



Julie I. Brown Appointed Secretary of DBPR

Commissioner Julie Imanuel Brown made a lasting impression on the Florida Public Service Commission during her tenure, and her memorable impact was apparent during a good-bye tribute by her former Commissioners on March 2.

Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Brown as the new Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Secretary on February 18. Brown served on the Commission since 2011 and served as PSC Chairman from January 2016-January 2018. During her chairmanship, Florida experienced massive impacts for the first time in over a decade from multiple catastrophic hurricanes. Brown led the PSC's review and recommendation for future action to bolster Florida's electric utility storm hardening efforts. She also chaired the Florida Legislature's Study Committee on Investor-Owned Water and Wastewater Utility Systems and served on the NARUC Board of Directors, as well as other national regulatory committees and task forces.



At the start of the March 2 Commission Conference, PSC **Chairman Gary Clark** welcomed "Secretary Brown" back to the dais and complimented her leadership, saying how much he learned from her style and ability. After his PSC appointment, Chairman Clark said that Commissioner Brown basically "gave me a course on the basics of utility regulation."

"I learned to heed your advice and wisdom, and I've always been impressed with your ability to protect consumers and move us toward an eventual decision to put the PSC in the best posture to serve the public interest," he added before presenting her with a plaque recognizing her service to the state.



Commissioner Art Graham, the most tenured of the sitting Commissioners, said "By my count, it's been 3,701 days we've served together, seeing and overcoming numerous challenges and going over many hurdles.

"At the time you joined the PSC, we wanted to get off the radar and return to the business of doing our statutory responsibility," he explained. "You were a part of 'Team Florida' and accomplished so much here in Florida, nationwide, and overseas."

Commissioner Graham also bragged on Brown's hurricane preparation and said she was a true leader, always assisting to "overcome the caveman influence" on the bench to get things done. "We'll let you go from us because you are still needed in the State of Florida."



Commissioner Andrew Giles Fay, who presented Brown with a flag that had flown over the Capitol, said, "You always pushed us through thoughtful discussion and pushed back on what's right. You're a good person and you always reached out to us on the human point. Your departure is our loss, but DBPR's gain, and I know the Governor made the right choice to lead DBPR."

Commissioner Mike La Rosa, the PSC's newest member, said, "Your leadership helped me be prepared and showed me how to put in the required hard work to handle so many decisions across the broad spectrum of industry issues. I know the Governor made the right choice, and while it's unfortunate that you're leaving, and we'll miss you, Floridians will continue to benefit from your leadership."

Brown said she is "excited to be at DBPR," where she will work to build on the Governor's foundation to implement meaningful occupational licensing reform, as well as to work with business leaders and business owners during Florida's economic recovery.



She complimented those who served on her staff, former colleagues and senior staff and said it "was hard to leave the agency, now understanding why so many employees stay for 30 years."

In her farewell, Brown reminded her colleagues she "was just down the street" and said she wanted to leave Commissioners with several cues, citing the importance of renewable energy, the need to reduce the state's carbon footprint, and the need to be aware of the broad range of options to meet current and emerging energy needs.

"Our decisions are the essence of Florida's livelihood," she said, "Keep up the good work, Commissioners!"