I only  
6 had two legislators ask me questions, it was Mike  
7 La Rosa and, of all things, Senator Passidomo, and  
8 they weren't easy questions, and you can tell he  
9 was tied into what goes on in this agency. That's  
10 number one.

11 Number two, Mike was a -- he is a legislator  
12 with a reputation of being a serious and diligent  
13 legislator. And one of the things I have learned,  
14 and I saw this firsthand from both when Ron Brisé  
15 was here and when Jimmy Patronis was here, when you  
16 are dealing with the legislators over there, there  
17 is a language over there. There is a brotherhood  
18 that's over there, and you need someone that can go  
19 over there and that knows that language. And I  
20 know for a fact that Mike La Rosa knows it, and he  
21 knows the code, and he can get a lot of things done  
22 that some of us can't get done. And I think it's  
23 very important to always have a legislator on this  
24 panel, because you need to have that communication  
25 conduit open.

1           And the third one, and this is the probably  
2           most important, when I was coming down here this  
3           morning, I got caught on the back staircase by Ana  
4           Ortega, which happens to be Mike La Rosa's aid, and  
5           she told me, she said, if you nominate yourself and  
6           make Jim Varian the head of your office one more  
7           time, she goes, I will -- and I won't go into what  
8           she said she was going to do, but I am proudly here  
9           to nominate Mike La Rosa as Chairman for the 2024  
10          and 2025 years.

11           CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Commissioner  
12          Graham.

13           Commissioner Clark, you are recognized.

14           COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15           I would second the nomination of Commissioner  
16          La Rosa as Chairman, and with just an added  
17          comment. I have come to know Mike over the last  
18          couple of years and, Commissioner Graham, I am a  
19          little jealous, I got drilled by a lot more  
20          questions than just those two, but Commissioner La  
21          Rosa was one of those individuals as well. And I  
22          have come to respect Mike for his intelligence and  
23          his diligence, and I have really come to appreciate  
24          him more as a friend than anything else, and I give  
25          a hearty second to that nomination, Mr. Chairman.

1           CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. With that, we will go  
2 ahead and approve -- well, I will recognize  
3 Commissioner Passidomo, and then we will formally  
4 approve, so go ahead.

5           COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO: Thank you. I mean,  
6 Mike, you are such a nice guy, I have to say  
7 something.

8           I am also proud to support Commissioner La  
9 Rosa to serve as our next Chair. I was able --  
10 from my previous experience being here as an  
11 attorney and watching you in your leadership role  
12 serving as Chair of the house commerce committees  
13 and on the props and rules committees, I know that  
14 you are going to be a great asset in this new  
15 leadership role. It's really been such a pleasure  
16 working with you as a colleague these last two  
17 years, and I look forward to the direction you are  
18 going to take our commission, so, yeah, I am proud  
19 to support.

20           CHAIRMAN FAY: Great.

21           Okay. With that, show unanimous support for  
22 Commissioner La Rosa to be recognized as a two-year  
23 term beginning in January 2nd of 2024.

24           Commissioner La Rosa, I will just add my  
25 comments, because I am Chair, I get to do that at

1 the end here. But really, for me, it was a matter  
2 of when you were originally put up for the  
3 position, that you mentioned in your interview how  
4 you had a conversation with your family, to make  
5 what was the right decision for you, your family  
6 and the State in serving in the public sector,  
7 making this transition. I know that was tough to  
8 do, but you picked your whole family up and moved  
9 them here because you wanted to be close to the  
10 Commission and be engaged in that level, and I just  
11 have so much respect for that.

12 I also think your kids now play in a very  
13 competitive football league up here in North  
14 Florida, and so I don't know if that's a good thing  
15 or a bad thing. But you changed a lot of your life  
16 and your world to make sure that, you know, you  
17 were here to be a part of this role, and so I  
18 respect that a lot, and appreciate you stepping up  
19 to serve in this role in 2024. And like  
20 Commissioner Graham, I am just glad I don't have to  
21 do it anymore, so I look forward to you taking that  
22 role.

23 So Commissioners, with that, we will move into  
24 our Agenda today, unless, Commissioner La Rosa, you  
25 wanted to add some comments today.

1           COMMISSIONER LA ROSA:  Sure.  I will just -- I  
2           will just kind of say something very quickly --

3           CHAIRMAN FAY:  Sure.  Go ahead.

4           COMMISSIONER LA ROSA:  -- and, you know, to  
5           say thank you to, you know, all of you for giving  
6           me this opportunity and, you know, giving me the  
7           allowance to lead this commission.  Each one your  
8           words very humbling.  Thank you.  You know, I  
9           certainly can't say it enough.

10                  I would say this, is that, you know, I always  
11                  preach that, you know, the Lord sets us on a path,  
12                  and sometimes it's not your plan, or maybe it's  
13                  not, you know, what you were thinking, or maybe  
14                  it's not even, you know, what you want to do 100  
15                  percent, or maybe even it's not even something you  
16                  thought could you achieve.  You know, for me it was  
17                  public service.  It was a card that I was dealt  
18                  that I never thought was in -- was in my stack, and  
19                  it was.  And I try to remember that every day as I  
20                  do this job.

21                  So I know we've got a very important year to  
22                  finish up.  I look forward to, obviously, talking a  
23                  little more in the January meeting, and just have  
24                  to comment on what Commissioner Graham said.  It's  
25                  really good to have good people that got your back.

1           You four, and especially Ana and Christina, I don't  
2           know what Ana said, but apparently it worked. So,  
3           you know, I couldn't do this job without them, and  
4           they are truly the tip of the spear in my office,  
5           and so I much appreciate them in helping me kind of  
6           get balanced to do this job, and do it the right  
7           way.

8           Thank you all.

9           CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Commissioner  
10          La Rosa.

11          With that, Commissioners, we will just do a  
12          formal vote just to make sure that we are clear on  
13          the record.

14          So all that approve for Commissioner La Rosa  
15          to serve as a Chair in a two-year term say aye.

16          (Chorus of ayes.)

17          CHAIRMAN FAY: With that, show the unanimous  
18          adoption.

19          (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

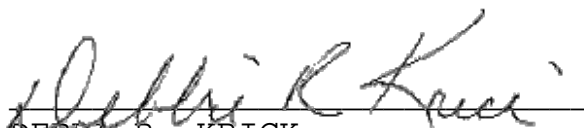
STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

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

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I 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 27th day of November, 2023.

  
DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH31926  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024