

# I. Meeting Packet



**State of Florida**  
**Public Service Commission**  
**INTERNAL AFFAIRS AGENDA**  
Tuesday – February 17, 2026  
9:30 AM  
Room 105 – Gerald L. Gunter Building

---

1. Legislative Update
2. General Counsel's Report
3. Executive Director's report
4. Other Matters

BB/aml

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

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

PROCEEDINGS: INTERNAL AFFAIRS

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH  
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA  
COMMISSIONER ANA ORTEGA  
COMMISSIONER BOBBY PAYNE

DATE: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.  
Concluded: 9:40 a.m.

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 SMITH: Okay. Good morning,  
3 everyone. As you noticed, we had a little bit of  
4 technical difficulties, so change of venue. Thanks  
5 for -- glad -- it seems like everybody got the memo  
6 that we moved over to the hearing room.

7 When you came in, hopefully you heard our Song  
8 of the Month that was the Speed of Sound. That was  
9 submitted by our own Valerie Peacock. Thank you.  
10 And I appreciated that she gave a good explanation  
11 as to why she picked it. Basically she said  
12 utility research through -- she said she thought  
13 about utility research through the speed of sound  
14 of -- speed of growth of AI. AI capability and  
15 data center expansion are progressing faster than  
16 the speed of sound, which seems totally accurate.

17 The other thing I would like to do is to  
18 recognize our February Employee of the Month. This  
19 is Isaiah Lawson. He was going to be here but I  
20 don't know if he got the memo about the venue  
21 change. Sorry, Isaiah, but thank you so much for  
22 everything you do.

23 Isaiah joined the Commission in 2023 and  
24 serves as the Distributed Computer Systems Analyst  
25 in the Bureau of Information Technology and AIT.

1 He provides exceptional end-user IT support as well  
2 as high level support throughout the Commission.  
3 Isaiah is not only reliable, but addresses all IT  
4 issues with enthusiasm while providing swift  
5 resolutions.

6 And now I have the point of privilege how much  
7 Isaiah has helped my office in particular. We like  
8 to call this the Sodagate Incident of 2023.  
9 Certain individuals, we won't name names, opened up  
10 a can of Dr. Pepper and it just exploded and got  
11 everywhere, went under the glass and potentially  
12 ruining our, you know, our lovely wooden furniture  
13 that we have up there. And so Isaiah was called,  
14 even though this is really not anything to do with  
15 what his job responsibilities are. He was there  
16 within the minute, immediately helped mitigate the  
17 situation. Absolutely no harm was done. And  
18 that's just one small example of the type of  
19 employee that he is always going above and beyond.

20 We also just happened to call him for his  
21 actual job on a daily basis to help us get out of  
22 our locked computers. So thank you so much for  
23 that as well, Isaiah.

24 So if you could all just join me in  
25 congratulating Isaiah and appreciate all of his

1 hard work.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

4 Well, now we are going to move to our  
5 legislative update.

6 MR. FRANK: Thank you, Chairman. Good  
7 morning, Commissioners.

8 We are now halfway -- more than halfway  
9 through legislative session, which means bill  
10 activity is slowing down, budget process is ramping  
11 up. Late last week, both chambers released their  
12 budget proposals, which are about \$1 billion apart.  
13 So I will be keeping your offices updated as we  
14 enter budget conference, and negotiations are  
15 ongoing. So I will keep you updated on those  
16 developments.

17 I just have four bills I want to update you on  
18 quickly.

19 Senate Bill 44, Data Centers, by Senator  
20 Ávila, which aims to protect customers from  
21 increased costs from large load customers, that is  
22 scheduled to be heard today in its final committee  
23 stop at noon with Senate Rules Committee. It has  
24 been moving through the Senate but there has not  
25 been any movement yet in the House, but I will

1 continue to keep you informed of that.

2 As Senate Bill 1724 and House Bill 1451,  
3 titled Utility Services, by Senator Martin and  
4 Representative Busatta. These bills revise  
5 requirements for municipal utilities providing  
6 service outside their boundaries, including how  
7 rates and charges are applied and reported. These  
8 municipalities that provide the service to  
9 customers outside the boundaries must report data  
10 to the Commission, which we will then compile, put  
11 in a report and send to the Governor and the  
12 Legislature.

13 These bills are moving. They are both in  
14 their final committee stop, so that is something I  
15 am closely monitoring.

16 Next, the Advanced Nuclear Reactors, Senate  
17 Bill 1696 by Senator McClain, and House Bill 1461  
18 by Representative Miller, which establishes a  
19 framework for advanced nuclear reactors under the  
20 Commission's authority. It is moving in the House,  
21 the House Bill 1461 passed the House Budget  
22 Committee yesterday and will be heading to its  
23 final committee stop in Commerce; however, it has  
24 not had any movement yet in the Senate. So that is  
25 another one I will continue too monitor and keep

1           you updated on.

2           And finally, the Open Government Sunset review  
3           bill. Those are committee bills, Senate Bill 7006,  
4           House Bill 7009, which removes the scheduled  
5           repeal, the public meeting exemption for certain  
6           Commission hearings on proprietary confidential  
7           business information. It has fully passed the  
8           Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the House  
9           floor, not agendaed yet, but I will keep you  
10          updated on that.

11          So that's all I have for today. Happy to  
12          answer any questions.

13          CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you.

14          Commissioners, any questions for Mr. Frank?  
15          No? Seeing none.

16          Thank you very much for all of your work. We  
17          know this is a very busy time for you.

18          MR. FRANK: Thank you.

19          CHAIRMAN SMITH: Next we are moving to General  
20          Counsel's report.

21          MS. HARPER: Good morning, Commissioner. Not  
22          there. There is not a mic.

23          Good morning, Chairman and Commissioners.  
24          Just a short report this morning. We are going to  
25          be processing a motion for reconsideration in the

1 FPL rate case docket. We have a lot of other  
2 dockets that we are working on with staff. They  
3 are keeping us busy. I keep wondering when things  
4 are going to slow down, but they are not  
5 apparently.

6 And also just real quick, I was able to  
7 participate in that panel on Friday, last Friday at  
8 the University of Florida at their law school,  
9 along with Shaw and Suzanne -- or excuse me, Susan  
10 Sapoznikoff from our section in GCL, and that was  
11 great. It was great to be at our alma mater and  
12 told them that, you know, we were hiring. So still  
13 working on it.

14 And I think that's about it for today. Thank  
15 you. If y'all is any questions, happy to answer.

16 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Thank you. Any questions?  
17 Just say Go Gators.

18 Okay, and moving on. Executive Director's  
19 Report.

20 MR. BAEZ: Good morning, Madam Chair and  
21 Commissioners.

22 This is the Paul Harvey rest of the story  
23 portion. As you heard David mention, the budget  
24 proposals are out from both the House and the  
25 Senate. I have got some good news to report. When

1 the budget proposals came out, the -- our agency  
2 budget request was zeroed out. So actually, it was  
3 a great trifecta. Everybody's numbers matched, the  
4 Governor's recommendations, and then both Senate  
5 and House budget proposals. So that's good news  
6 for us, and now it's a lot of hurry up and wait for  
7 the whole budget to get negotiated and sorted out,  
8 but we are in a good place.

9 If you recall, we had proposed deleting four  
10 FTEs, and that is -- along with the associated rate  
11 and budget, and that's exactly what they took. So  
12 good news all around.

13 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Good. Any questions from you  
14 guys on the budget?

15 Sounds good, thank you very much.

16 MR. BAEZ: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN SMITH: Commissioners, is there any  
18 other matters that y'all would like to address  
19 while we are here? All right. Seeing none.

20 So we do have a Special Agenda immediately  
21 after this for the FCG depreciation study that  
22 involves Commissioner Clark, La Rosa and myself.  
23 It's 9:40. We are already in the room, so let's  
24 just say 9:50 we will get started, 10 minutes. All  
25 right. So it will be the three of us in 10

1           minutes. You two are off the hook.

2                   Thank you very much. The Internal Affairs is  
3 adjourned.

4                   (Proceedings concluded.)

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

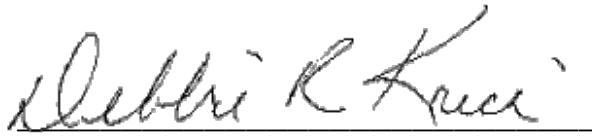
STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

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 23rd day of February, 2026.



DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH575054  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028