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ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
for
TWO-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 2020

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

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

2 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by
3 Commissioner Clark.)

4 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: All right. So, the very
5 first thing on our agenda today is going to be the
6 nomination and the election of the next chairman
7 for the 2002 -- I'm sorry -- 2020 and 2021 years.

8 And let me tell you all that I wanted to have
9 this election in May and they did not allow me to
10 do it, but it's always been -- it's always been --
11 I've always enjoyed being chairman. I've been
12 blessed by my current Commissioners and many
13 Commissioners in the past by the opportunity of
14 doing that.

15 Whichever one of my colleagues is chairman
16 this time, I -- you will see that it is both a
17 blessing and a curse, being -- being chairperson,
18 chairwoman. You'll find yourself spending time on
19 things that you never thought you were going to be
20 spending time doing, but it is rewarding. And I --
21 I give my support to anybody that's going to be
22 that chairman.

23 And quite honestly, as chairman, you could not
24 do your job back here if you do not have the
25 support of your colleagues. And it makes a lot of

1 things a lot easier.

2 And with that all being said, tradition
3 speaks, I always give the most-senior person the
4 opportunity to nominate the first nomination.

5 Commissioner Brown.

6 COMMISSIONER BROWN: Thank you.

7 Well, I've been looking forward to nominating
8 this natural-born leader, for a few months here, as
9 our next chairman, since I've gotten to know him
10 really well over the past year. And this
11 gentleman -- and I will say he is a true gentleman.
12 He was born to lead.

13 Whether it is chairing a board of trustees for
14 a college, being a school board member -- probably
15 the youngest in the county -- running multiple
16 successful businesses, serving on numerous
17 community boards, teaching youngsters about
18 parliamentary procedure, or showcasing his expert
19 marksmanship with his son -- who, I've been told,
20 is a little bit better than him -- this individual
21 truly shines in everything he does.

22 And by the way, he has a multitude of secret
23 talents that nobody knows about and certain little
24 areas of expertise, but he's so humble, you will
25 really not get a chance to find out unless you go

1 out to lunch or dinner with his daughter, Emily,
2 who will tell you and brag about him, to learn all
3 the breadths of his talents. He's a really
4 talented individual.

5 Speaking of Emily, this man is, first and
6 foremost, an incredible family man. They are the
7 world to him. And I know that his mother, who he
8 was very close with, who recently passed away,
9 would be so proud of him today and where he is in
10 his life.

11 He is a wonderful human being who is
12 compassionate and kind to everyone he meets. I
13 know our Commission staff and our fellow
14 Commissioners will really enjoy his very-inclusive
15 leadership style as we deal with the issues and
16 opportunities and challenges over the next two
17 years.

18 And while I think that each of us here have
19 some unique abilities on this bench and I think
20 each of us are also more than capable of serving as
21 chairman -- some a few times, who we will get an
22 opportunity to roast next agenda conference --
23 Commissioner Clark is a natural fit as our next
24 chairman, and he will serve our board with
25 distinction, with character, with thoughtfulness.

1 And it's just such a tremendous honor to be your
2 friend, to be your colleague.

3 And with that, I would move recommendation of
4 Commissioner Clark, nominate him for our next chair
5 for a two-year term.

6 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. Is there a second to
7 that nomination?

8 Commissioner Polmann.

9 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chairman.

11 I am honored to second the nomination. And I
12 am simply blessed to have the friendship of
13 Commissioner Clark. So many times we've had
14 conversations in social settings. And as -- as
15 Commissioner Brown just stated, a man of great
16 strength and humility. He demonstrated that as
17 early as this morning.

18 And as you all know, a man of deep -- deep
19 faith, and as -- as he shows here, every meeting, a
20 very broad and -- and deep knowledge that he brings
21 from his life experience and professional
22 experience that complements the rest of us here on
23 the board. And the balance that this board enjoys
24 because of what he brings here will be very-well-
25 served by having Commissioner Clark as our

1 Chairman.

2 I have enjoyed the engagement that we've had
3 with Commissioner Clark's addition from a different
4 perspective. And his interest in matters of public
5 engagement and communication that he has pursued at
6 the national level with NARUC, I think, will be
7 very important as we move forward over the next two
8 years.

9 We have some significant issues and major
10 dockets that I anticipate we're going to see
11 that -- that will be very important to the public.
12 And I am -- I am hopeful and comfortable knowing
13 that Commissioner Clark will lead us well in that
14 regard.

15 So, I appreciate his en- -- his enthusiasm. I
16 know he's enthusiastic about a leadership role and
17 I'm enthusiastic about working with him. He and I
18 have, on many occasions, expressed similar --
19 similar wishes. So, I'm very excited about this.
20 This is me being excited.

21 (Laughter.)

22 COMMISSIONER POLMANN: Gary and I show a
23 similar level of excitement for many things. We --
24 we may express it somewhat differently. We may
25 even have similar shoe sizes -- I think that I

1 can -- I can fill your shoes. I don't know if I
2 can fill your seat. I will be sitting over there.
3 I will do my best to fill your -- fill your seat.
4 I know you can fill the chairman seat.

5 So, I am honored, Mr. Chairman, to -- to
6 second the nomination.

7 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Okay. Any other nomination?
8 Commissioner Fay.

9 COMMISSIONER FAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 I had considered nominating you until 2040 to
11 serve as chair. So, I think this is probably a
12 good alternative. Commissioner Clark is a man of
13 faith and man of his family.

14 So, it's an honor to work with him. I also
15 fully support you to serve in this role. And I
16 look forward to seeing your leadership. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: And, Commissioner Clark, I
18 assume you accept the nomination?

19 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: All right. Nomination is
21 closed. All in favor of the nomination, please say
22 aye.

23 (Chorus of ayes.)

24 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: By your action, Chairman-
25 Elect Gary Clark.

1 (Applause.)

2 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you. Thank you. I
3 didn't prepare a speech. I want to thank my fellow
4 Commissioners for the confidence. I -- I am
5 humbled by your kind words. I hope to be able to
6 live up to the expectations that you have, not only
7 of me, but of the position as well. And I will
8 always strive to lead with humility and honesty.
9 And that's the commitment that I make to you. And
10 I'll make a speech in January, Mr. Chairman.

11 Thank you so much for your confidence. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Well, let me tell you the --
14 the best thing about the way we're set up here is
15 you will always have at least one or two former
16 chairmans left or right. So, if you ever need any
17 help. Just go like this (indicating).

18 (Agenda item concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, ANDREA KOMARIDIS WRAY, 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 14th day of November, 2019.



ANDREA KOMARIDIS WRAY
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #GG365545
EXPIRES February 9, 2021