ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: April 20, 2011
Time: 11:03 a.m.

Location: The Carnegie Center
1101 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Colleen Coyle Mathis, Chair
Scott D. Freeman, Vice Chair
Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Also present: James E. Barton II
Assistant Arizona Attorney General

INDEX

Page 1
CHAIR MATHIS: The meeting of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order. Today is Wednesday, April 20th, and the time

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Page 2
is 11:03. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

CHAIR MATHIS: I'd like to remind the public that anyone who would like to speak during public comment, please submit a Request To Speak Form to me, and we'll make sure that you have an opportunity.

And let's all be mindful that we have a court reporter today transcribing the proceedings, and so we need to speak one at a time and into the microphone as much as possible, so that she can get an accurate record.

So if I can begin with roll call. Vice Chair Freeman?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Here.

CHAIR MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Here.

CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner McNulty?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Here.

CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Here.

CHAIR MATHIS: We have a quorum. I'd also like to acknowledge our legal counsel today, Assistant Attorney General Jim Barton. Thanks, Jim, for being here and for your help.

This brings us to Item II on the agenda, which is interviews of the candidates for executive director. Susan Laurence from the ADOA has been managing the executive director recruitment process for us, and we are very grateful to her for all of her help in doing so.
To recap, we had a really great response to the advertisement that we put out for the executive director position. And we've had a lot of great discussion and consideration last -- over the last couple of weeks of those profiles that came in. And last week, interviewed five candidates. We had narrowed the list to five and selected two people to come back today for public interviews.

So I think with that, unless there's anything -- okay. Susan didn't have anything to mention today, but we wanted to have the interviews -- I think we'd like to have the two candidates not hear each other's questions, because that wouldn't be fair to the person who goes second. So if Mr. Gonsher could step out -- because I think we'll go in alphabetical order by last name -- that would be great.

(Whereupon, Mr. Gonsher exits the room, and the following was had:)

MS. MATHIS: And if Mr. Bladine could come up to the microphone, Mr. Raymond Bladine.

And, Commissioners, I thought we'd just ask the questions in a round-robin format as we've done previously. And so Mr. Gonsher has stepped out or is in a sound-proof booth somewhere, and we'll go ahead and begin.

Thank you for being here, Mr. Bladine.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you, Chairman Mathis. I'm very pleased to be here, and thank you for inviting me back, I guess I can say, again. And that's fine. And again, again would be also fine.
CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Well, congratulations on being one of the finalists. We're really happy to have you here.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MATHIS: So if anyone wants to start with a round of questioning, that would be great.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, I'd like to ask Mr. Bladine -- Madam Chair, we went through the interview. We asked, I think, everybody pretty much the same questions. Is there anything that you don't think we covered, or do you think there's something you want to say that you didn't get to say last time?

MR. BLADINE: I would just maybe reemphasize a few things, and that is that, one, I am very -- would be very pleased and honored to be your executive director. I do understand that the role of executive director is different than the role of chairman of the Commission or a member of the board, so I would not be involved in making the policy and political decisions you all need to make.

I would be involved to try to help make it as easy as possible for you to do that and to provide the staffing you need, so that you can move as quickly and smoothly as possible.

I certainly will make what time is necessary to do the job. I know that it will be demanding in terms of time, and I certainly am willing to carry that out in any way that you would see fit.

I seem -- it would seem to me that probably
the executive director would report to the chairman, which I didn't clarify with you, which would be similar to like in a council manager form -- the deputy manager reports to the manager, but also has responsibilities to the mayor and council. And in this case, would be responsible to all of the commissioners to provide them service and assistance to the extent that they need that, but that the directing person, I would assume, would be the chairman.

I'm anxious to get started and would be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Any other questions?

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Chairman Mathis, I'll go next. One of your challenge, Mr. Bladine, is that the media is an extremely important part of engaging the public and doing the job that we're assigned to do. But before we can get about doing that work, we have to do a careful job of building a solid foundation of staff and consultants, which doesn't make for the most exciting news.

Tell us about your experience and strategies in meeting this kind of challenge and working with the media.

MR. BLADINE: It's hard to figure out quite where to start, but I would say from the experience point of view, that over the years in my career with the City and also working in some of the smaller communities that I've worked in, I have had a lot of contact with the media.

I have found that if you are open and honest, you can establish a good relationship, where people trust
you. And I think that's the most important thing. Sometimes you may have to say, "I can't answer that." That's far better than just simply trying to avoid the question, I think.

I think that your point's well taken. At the front end, there's a lot of things that are not exciting for the public, but it's also nice for the public to know what is happening and what is going on. And I think, for example, just what you're doing today is a good idea. You've had a chance to interview us in executive session to get a better idea of who we are, and now you're in the public -- giving the public a chance to see who we are and answer questions.

Therefore, I guess what I would say is I think as an executive director, I would do as much as possible behind the scenes to bring together information so that you could all deal with it in a public meeting. And that would mean that the decisions are made in public.

However, I think as an executive director, I could help gather that information, so that whatever is presented to you, make sure it covers all of the concerns that you would want to have.

But I would say that my approach would be to be as open and straightforward as I can be. And if I couldn't answer questions, say "No." And, also, to assist you in making sure that your goals of keeping the public informed are forefront in my thoughts.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Do you have any personal goals for this Commission? And what is it that you expect to accomplish? And how would you evaluate whether your tenure as executive director for the Commission was a successful one?

MR. BLADINE: Okay. I'll go backwards, because it's easier to remember the last thing first.

My -- evaluating whether I was successful, I think the first one would be that you all thought I was successful, and that I provided the services to you that you felt you needed and I did it in a timely, fair and straightforward manner.

The personal goals would be that this Commission improved upon what was done ten years ago in terms of the administrative process and moving forward, that you were able to learn from happened last time and be able to do a better job in a shorter period of time. And I would like to be a part of trying to help make that happen.

I have no personal goals, other than to have been in a situation where I could say to all of you that I'm doing my best to provide the service, and that you feel I did too. But I don't have any personal -- you know, what the outcome is, that's your -- that's clearly your decision.
Mine would be process, and that I could look back at the end and say, okay, I helped improve the process that, hopefully, will carry on. And ten years from now, they'll use some of what you all did.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.
MR. BLADINE: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?
CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Bladine, welcome back and congratulations on making the final cut, too. We truly appreciate the time and effort that you've put into your participation in this.
MR. BLADINE: Thank you.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: If you are selected as the -- you mentioned a couple of things about sort of the responsibility matrix about you'd be working -- essentially, working for the chair, at the pleasure of the Commission. As you are -- and the next step that would be -- that would take place would be hiring the staff. Can you give me a little outline about what your criteria is in staff selection?

We, of course, have had a great amount of contemplation about how we are hiring this key position first -- great consideration of that. How, then, would you move forward in hiring staff, and what would your priorities be?

MR. BLADINE: My first priority would be to
get from all of you what your priorities are in terms of which ones do you think should go first, and what do you want to see in terms of positions.

   My personal criteria would be, first, that whatever the position is, is that the people brought forward have the competence in that to do the job and to do it well and technically carry it out. After that base is established, then I think it's important to find people that have had experience with public relations types of things, regardless of where they are in the Commission's organization.

   It's important to have people that can work well with other people, that are good listeners, that are looking for solutions to problems and, in general, take the approach of turning lemons into lemonade, not sour lemons.

   So, to me, it's very important as to the approach a person has in life and what they're doing as to how well they'd relate to the Commission. That would be an ultimate, very important thing. You have a limited period of time to get things done. It would be very important that you have people working for you that you are comfortable working for. So somewhere in that process, we would need to make sure that whoever is hired is a person or persons that are comfortable -- that would be comfortable, that the Commission would be working with.
Clearly, they would be responsible for reporting to me, but I would want to know that whoever I appointed also was not going to be an outsider for purposes of the Commission providing advice. So that was kind of a long way around, but --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Well, I have a follow-up question.

MR. BLADINE: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Who would you -- who would you hire first?

MR. BLADINE: Who would I hire first?

I probably would hire the executive assistant or someone that would be able to deal with the budget, and so we could start to take an idea of what we have going forward. But I think -- you know, it seems to me there's about four or five things that all really need to happen first, and that's clearly getting the administrative budget together, that's hiring the consultant that -- which is both the legal and the mapping type.

We need to have -- I need to have clarity -- or whoever the executive director is have clarity with each of the members as to what the role of the executive director's going to be and what your priorities are. I think that would be important. And then, you know, finishing up the other things you've got started, like getting the office space and getting what you need to operate as an organization.

But I would think right off, perhaps, the...
executive assistant would be the next person to hire. But I certainly would be open to finding out if that's, you know, incorrect. But that would be my thought. That do it?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Almost.

MR. BLADINE: Almost. Okay.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a final follow-up to that, you had mentioned the budget --

MR. BLADINE: Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- as being your first piece of your first-hires position. Obviously, you know, the budget that we are working with is -- that's been currently approved is substantively less than what was previously authorized by constitutional mandate under Proposition 106.

How would you see working together with that -- how would you see the hiring of that individual, and what would the criteria be -- in looking for that executive assistant be?

In regards to the management and the usefulness of the budget, what type of individual would you have, and how do you see them interfacing in with what will be an ongoing request with the current and the future legislature?

MR. BLADINE: I guess -- let me back up, because I think -- as I'm thinking, I understand that you do have a person assigned as the interim executive director, who has had budget experience and has that information. And remembering that, it would, perhaps, be less important to me
to deal with an executive assistant, knowing that that information is there, and focus on other things.

I wouldn't see that executive assistant as somebody that's a budget person, but someone who would be able to attend to the day-to-day activities of the operation of an office and keeping within the expenditure controls that might be established, but also to be available in the absence of the executive director or to help the commissioners or the chairman carry out their responsibilities.

So I probably, in hindsight, would be less concerned about the executive director's budget qualifications and more concerned with someone that can see the big picture and help figure out where to provide assistance to the commissioners and the Commission.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: A question from me.

MR. BLADINE: Okay, Chairman.

CHAIR MATHIS: You have had a long career in public service, a long and distinguished career. And I'm just curious to know: What's the most rewarding aspect of that career for you?

MR. BLADINE: It's happening to me more and more as I get older. And it's when you run into somebody you've worked with and you forgot about some sort of interaction you had with them, because you had lots, and they're kind enough to say, you know, you're the one that helped me do X, Y or Z, or do you remember when we did this, and you told me that.
And, I guess, as you get old, you like to hear that you had impacts on others, even though you didn't think of it at the time. So, quite honestly, I guess the legacy that I'm finding I'm very proud of is that there are a lot of people along the way I've interacted with, and they've been kind enough to come up and tell me that I had a positive impact on them, rather than a negative.

I've even had some people that I fired not be mad at me, which I don't understand. But does that answer it?

CHAIR MATHIS: That does.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, I have one question --

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- for Mr. Bladine. The importance of -- how important do you think it is for us to when -- let's just say we come up with a map, or an idea of what the map should look like and for us to be able to reach out to the public and making sure that the public is able to provide input, how would you go about doing that, to make sure that people -- and not just the ones here, but people all over the state are able to contribute or provide input to the Commission if they can't attend a meeting in person or maybe they can -- how would you go about doing that?

MR. BLADINE: I think you've -- looking at
your past minutes, you’ve already got some things in mind that you’ve indicated. And I think using a Web page to get that information available to those that have Internet. I think making wide distributing of the map in a printed form.

If you can find software where people can play around and do their own adjusting of the boundaries. You know, I think that’s going to be the key part of the process where the public will either decide they had an opportunity to provide input or this was not done in an open fashion.

So I think it’s very important to do everything we can, once those maps are out there, to explain them, what the logic is behind them, why you came up with them, and then provide a lot of opportunity for people to comment.

So I guess my simple answer would be is find as many different approaches that you can to get the information out, whether it's sound bites, whether it's printed material, it's on the Internet, group meetings -- anything that is a way that you could advance it, because different people respond to different types of media.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Just a follow-up question. With your extensive background, do you think you have the ability to make those connections with key people in the community to bring them together for that feedback?

MR. BLADINE: I think I do. I -- I have, I guess, in my career have done a lot of work that relates directly to the public on specific issues. And I think, for the most part had people walk away feeling they
were dealt fairly with, and that they had the information they needed to -- you know, to make a decision.

They may not always agree with, you know, what was presented, but, at least, they understood the reasons for it, and it was never done in a personal way. So, yes, I think the main part would be to listen to what the people want to know and then try to answer that. And I think any communication -- it's just not putting it out there, it is also listening to what people want and make sure you're responding by putting that out there.

And I can tell you've already, in your early meetings, have started to try to focus in on that. I do think that's important, very important.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Bladine, perhaps this question goes more towards management style. There's a little bit of a wind-up, so bear with me.

MR. BLADINE: Okay.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Each of us, as commissioners, I believe have worked independently and together, drawing upon our own strengths and with the leadership of our chairman, to move forward together as a Commission and as united as possible.

My sense is we're going to try to keep doing that moving forward, and that's a good thing. It's conceivable, however, that down the road there might come a
time where the Commission or commissioners have different points of view, honest, good faith disagreements on material matters.

It's even conceivable, although, I hope not, that disagreements could be, perhaps, intractable in some way. And there could be splits in the Commission; although, I hope not.

How would you view your role in dealing with the Commission and individuals commissioners in such circumstances?

MR. BLADINE: I would see my role as possibly being able to help people communicate with each other, to, one, make sure that everybody does understand where the other person's coming from. I think over the years, I've developed some skill in helping people develop compromises, try to develop consensus.

It's hard to identify exactly how you go about doing that, but, in general, it is getting people to listen and sit down. It can be sometimes suggesting an alternative that wasn't thought about among two people who are having a disagreement. Or if there's no chance of any sort of reconciliation, at least, making it clear in everyone's mind what the disagreement is. And at that point, if I can help clarify that and get it out so people would know clearly what they're dealing with, I think I've done my role as executive director.

But, clearly, I think there's a potential for the executive director to try to get into some sort of a
mediating, consensus building role if that's what the Commission, you know, needs. But I would hope that it would not come to that. But if it did, I have been in situations where council votes are three to four, and you deal with respect to everybody on both sides of the issue. And you do your best to make sure that they all feel you're giving them the same attention, and that's the way I would approach it.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, there will be five chefs making a stew here. And we, I believe, all want to insure that our legal and other consultants do the prep work that we ask them to do, bring us the information that we've requested of them, but that whatever we wind up is a result of decisions made by the five us.

How can you help us with that?

MR. BLADINE: Well, I think that one of the things any executive director could do, and, therefore, I could do that for you is, one, develop -- I don't know how far along you are, but develop an RFP, that everybody agrees those are the key ingredients that should begin to get the information out, bring it back in, provide some summary of that information, along with the detailed information to the Commission, and so that at a public meeting they could sit down and talk about it.

But I think that it would be a role of gathering data from people that have submitted the RFPs, providing some summary of that data to help the Commission
focus on the things that you've identified are important to

1 you, get clarification, if necessary, on the RFPs if there's
2 something that isn't clear, try to go back and get the
3 clarification. So, basically, it would be to bring you a
4 package of information that you could deal with in a public
5 meeting and make your decisions.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, Mr. Bladine
and Commissioner McNulty, I'm more of a jambalaya fan.
So get ready, because we're going to have some fun making our
stew.

You said, initially, that you are -- you gave
the impression that you were available immediately to become
part of and to bring forward consultation with the selection
process that we are currently beginning and engaged in.

Are you aware that the RFPs have already been
released for our legal consultants?

MR. BLADINE: No, I was not. But I knew that
you were close, but I didn't realize you had put it out.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Knowing that the RFPs
for the consultants are going to be made available to the
Commission on or about the 29th of April, would -- if the
selection of the executive director is made today, would you
be an active participant -- or how would you consider
yourself to be an active participant in the review and the
distillation of those RFPs?
MR. BLADINE: I would -- I would think that regardless of whether the paperwork's done for hiring or not, whoever it is, the executive director should be involved and I would be. And that is to say that I would quickly get involved with the person getting those RFPs, get up to speed on what's going on, talk to probably each of you individually, get some idea of what input you have, and then try to figure out ways that I could help streamline the process in bringing it to you.

But, you know, it's like I noticed in your agenda this afternoon, if selected, whether it's Geoffrey or I, we need to be here, because those are things that are going to be very important for the executive director to be available to you.

So, yeah, I would be here this afternoon. I'm sure Geoffrey would, too. But, yes, I have a few things that I'm precommitted to. They're not huge. Some of them will go away in the summer. I'm on the City of Phoenix Retirement Board. That's usually a monthly meeting; although, recently, we've had a couple, because we are talking to our investment advisors. I'm on the Retirees Association for Phoenix. Their last meeting is next month.

So, I mean, there's not a lot of things that would conflict with making this -- you know, making this my priority -- other than my afternoon naps and sleeping, but I think I'll just have to put that on the back burner.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions? You didn't
have a follow-up?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'll have a final question.

CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Okay. Mr. Bladine, what do you think of Mr. Gonsher as a candidate for this position?

MR. BLADINE: I think that if you didn't select me, you would do very well with Geoffrey. He and I have known each other and worked with each other at the City. He has the highest integrity. He's a very smart individual. He has an advantage over me of knowing the State -- State system. We've had different experiences; his mostly in the State, mostly mine in the City.

But I would certainly be willing to qualify as a reference for Geoffrey and say that he could do an excellent job.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

MR. BLADINE: And that wasn't fair to put him on the same place with me, because I think both of us could do this job equally well. I have to be honest and say that, and I think he'd feel the same.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

MR. BLADINE: Sure.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That was going to be my question.

CHAIR MATHIS: Really?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That was.

CHAIR MATHIS: I stole it.
MR. BLADINE: Well, Geoffrey and I have a solution -- hire us both as co-leaders, kind of like co-vice chairs.

CHAIR MATHIS: There's precedent for that.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you. It's a legal term.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Please.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Bladine, could you please describe the nature and the scope of any prior experiences you've had with redistricting efforts, and how those experiences or other similar professional experiences that you might have had would benefit the Commission.

MR. BLADINE: Okay. The experience that I've had in the redistricting is tangential, and that being that I was a part of the City of Phoenix executive team when we went through the redistricting process ten years ago. And I was probably at a department head level before that.

But for the first -- but, bottom line, is a man by the name of Rick Naimark, who was the person assigned to the City of Phoenix redistricting effort, worked with the mapping officials and worked with the council, and they had the public meetings. I watched it, I knew what the process was that was going on, but I was not directly, directly involved in it.

I'm not sure that I can think of a process that I have been involved in that's quite like redistricting. I've certainly been involved in a lot of things that are trying to bring people together and trying to solve problems,
but I think redistricting is a very different kind of animal
that I've never been directly involved in.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Bladine, what do
you do when you're misquoted? What would you advise us to do
when we're misquoted?

MR. BLADINE: It depends how bad the misquote
is. I would -- what I've done in the past, if I felt I was
badly misquoted, I've called the reporter, whoever, and
explained why I don't think that was what I said. And they
certainly have their right to hear it the way they hear it,
but I think it's important to provide them input if you feel
you were misquoted. Sometimes, quite frankly, it's not worth
making a big issue about.

You know, if it is a substantial misquote,
then I think you really need to follow up and set the record
straight. One of the -- particularly, the print media, one

of the problems I've learned is if you're misquoted and you
don't follow up, that misquote is now in their archive. And
every time a reporter decides that they're going to write
another story, the first thing they do is read their archive.
So the misquote of three years ago now becomes the fact of
today.

So it's important, if it's big, to go back and
try to get the reporter to, at least, make a note that there
was a question about that. But having been around long
enough to see things come back in the paper that are quoted
as a fact, which were disputable some years ago, I think that
gives me more of a concern that if there's a substantial misquote, you really need to follow up on it.

Does that help?

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you. Yes.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Commissioner --

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- or Madam Chair?

Mr. Bladine, obviously, this Commission is laying on you hard for a reason. You first made an application for the chair position and now have come forward to act as its executive director.

Describe to me what it is in your core right now that is placing you in this -- this is an extraordinarily difficult role and task that we, as volunteers, have taken on. But more so, you're stepping into something that is a role that you are going to be front and center of in a high profile position from the public's point of view and from a public service point of view.

Describe for me exactly why you are -- why you are here.

MR. BLADINE: Because I'm crazy. No. I got into local government in 1968 after graduate school with the belief that I wanted to leave the world a better place than when I came. And as trite as that may sound, that's true. That's why I got into public service, and I have stuck with that for the thirty years I've worked for Phoenix.

And ten years after, feeling that I have developed expertise that the taxpayers have paid for, as I've
grown older and more experienced -- I have a nice retirement from the City of Phoenix, the taxpayers have been good to me -- I need to give back. And that's really what I see that I might be able to do here is to -- is to give back.

That may sound kind of Pollyanna-ish, but the truth is a lot us that have been involved in government, we got in it because we wanted to make a difference. And it didn't mean we were elected officials, which, clearly, you could make a difference, but behind the scenes, providing good administrative staff, providing good information for decisionmaking, making sure all points of view in the community is heard. Those are the things that have and continue to hold my interest.

So my interest in doing this is to give something back to the community. I can't think of a more important topic than what you're all dealing with now. And I clearly understand my role would not be the role of the chairman, but, perhaps, I can, behind the scenes, provide that input that might be helpful to you to make better decisions. So that is my -- that is my motivation.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Are there any other questions for Mr. Bladine?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Do we have time, Madam Chair, or are we up against our --

CHAIR MATHIS: I think we're okay.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I do then.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.
COMMISSIONER McNULTY: You've answered this prior to this, but I'm going to ask it a little different way. There are a number of different people and organizations in the state that have a stake in what we're about to do -- citizens, government groups, elected officials, political parties, the press to name just a few. What do you do to stay informed about all of the currents that are going to be swirling around in the State, and how will you apply that to your job as executive director?

MR. BLADINE: Not get any sleep and read everything you can read and watch everything you can watch. On the serious side, I would -- I always have been a reader; particularly, as much as I can get in terms of the print media. I do check Web pages fairly frequently outside the Phoenix area, and I read the Phoenix paper. I have, in the past, you know, just taken time to talk to people who I know are experts in an area. And that, certainly, would be something that I would think I would continue to do.

I guess part of it -- I mean, I think that meeting that role, primarily, is your role and responsibility of really feeling like you're plugged into what the community wants and what the community groups need to do. So I'd see that I'd be in a supportive role of making sure we, you know, monitor the kinds of information that is being discussed about the Commission.

I know there are services out there that
provide headline clippings on topical areas. That might be one way to help keep the Commission informed of what's being said in other parts of the state or by different organizations.

So I guess I would say it would be to just keep scouting around, making contact with those organizations that have identified an interest in what the Commission is doing and trying to keep tabs on areas outside of the metropolitan areas in terms of issues that are coming up and their thoughts about that.

I don't think that's a very good answer, but it's the best I can do right now.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It is, it is a good answer. And you've raised another question I'd like to ask as a follow-up.

One thing that will be very important is for us to keep in touch with rural communities and to make them an integral part of this process.

Have you had thoughts about, specifically, how we will go about doing that?

MR. BLADINE: Not very specific thoughts, but thinking about the parts of the state in terms of the communities and how we might link in with cities and regional organizations that might be out there would be a way to get information or disseminate information.

But having worked in Chino Valley for about a year and then helping them hire a town manager, you know, I understand that they have a whole different set of issues and...
concerns, not necessarily about redistricting. But then the metropolitan areas, the same thing when I did some work in Show Low.

It just reminds you that there is the rural area, it is a very big part of Arizona, and we would have to make some effort to make sure that those voices are heard. They're not going to be heard as well as voices that are organized and, generally, in a metropolitan area.

But, no, I don't have a specific plan, but I certainly think that's an important issue to dwell on.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I've got one question and then a follow-up.

(Whereupon, a cell phone rings, and the following was had:)

MR. BLADINE: I don't dance well either.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a Commission, the Constitution prescribes that we exercise our duties in a fair and independent manner. The word "independent" appears numerous times in the constitutional language. The executive director position is going to be an integral part of our Commission.

Is there anything in your background that either political party can use to draw into question your
independence?

MR. BLADINE: I cannot think of any. But as we all know, it's kind of the approach nowadays to make mountains out of molehills, and that happens. But I can't think of a molehill that would be able to be turned into a mountain.

I have not been politically involved in any election campaigns. I have, basically, as you know, been a public administrator. And I cannot, Commissioner Stertz, think of anything that would allow that to happen.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a follow-up to that question, have you made donations to any political parties, political entities or political organizations that would be of public record that would be able to be brought up that might give bother to breaking your statement of being independent?

MR. BLADINE: Sure. I -- I don't recall that I have made a contribution to any political party or political organization. I have made donations to candidates in the past. But I don't recall that I have made a donation -- I may have made a donation to the -- I'm not even sure what it was, but it was at the national level. And it may have been the Democratic National Caucus when it was around some issue that they were supporting, that I supported. But it would have been like $25 or something like
But I have not made it a practice of doing those. So, no, I don't think there is anything out there.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So if there was going to be a public search of your -- of giving that you have --

MR. BLADINE: Right.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- your anticipation would be the answer would be little to no?

MR. BLADINE: Right. There'd be -- you know, again, I haven't made that many that I -- I know I made a contribution to a friend that was running for an office. I've done that a couple of times. But that's really it. I -- so you would find that I've made some donations to specific candidates. And in all of those instances, they were people that I know and felt would do a good job regardless of what their political party would be.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions? Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I do have a follow-up question to Commissioner Stertz's question. Let's just say you were -- you know, you were registered to a certain party and you even donated.

What kind of impact would that have if we were to hire you -- or just, generally speaking, on the executive director position that a person belonged to a party and was active -- any impact at all, do you think?

MR. BLADINE: I think you raise a good point.

It would be, more likely, someone trying to
make a mountain out of a molehill. But, no, it's not -- I
mean, my whole history has been of being fair, of being
nonpartisan, of working with mayors that are Democrats and
mayors that are Republicans, council members that are
Republicans, council members that are Democrats.

I don't ask what their -- you know, what their
partisanship. I relate to them as a policymakers. And I
think that's, really, what the role should be with this,
regardless of what my political beliefs are.

I have political beliefs just like everyone
else, but it's not -- it wouldn't be my role as executive
director to be sharing that or dealing with you on that.
That's my personal thing.

As an executive director, your point, I think,
is right on. I need to provide fair and balanced service to
everybody regardless of party affiliation, and that's what
I'd do.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any further questions?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I do have a final
question. As executive director, you're going to have to
deal with the stress of meeting our demands, meeting the
demands of the staff, managing community perception, dealing
with molehills made into mountains and so forth.

How do you manage that stress, and how do you
maintain balance yourself?

MR. BLADINE: Well, that's a good question.
Over the years, I think the strategy has changed. As I've gotten older, one, I've learned not to take so many things absolutely seriously, and that this problem, too, shall pass. It may be painful going through it. So I guess I've gained some perspective that does allow me to deal with stress and not take it as personally as I did when I was -- when I was younger.

Second thing, I have found that, like everybody else, I do need to take some time to go resharpen the saw. So, periodically, I'll just try to find a weekend to get away and do nothing, so that I have a chance to come back and be fresh. I try to find enjoyment in those things that I do along the way, so that it counteracts kind of the stresses.

I can't tell you that I'm a jogger or meditator, but those would be good things for me to do if I -- if I were trying to manage it. But I think that, perhaps, the most important thing is that I've gotten to understand that I can't solve all of the problems, but I do my best and let the chips fall where they may.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

MR. BLADINE: Uh-huh.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I think this concludes the interview, Mr. Bladine. Thank you very much for being here today.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you, Chairman Mathis. I...
appreciate being here again and again and again. And I look forward to your decision. And, like I say, I don't think you could lose if you decide that Geoffrey better suits your needs. He would do an excellent job for you, and I know he feels the same about me. We've had a good working relationship over the years, and co-chairs might not be out of order for this group.

So thank you, Chairman.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, I think he can stick around for Mr. Gonsher's interview, right?

CHAIR MATHIS: I believe so, yes. You don't have to put the earphones on.

MR. BLADINE: Okay. I will -- I will go sit in the back, then --

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

-- and root for Geoffrey also.

CHAIR MATHIS: Great.

MR. BLADINE: Thank you for bringing that up.

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Herrera.

(whereupon, Mr. Gonsher enters the room, and the following was had:)

CHAIR MATHIS: Hello, Mr. Gonsher.

MR. GONSHER: Good morning.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you for being here and congratulations on being a finalist for this executive director position.

MR. GONSHER: Thank you.
And if I could ask you to be sure to speak into the microphone, just because our court reporter will be transcribing the proceedings. We're just going to ask questions in a round-robin format, and if I could ask the commissioners to go ahead and begin.

Vice Chair Herrera: Madam Chair?

Chair Mathis: Mr. Herrera.

Vice Chair Herrera: Mr. Gonsher, thank you for being here.

Mr. Gonsher: Thank you.

Vice Chair Herrera: We've all had the privilege of getting to know you. The people in the audience probably don't. Anything you want to say or add that you didn't say last time -- any comments?

Mr. Gonsher: Madam Chairman, Mr. Herrera, I do have some short introductory remarks if that's okay.

Chair Mathis: Of course. Go ahead.

Mr. Gonsher: For the public record, my name is Geoffrey Gonsher, and I am an applicant for the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Executive Director position. I do want to thank you for selecting me to be one of the finalists today. I believe that's a positive reflection on my 40-year career in public service.

During the interview last week, I emphasized that I am a public administrator. My experience includes directing -- being a director, an acting director, and a deputy director of five executive branch agencies, as well as
several years in management positions for the City of Phoenix.

I'm familiar with State procurement, personnel budget, and other administrative functions of State agencies. I'm just as comfortable with the external responsibilities of an agency director, the legal matters, media relations, customer service and stakeholder communications.

I've also worked very closely with policy and regulatory boards and commissions, and I understand the dynamics of these bodies.

I also mentioned during the interview that I've worked in both nonpartisan and bipartisan environments. I believe I've earned the respect of public officials on both sides of our political business. My priority has always been to serve and protect the public. And with that, I'll be glad to answer any questions.

CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Mr. Herrera, do you --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I didn't know if you had a follow-up.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Sure. Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Gonsher, thank you for coming back and doing this again.

Do you have any personal goals for this Commission? And what is it that you expect to accomplish? And how would you evaluate whether your tenure as the
MR. GONSHER: First of all, personal goals, the first goal would be to ensure that this Commission reaches its deadlines in a manner that's consistent with federal and state law. I know from past experience that the issues that this Commission will deal with will be very controversial.

And my job will be to make sure that this Commission is as comfortable as possible in dealing with all of that controversy and, at the same time, insuring compliance with all of the requirements. Can you say the second two parts of that question?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It was: How would you evaluate yourself as to how your tenure was as executive director?

MR. GONSHER: Mr. Freeman, when -- when one works for an elected official, the way he or she evaluates their self is how often or not as often your name ends up in the newspaper. And -- but that would be one of the -- one of the ways that I would evaluate my performance, is to ensure that the Commission's work and the Commission's comments and words are those that end up in the newspaper and not the executive director.

The executive director works for the Commission. He stands behind the Commission, protects the Commission, supports the Commission and ensures the Commission does its job properly. That would be a major
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I think there were two parts.

MR. GONSHER: Okay.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Other questions?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: This is a bit of a follow-up on the question that Commissioner Freeman just asked. One of our challenges is that the media is a very important part of engaging the public in the process we've been appointed to do.

But before we can get about doing that work, we have to do a careful job of building a solid foundation of staff and consultants, which doesn't make for very exciting news sometimes.

Tell us about your experience and strategies in overcoming this kind of challenge, and what the effect would be.

MR. GONSHER: I've had many years of working with the media, and my experience is both -- has been both positive and negative. You can probably Google some of those "New Times" articles.

I have found it's always best to be open and honest with the media. Any public information that's available, my feeling has always been it ought to be shared.
with the media at the appropriate time. It should never go
to the media prior to the Commission receiving it. The media
should never feel as if its being closed out on information,
or that the individual sharing the information is being
dishonest in conveying that information.

It's difficult, at times, to deal with the
media. They have a job to do, and it's the right job to do
for the public. I'm -- I'm friendly with the media, I'm open
with the media, but I'm never afraid to say to a reporter,
"That's some information that, I'm sorry, I cannot share with
you at this time, but here's when it may be available."

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions? Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Gonsher, thank you
very much for coming back and congratulations on making the
finalists, yourself and Mr. Bladine.

In the first actions that will be taken and if
you were going to craft a responsibility matrix about who you
responded to or who you worked for, how would you describe
that; and as follow-up to that, the primary responsibilities
about what your hiring practice is and what your priorities
would be coming out of that engagement.

MR. GONSHER: In response to the first part of
that question, the executive director works for this
Commission. You are the executive director's boss. You can
tell the executive director what to do and what not to do.
Individually, you may not be able to do that, but as a group or as a majority, you certainly have that authority.

And the executive director ought to be in the position to say, "Yes, sir," "Yes, ma'am," and get the job done and understand that he works exclusively for this Commission, not for any public -- not for any other public official, not for an elected official, not for -- not for the public even, though the public is very much a part of this circle. But the first priority is to the Commission itself.

And the second part of that question?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And the follow-up was that if you were given the award of becoming the executive director, what would your immediate process be in hiring, and what would your criteria be for hiring -- who would those individuals be, what the roles would be, and how would you judge that criteria.

MR. GONSHUR: I have already given a lot of thought to the staffing that's necessary for this process. And there are some initial positions that are very necessary to get on board immediately. One of them, of course, is the technology individual.

I have noticed that there's information about that issue on the agenda today. It's very important for the technological foundation to be built immediately, so that when it is necessary, as the weeks and months go on, it's available.

There's also a necessity to bring on board
a -- I'll call the position a community outreach manager position immediately. There is a need to start scheduling the first round of public meetings in June. In doing so, it means reaching out to those cities, those communities, those community organizations and those locations.

The hiring of individuals to help with the logistics of going to Page or Safford or Flagstaff or North Phoenix or any place else. So that's another position that's essential to bring on board right away.

I'm told that the Department of Administration is available to provide the administrative support initially, which is the procurement, budgeting, personnel and so on. And that's wonderful news, because there's nobody on staff yet who has that expertise or the time to do it.

But at some point relatively soon, there will be a need to bring somebody on board who is an experienced contracts manager, which is -- which has one leg in the procurement process itself, but the more important part of that person's responsibility is in managing the contracts, ensuring that the organizations and the individuals are doing the jobs that they've bid do to do, that expenditures are being made properly. So that's -- that's an important person also.

So those are very important positions to have on board. I would rely upon the Department of Administration to initiate recruitment for those positions.

However, there is so much work that needs to be done during the first thirty days, I would want to talk to...
the Commission about reaching out to loaned executives, individuals who we may know, who are experienced in those fields and come on board and, perhaps, be on assignment from a city, a state or a county organization who can help with some of those initial activities.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: Other question?
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr. Gonsher has touched on this, so I think I'll ask this now. There are going to be five chefs making a stew. And Mr. Stertz's has informed me it's going to be a jambalaya.

How can you help us with that?

MR. GONSHER: Excuse me. You said --
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: That they don't create the stew, they do the prep work. We create the stew, the five people sitting behind this dais. How can you help us with that?

MR. GONSHER: That's the job of an executive director to ensure that the information that's requested by the Commission and is prepared for the Commission is consistent with what you want and need.

And there's a lot of technical information involved, I understand that. But the executive director at times can be a gatekeeper to say, "I think you're way off
"You're not providing enough information, you're not clarifying the information or you're giving too much information, because you have to remember, it's the Commission that makes the decisions, not you, Mr. Consultant."

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: I'll ask a question.

You have had a very long and distinguished career in public service. And I'm just curious to know what you would say is the most rewarding aspect of that career.

MR. GONSHER: I've had so many wonderful opportunities. My -- my bosses have given me major responsibility and have given me a lot of fun activities to do also.

I think from an administrative perspective, being able to walk into an agency in which the governor has just fired the director, there's a negative auditor general's report sitting on the desk, there was a newspaper headline about that agency that Sunday morning, and being able to, within a short period of time, changing the culture of that agency, so that there are policies and procedures, so that the employees are involved in the decisionmaking process and the stakeholders are involved in the decisionmaking process also -- but to see that change occur over a period of time has been very gratifying for me, and I've enjoyed that.

I've also had a lot of fun experiences because of my bosses. I had an opportunity years ago to fly with
baseball Commissioner Bart Giamatti and his wife to the Hopi Reservation and spend an entire day with Mr. Giamatti. And I don't know if any of you remember Mr. Giamatti, but he was a former president of Yale, he was a baseball commissioner, a brilliant individual. And to be able to say that I was able to touch his brain for one day of his life has been very fulfilling for me.

CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Thank you. Other questions?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, the question you had asked Mr. Bladine, I'll just ask Mr. Gonsher. I think you both know each other.

MR. GONSHERR: Yes, sir.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: You both know each other well. What you can you say about Mr. Bladine?

MR. GONSHERR: In response to that, I have some words in my closing remarks, and I'd like to refer to those if you don't mind.

Mr. Bladine is a highly-respected, seasoned public administrator. As a younger staffer, I had the opportunity to watch him in my career at city hall, and I never saw any flaws. He was always honest, knowledgeable and well prepared for all matters before the mayor and the city council. He was helpful to me on several occasions that gave me some new direction in my career and as a professional.

He was the deputy city manager who signed the approval for me to be a loaned executive to acting governor Rose Mofford on the first day of her -- in her new position.
And I'm -- I'm honored to be here today, to be standing next to Ray Bladine. That makes me feel really good. He's a wonderful gentleman and a great administrator.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Gonsher, each of us, as commissioners, I believe have strived -- worked independently and together, drawing upon our own strengths and under the leadership of our chair, to move forward together and as united as possible as a Commission. And I hope that continues, and it's my sense that it will.

It's conceivable, however, that down the road there might come a time where commissioners have different opinions, honest, good faith disagreements on material matters. It's even conceivable -- although, I hope not, and I have no sense that it's coming -- that commissioners could have disagreements that are, perhaps, intractable.

As the executive director, how would you -- what would you view your role as in dealing with circumstances like that?

MR. GONSHER: I see the executive director's role as being fair to all of the commissioners and treating all of you equally, providing all of the same information at the same time to teach of you, never sharing information with one without sharing it with the entire group, never following up on a directive from just one, without letting the rest of
the group know that this directive has been made. And if they're comfortable with it, that's fine; if not, then maybe we'd want to talk about it.

In all of my experience with boards and commissions, there are some -- there are always some who don't agree with the others. But they have always acted in a civil manner, both publicly and privately, and I would expect nothing less from this Commission.

I've read your resumes, just as you've read mine. I've seen you in action at a couple of the Commission meetings. And I expect that the executive director, whomever you select, is going to have a very good relationship, not only with the entire group, but with each of you individually.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other question?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

Mr. Gonsher, describe to me your management style.

MR. GONSEHER: There are two components to my management style. One of them I simply call participatory management. And what that means is that everybody who is affected by the decision has a hand in the decisionmaking process. In my experience, it's been employees and stakeholders.

Two quick examples. When I moved into the racing department, the employees were very upset about the configuration of the work stations. All of them faced in
different directions. There was no rhyme or reason to the way they were structured. And they came to me and said, "Mr. Brand-new Director, will you change all of this and make it better?" And I said, "No."

I gave them a blank sheet of paper, showed them where my office was. And I said, "You, employees, work together and come up with a new game plan for how the office ought to look." I gave them only two specifics that were important to me. One was that every door to every cubicle be facing, in some manner, toward the front door of the agency. And the other was that similar functions be in proximity -- not next to, but in proximity to each other. I think some of the people didn't want to be living next door to each other for some reason.

And they gave me a plan in which there was only one issue that I had to change, and that is one employee had her door still facing toward the outside stairway that left the building. I changed that. But I gave them complete authority to redesign an entire office.

A bigger example at racing is that I wanted to propose a drug testing program for employees of the tracks that had never been in existence before. And I came up with an initial game plan, which, admittedly, was way too stringent. And, as a result of that, got quite a reaction from the track owners and operators.

And so what I did was I gave that to them and I said, "Then you give me a plan that we can, together, put into place." Initially, their reaction was there's no need
for a plan, there's no need for any drug testing of our employees, all of our employee are clean. The records did not show that.

But after several months of working together, I accepted their plan, which was much, much less stringent than what I'd initially proposed. But the important things were that, first, there was a plan in place to drug test employees, selected employees. The second was that I was not simply handing them a plan and saying, "This is what the policy is going to be."

I said to them, "You are the ones who are affected by it. You are the ones who ought to have a hand in how this drug-testing plan ought to be designed. That's the first component.

The second is communications. I think it's really important to always be communicating with your employees and your stakeholders and your customers -- whatever you want to call them. I have always had an open-door policy, which means employees can walk in at any time and talk about anything they want.

I've had employees who have disagreed with me but have not felt reluctant to walk in and tell me why they've disagreed with me. They're surprised at times, if they've disagreed on an issue and said, "This is the way we ought to do it," and I would turn back to them and say, "I'm not sure about that, but how about if you select two of your colleagues and do some research and come up with an idea and
bring it back to me, and maybe it will be a better way for us to do it than the way that I'm doing it today." And, often, it's a better way.

I think it's really important for projects to be touched and seen by as many people as possible. It's rare in my career when anything I've written has ever left the office without three or four different people reading it and editing it. And not only changing grammar and punctuation, which at times is necessary, but changing the tone and substance of it at times. It's really important to get that different perspective.

And that's very much a part of my management style, is to reach out to all sorts of people to say, "What do you think about this? Tell me how I can make it better."

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr. Gonsher, kind of a follow-up on that. There are many different people and organizations in our state that have a stake in the work that our agency is going to do -- citizens, government groups, elected officials, political parties and the press just to name a few.

How do you stay informed about all of the currents that will be swirling around the state with regard to the Commission, and how will you apply that to your job?
Currently, I try to stay in touch with public issues by -- I read four newspapers a day. I go online, and I read political blogs, understanding the validity of -- the limited validity sometimes of the blog information. I think we've all read some of those. And there are some of them that are also very, very good.

I ask a lot of questions. I have colleagues in different public areas of the state, and we chat often about what's going on -- never sharing confidential information, of course. But I would certainly continue all of what I've done in the past.

What I would be doing in this position is part of the public outreach program, and that is to -- not only to plan these first round of public meetings, but also the second round of public meetings, but also to get into the social network environment.

I think it's also essential that whatever information is sent to the Commission ought to be available online to anybody and everybody who wants it.

At racing, we sent out our Racing Commission packet every month online to a couple of hundred recipients. And the packet was about this thick. And it was -- it was really helpful for people to be able to read information before they came to a commission meeting.

And I would expect that this Commission may want the same, that people who appear at the Commission meetings are educated and informed, so when they appear, when they make presentations, they are familiar with the
I would -- I would not see it as my role to meet individually with organizations, because of the impression of impropriety. I believe that if there are organizations, public officials -- whomever -- citizens who want to share a view, that view ought to be available to ever Commission member and not necessarily the executive director.

Now with that said, the executive director does have a responsibility to educate people, if they are so inclined to be educated, if they have factual questions, if they want to know about the process, what's going to happen, what's out there and how it's going to change and what it's going to look like at the end and so on.

But opinions expressed by individuals who want to in some way -- some positive way influence the outcome of your product ought to be available to all of you in public session.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions from other commissioners?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Mr. Gonsher, could you please describe for us the nature and scope of any prior experiences you've had with redistricting efforts; or if not, any other similar -- what you would regard as similar professional experiences you've had and how those experiences you've had would benefit this Commission.
MR. GONSHER: I actually had to reach back into my history in the early 1980s when the City of Phoenix went through its first districting process. Prior to that time, city council members were elected at large in the City of Phoenix. And because of the public vote, they were making the districts.

At the time, I was a managing assistant to Mayor Margaret Hance, and I was assigned the role of principal staff assistant to the project -- a position comparable to what the executive director is today.

The position did not require the technical development of information. That was done by a private contractor. It was the Rose Institute from the Claremont McKenna College.

But my job was to make sure that the elected officials always knew that their requests were being considered, and that they always knew what information was going to be prepared and when they were going to have a chance to review it.

It was an administrative role, it was not a technical role, but it was exposure to the process. And so I have a little bit of experience.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

MR. GONSHER: I have to tell you, though, Mr. Commissioner, times have changed considerably since the early 1980s in terms of districting and redistricting and you know that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, that leads me to my next question, which is: Why are you here? What is placed on your heart that -- this is going to be an extraordinarily difficult task, and not just for the five volunteers that are here, but you, as a -- as a paid executive managing this process.

The other commissioners have touched upon it briefly, but what is placed on our heart that would want you to take this role of executive director, looking at our jambalaya and our stew and our chaotic condition, knowing that we're all -- we're all playing nice in the sandbox together, but there is going to come a time when there is going to be difficulty between the members of the general public and the members of the Commission, that we are going to be pulled in many, many different directions?

MR. GONSHER: When I first saw the recruitment bulletin online, I thought to myself, that's what I've done my entire career. And to continue doing what I've done successfully, I hope, was an attractive thing for me to think about.

Rather than going a completely different direction in my career, rather than going to the private sector, rather than becoming a lobbyist, which I have absolutely no interest in doing, rather than becoming an elected official, a candidate for public office, which I would never ever, ever have any interest in doing, I thought that this position would afford me the opportunity to do what I do best and that is manage.

Page 52
The second reason is that what this Commission accomplishes -- and you know this -- is substantial. It's the basis for our voice in Washington, our voice down the street. That's so, so important to our population in Arizona. And to be a part of that process, I think, is personally fulfilling for all of us who would be part of that process.

The third reason is I'm too young, I'm too healthy and I'm too active not to be much more productive in life. And this gives me that -- this would give me that opportunity.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other questions?
from many, many people that when you go into that period of
your life, you -- you experience negativity in many ways and
so you have to be prepared for it.

Two months after I left the agency, I went to
the Omega Institute in Upstate New York, which teaches
people a term they use, which is used often, which is
"mindfulness," the ability to think about what's important in
a positive way. I mean, that's generalized. That takes
thousands of other words and many, many discussions and so
on.

And I really try to think of things in my life
in that manner, whether it's professional or personal. I --
I always try to look at things in a positive way and think
about the positive aspect of things. Yes, there are
negativities. But when you think about it, life goes on.

You may get upset about something, you may not
agree with something or somebody. But in the scheme of
things, in our lives, life goes on and that's important to
keep in mind.

I also work out at the Y three or four days a
week, and I think that's important for everybody to maintain
their healthfulness. And my dogs are tired of me petting
them.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions from the
commissioners?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I do have a final
question, and then a follow-up.
CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead, Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Gonsher, as a Commission, the Constitution prescribes that we exercise our duties in a fair and independent manner. The word "independent" appears numerous times in the constitutional language. The executive director position is going to be an integral part of our Commission.

Is there anything in your background that either political party could use to draw into question your independence?

MR. GONSHER: It's no secret that I have worked for elected officials for most of my career. In working for those individuals, I've been involved in many, many public issues. One never knows in today's times how one's involvement in those issues might be reconstrued -- misconstrued. You do the best job you can, and you hope for the best. But in today's political times, one never knows how something might be looked at by an individual.

I can honestly say to you that there has never been a time in my career when I have crossed the line of honesty. And I have tried to be as fair as possible in all of my projects and in all of my responsibilities to my bosses.

So I don't believe there's anything in my career, but with that I'll say what everybody says, you never know how somebody's going take a look at something you did. I can tell you, honestly, that I've had to make some very difficult decisions as the director of those agencies. And
those decisions have made some people unhappy, more than unhappy. And those people probably do not consider me a friend today. And those people, if you were to ask them, might not say something positive about me today. That's the business we're in, and you just have to live with it.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: As a follow-up to that question, you, in your history, have you made contributions to any political party, political affiliation, political organization or individual running for political office that would come up in a public records search?

MR. GONSHER: Yes, sir. And I would hope that they would come up in a public records search, because that's how it's supposed to work. I've contributed to friends who have run for public office on both sides of the aisle. I've contributed to both parties at times in my career depending upon the times. So you ought to see where I have made some -- what I would consider to be minor contributions to these individuals and organizations.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Could you give us some examples of party contributions that you might have made?

MR. GONSHER: Sometime in the last five years, I made a contribution to the Democratic party, the local Democratic party here.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Was it a substantive contribution, or was it a minor contribution?

MR. GONSHER: I'll tell you the amount, and you can decide if it was substantive or not, because it's hard to tell the difference between the two. I seem to
recall it was about a thousand dollars, give or take. But it's been a few years, and I just don't remember the details. But probably in that neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I appreciate that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions? Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I do have a follow-up question, Madam Chair. Being a, you know, active citizen, where you are involved -- you, obviously, do other things outside of work, including, you know, donating to parties. What kind of impact, if any, does that have -- in terms of your -- your beliefs, your political beliefs, you donate to candidates, if we were to hire you, what impact would that have on your ability to do the job, if any?

MR. GONSHER: It would have absolutely no impact. This is an administrative job. It's in a controversial political arena, no doubt about that.

But the job of the executive director is one of as a public administrator. The executive director will not be making the decisions that you'll be making. The executive director's job is to make sure that you have the best information, in a timely manner, for you to make those decisions.

The fact that I've contributed to Candidate X two years ago will have absolutely no impact on the job that I would do for you, nor would I expect that Candidate X would
ever approach me on the matters in which I would have to
be able -- that would just be -- for any of the candidates
I've ever worked for, that just -- it's not something that I
would even anticipate, because they do know what kind of
administrator I am.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions?
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: No.
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Mr. Gonsher, thank you very much for your time and for coming today.

MR. GONSHER: Thank you very much.
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I think that takes us to Item III on the agenda, and that's a call for public comment.

Just a reminder for anybody who came in late, if you would like to address us during public comment, please fill out a Request To Speak Form. Right now I have two, so we'll go ahead and get started.

The first speaker, and if you'll please come up to the podium, is Douglas Johnson. He's the president of National Demographics Corporation. And he -- the subject today is Item 3, "Useful Resources From Last Commission."

MR. JOHNSON: Madam Chair, Members of the Commission, my name is Douglas Johnson. I'm president of
would be useful to you.

We were the technical consultants to the last Redistricting Commission, and I look forward to the opportunity of providing a bid to you.

One thing I did want to mention is there are a couple of records. As you mentioned, you are working through the hiring process and getting up to speed. If people are looking forward to planning their testimony and how they can offer input that might help jumpstart this effort once you do get to that stage, it's probably useful to know that the last Commission left behind two things.

One was a report on the districts that they adopted and the communities of interest that they looked at in each one. And the other was a -- from the court records, is a step-by-step process of how they looked at communities and made decisions on communities of interest.

I, obviously, don't offer these as guidance for things that you should follow, more as a baseline that people looking to offer testimony can look at what's in the record already and how they might either agree with or disagree with that and give you guidance at this time.

So I just want to point out a couple of resources that might be useful to you and to the public as they get ready for this fast and furious process. And just say "Hi" and offer any other advice or information that will be useful to you as you go forward. Thank you very much.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: Our next speaker is Steve Muratore, Publisher of "Arizona Eagletarian." The subject is "Executive Director Timeline And Procurement Code."

MR. MURATORE: Good morning, Madam Chairman, Commissioners. Good to see you again.

I wanted to say -- let's see. Let's talk about the timeline and procurement code first. I wanted to reflect on the frustration that was mentioned by a couple of commissioners last week and note that -- or recall that you guys signed up for what you knew was going to be a major demand on your time. So I'm very hopeful that you're not going to shortchange protections already in place for established procurement of big ticket money consultants just to save yourselves a little bit of time.

I understand the pressures, and I know you've got to balance the whole thing. But please don't shortchange Arizona taxpayers because you're pressured for time.

The other thing is I wanted to note that Mr. Gonsher has served, according to his resume in the documents available, extended periods time under governors of both parties. And I think that's a very good indicator of his ability to be impartial. And, obviously, both candidates are well qualified, but I wanted to make that point. Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Muratore.

That brings -- is there anyone else who wanted to speak today?

(No verbal response.)
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. That concludes public comment. We'll move to Item IV on the agenda, discussion and possible action on hiring an executive director. The Commission may vote to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

So I open this up to the Commission to let me know how they'd like to proceed.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, I'd like to move to go into executive session to discuss employment matters.

CHAIR MATHIS: Do I hear a second?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I'll second it.

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Hearing none, we'll go ahead and go into executive session. The time is 12:30.

(whereupon, a recess ensued at 12:30 p.m., and the following was had:)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. The public session meeting will be coming to order now. It's 1:22 p.m.

Thank you for everyone's patience during the executive session and for sticking with us.

I'd like to first just thank both candidates for really excellent interviews both today and last week. We really appreciate having a choice between two very accomplished people and who have both long records of public
service. And we thank you for throwing your names in the hat and for going through this process with us.

So if there's no objection, I propose we nominate by unanimous consent Raymond Bladine to the position of executive director.

Hearing no objection, by unanimous consent Ray Bladine will be our next -- will be our executive director.

And I'd like to let commissioners comment on any of the -- of their thoughts on this executive director nomination that we've just made.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Before we do that, I'd just like to close the circle on this appointment. I would

move that the Commission authorize Commissioner McNulty to work with Susan Laurence of the Department of Administration to finalize the contract between the Commission and our new executive director.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. The motion carries.

So, Commissioner McNulty, you will be working with Susan Laurence from ADOA to finalize a contract for
Mr. Bladine. And now if there's any comments from other commissioners on our nomination.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I would just like to reiterate what our chair has mentioned. This was a very difficult decision for all of us, and we really put a lot of thought into it -- not an easy decision. We had some excellent, excellent candidates, all of whom could have stepped into this role. And I really was impressed, so my gratitude.

I learned a lot from talking with them, and I'm very thankful that they applied and put them through -- put themselves through this.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair? I --

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I echo the comments that Commissioner Freeman just made. It was difficult for me, definitely, because I could have gone either way. It was two very competent individuals. The good thing is that they -- that they both like each other, made good comments about each other. I was hoping somebody would say something negative about each other and I'd be like, you know, I think I'm going to go with the other guy. But that didn't happen. So it was -- it was tough.

I wish Mr. Gonsher the very best. I wish we could have hired both of them. So thank you -- thank you both for participating in this, and I look forward to working
with Mr. Bladine.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Other commissioners?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It really was a very difficult decision. I actually feel a little bit choked up about having two such dedicated and talented public servants offer to take this journey with us. It was very, very hard to choose, but we knew that we couldn't have them job share.

Somebody has to take the lead.

And, although, I would have enjoyed working very much with Mr. Gonsher, I'm also very much looking forward to working with Mr. Bladine. I think he has an easy way about him and a sense of humor that I think will hold us in good stead.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Gonsher, Mr. Bladine, I am extraordinarily impressed by your tenacity, your resumes, your willingness to serve, your willingness to step up to a plate that we don't even know what it's going to look like. It was a very, very challenging decision to make. And I want to thank both of you for your willingness as individuals, as human beings when I asked the question about, well, what is it in your heart. This is a job that is going to be coming from your heart. And the five of us up here are recognizing what that means, and you'll be joining us, Mr. Bladine, in understanding that as well.

So as I -- I want to pass congratulations to
both of you. And, Mr. Bladine, I'm looking forward to working with you on the Commission.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Any other comments?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: I have made mine. And I just, again, congratulate and applaud you both for going through this with us and appreciate your thoughtfulness in preparing for these interviews, too. You both did great jobs. And I look forward to moving forward with Mr. Bladine.

There might be one other person that I think we should talk about, and that's our interim executive director, Megan Darian, who has been assigned to us by the Arizona Department of Administration and has been helping us out for the past several weeks. She might be the one person who's more excited than the Commission to actually get the executive director position hired.

Thank you, Megan, for everything you've done for us. We really appreciate it. You've done an excellent job. And we look forward to having you help with the transition and facilitate Mr. Bladine's role.

So with that, I think we're thinking, since it's 1:30-ish, we might take a short recess and maybe give an opportunity for Ms. Laurence to speak with Mr. Bladine about steps. And if -- is a half-hour enough for everyone? Is that good for a recess?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: It works for me, Madam Chair.

CHAIR MATHIS: And just a quick lunch or
whatever. So we'll go ahead and recess, starting at 1:30.

And if everyone could be back by 2:00 to continue the meeting, that would be great. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

(Whereupon, a lunch break was taken at 1:30 p.m., and the following was had:)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. The meeting will come to order. It's 2:15 or almost. Sorry for the delay. We went a little over our recess, but we're all well fed now, ready to go.

So it takes us to Item V on the agenda, discussion and possible action on office space options. And at our last meeting, I think Commissioner Stertz volunteered to work with Nola Barnes from the Arizona Department of Administration and folks from the Industrial Commission to talk about some space options in various locals.

And I'm hopeful today that we'll be able to actually choose a location. So I'm looking forward to hearing what Commissioner Stertz found.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Nola, first of all, I want to apologize, because I told you yesterday that I wouldn't be asking you to be bothered to come over here today. But can we go through a couple of these options?

MS. BARNES: Sure.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks.

Madame Chair, in the packet that I've prepared this morning is a compilation of some real and some estimated
data. The real data, some of it was derived by -- and
there's a supplemental piece, and that was also prepared by
Nola. And that was in the packet distributed this morning.

But what I was trying to look at was really a
comparison of the two primary spaces that we're looking at,
which is the building across the street, which we're
referring to as the Evans building, and then three options
that were discussed in a conference call between Nola and
representatives from ICA, correct?

MS. BARNES: Right. Executive director and --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Executive director.

Okay. The conversation started out that she
did not have authority to make offer on any of these spaces,
that they all had to be approved by their investment
committee. But I wanted to share with you the -- and the
rest of the commissioners the concept.

One, we know -- we know that the Evans -- and
what I did was I broke it down into what I call the gross
leasable area, then what we know the price per square foot is
and an understanding of the utilities and some estimates on
potential tenant improvement requirements, some current data
that we have on data conductivity costs, some fixture,
furnishings and equipment that may be required and/or
purchased and/or picked up out of the bone yard and the idea
about security, too.
And then, lastly, the "Availability and Tenancy Relationship" would be the relationship we'd be with. I'm not sure if I -- and the reason, Nola, that I asked you to come over this afternoon is because you had mentioned something this morning that gave me an idea that maybe I should be thinking a little bit more probably about the ICA building.

Can we -- can we talk a little bit about the Options A, B, C in the ICA building?

MS. BARNES: Sure. I don't have a copy of that spread -- that particular spreadsheet, unless Megan does.

MR. BARTON: Nola, you can have it.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And maybe you can explain the relationship between ADOA and ICA and the contracting rules, between the ease of -- the ease of contracting or if there's not an ease of contracting with ICA.

MS. BARNES: Okay. Well, basically, the relationship between the Commission and DOA is there's no commercial lease involved. The rate is set in the budget by the legislature. It's a nonnegotiable rate. Currently, it's 15.08 a square foot.

Whereas, with the Industrial Commission building, they would initiate a commercial lease scenario.

They are un -- when I say "they," I mean the executive director would have to take these proposals back to her investment committee. She indicated she's unsure that they
would be willing to sign a lease on a short-term basis, which that may or may not be the case.

If we assume the Commission is for two years, that's what they would consider short term. Past the two years, we couldn't commit. So maybe we could build a lease that had, you know, renewals for every year thereafter. But such a lease of any Option A, B or C would have to go back to their investment committee for review and approval.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So if I can sort of cull that down, if we're -- their executive committee or their investment committee meets again on March 14th -- or May 14th.

MS. BARNES: Right.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And so whatever proposal on the ICA building, the executive director gave us indication that she may be able to induce them to have a meeting prior to that, but she could not commit to that.

MS. BARNES: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay. So, Madam Chair and the rest of the commissioners, the -- as a comparison right now of Evans versus ICA, Evans is a nonlease contract or noncontract. It's just -- basically, it's an agreement between this Commission to use this space and to compensate or do a line item transfer between entities of $15.08 per square foot of the leasable square footage as defined on Plan -- on the very first plan in your packet, which is everything on the first floor of the Evans -- of the Evans House, which comes out to 27,000 -- approximately, $27,898.
We do know that there may be some minor tenant improvements that may be required. So I had -- I plugged in an estimate for that. The data connectivity costs came from Buck, who gives a firm number of $3,353, which gives us all of the data connectivity that we need.

And I used the same estimate across the board for all three options for fixtures, furnishings and equipment for purposes of this analysis. Giving us a first year total of $40,250, approximately, if we take the Evans House, put in the connectivity that we need, put in some furniture, fixtures and equipment and do some minor tenant improvements, which may include the upgrade to the existing security system. That was -- so that's -- that's how I got to that, to that analysis.

And if you look at Options B, C and -- B, D and C, B -- or Option A -- excuse me -- Options A, B and C, Option A was a square footage that was very similar to the Evans House square footage; meaning, that by taking Option A

space on the fifth floor of the ICA building, it would be 1,913 square feet. Again, I want to say that this has not been offered to us as being available to take. We would be making an offer to ICA's investment committee whether or not they would consider taking this space.

Option B is also -- it's a slightly larger space, but this has also not been an offered and approved option being presented by ICA. This would also have to go back to investment committee.
Option C, which is a total of 3,303 square feet is a leasable square footage area at a square footage price of $16.50 a square foot gross. And there would be -- have to be no need to go back. That is something that has already been -- that's already been acceptable, because that's already in their marketing -- they're already trying to market that space as a whole.

MS. BARNES: That's right.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So there's no nuance to it. So if we're looking at something where a decision will be made today, it's -- the option would be Evans House versus Option C. If we are looking to continue the evaluation, we can make a presentation to the investment commission or the investment committee May 14th for either Options A or B.

Is that a good synopsis?

MS. BARNES: That's a good synopsis.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Commissioner Stertz and Nola for your help on this. We really appreciate the legwork. This is a great spreadsheet to kind of at a glance look at the options before us, and I think that's helpful so that we can compare amenities and costs.

Any thoughts from commissioners on the information in the packet?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, a couple of things --

CHAIR MATHIS: Sure, Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can someone explain to me
the "F F & E Required" versus the "Estimate"?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Well, we know that -- we know that in ICA Building Option A, there currently is some fixtures, furnishings and equipment --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Oh.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- that we have been given knowledge by the executive director and confirmed yesterday that the intent would be that those partitions that are currently stacked up against the wall, that were in the offices, and the chairs that are stacked up on the wall were already there. So there wouldn't need to be a requirement. We just need to reassemble.

MS. BARNES: Right.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We also know that if we would go into B or C, those spaces are currently empty.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And my next question is regarding the -- let's see -- the data connectivity and also the tenant improvement estimates. So we would be responsible for those fees and not the owners of the building or the state?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I would hope that during the conversation of negotiations with the State that we would be able to be flexible with the Evans House. I'm going to guess that with the ICA, that it would part of the lease negotiations.

MS. BARNES: Depending on the extent of tenant improvements, I don't know if it was during our conversation or after we actually concluded the conference call, they
04-20-11 AZ Independent Redistricting Commission.txt
indicated that under a certain dollar threshold that they
would prefer that the tenant improvements are paid up front
by the tenant.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

MS. BARNES: If they were of a significant
amount, they might consider amortizing those costs into the
lease rate. But that didn't appear to be a consideration,
unless you were going to do $100,000. You know, they didn't
throw out that number, but that's an example.

As far as the Evans House, the tenant

improvements are paid up front to DOA from the client. But
I -- I can't imagine there are -- there's a large dollar
amount of tenant improvements you all are looking forward to
move forward with at Evans House. It's --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: At Evans House, I
included that number as an upgrade to the security system to
make sure that it was up in operation. Because right now,
there is a security system there, but it is not --

MS. BARNES: And it's only an intrusion alarm
there, right.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: It's an intrusion alarm,
and it's not monitored as I understand.

MS. BARNES: Right.

CHAIR MATHIS: And I think Mr. Hernandez from
ADOA was going to look into that fact, so that the security
system would be -- you know, have a panic alarm or something
and find out what that cost would be. So he told me he would
be looking into that.
So I tried to use that number just as a equal number across the -- you know, for what those costs would be.

And -- oh. I'm sorry.

Go ahead.

Pardon me.

No, no, please.

The 15.08 is for fiscal year 12. So that is not for the duration of the Commission's tenancy in the building unless, for instance, the legislature continues that rate for the duration. Those rates fluctuate from year to year based on budget proposals.

Is it true that the Secretary of State's Office has paid rent through June 30th of this year, or do we know?

Yes, they have paid rent --

For Evans House?

-- for fiscal year 11. Yes.

Okay. Ms. McNulty?

Is the Evans House available now? We wouldn't have to wait until June 30?

You don't have to wait until June 30th. It's ready to be occupied as long as you can get furnishings in there.

And the data connectivity, are there any delays associated with that issue, or is that fairly simple to address?

It's fairly simple. A slight, you
Chair Mathis: That's good news. And I just want to also thank Buck for following through on those quotes. I appreciate that. I didn't acknowledge him earlier, but he did some legwork to get that information for us on connectivity. Thank you.

Mr. Forst: You're welcome.

Vice Chair Herrera: Madam Chair?

Chair Mathis: Yes, Mr. Herrera.

Vice Chair Herrera: I guess my question to the Commission would be when do we want to -- do we have a deadline of when we want to move into the new place? Because, obviously, if we do have a specific deadline, the Evans House would be the easiest option of these four. So I don't know how important for us to move quickly.

Chair Mathis: I'm a fan of moving quickly. I would like to move forward, because I think we've been pretty deliberate in our investigations already. And that's -- to me, the sooner the better that we can get our executive director housed and begin to have other staff involved.

And as we just mentioned data connectivity, there is some lead time with that. And the sooner we can give them the go, the better.

Commissioner McNulty: Would you entertain a
CHAIR MATHIS: I would.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would move that we proceed with entering into a -- an agreement with ADOA to use the Evans House as our base of operations.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair, would we want to amend the motion to include giving the go-ahead to ADOA for the data connectivity costs to proceed with that as well?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would accept that amendment, yes.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Does the motion -- the amended motion have to be seconded?

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, yes. You can just ask the person who made the second if he also --

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

MR. BARTON: -- accepts the --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, I do.

CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Thank you, Mr. Herrera. Okay. Any other discussion?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Who has the furniture?

CHAIR MATHIS: We talked -- in like one of our first meetings, I recall talking about trying to go to
surplus. And I would look to the ADOA to guide us and tell us how you do that, how you go about shopping for furniture in surplus.

MS. BARNES: We can -- I can put you in touch with the surplus folks. And if you don't find what you need there, we can give you the list of vendors for purchasing furnishings.

CHAIR MATHIS: Perfect.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: Any other discussion?
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, given that our executive director -- soon to be executive director is here, I'd like to give him the opportunity just to, if he has any concerns about this, tell us about them now.

He's shaking his head negatively. Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Hearing no other discussion, all in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.
CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(NO verbal response.)
CHAIR MATHIS: Great.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?
CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Just a quick -- as we did with -- as we've done with previous, when we've tried to negotiate a contract, should we appoint -- have one person for this in case something that Ms. Barnes --
CHAIR MATHIS: A lead?
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- would need, you know, a commissioner to speak to without having to bring it back to the Commission?
CHAIR MATHIS: I think that I'm fine with that.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I think Mr. Stertz is volunteering himself?
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Volunteering or being volunteered to do that.
CHAIR MATHIS: "Volunteered" -- I like that. That's great. Thank you for the suggestion, Mr. Herrera.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Do we need to vote on that?
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Let's make a motion.
CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah. Do I hear a motion to authorize Commissioner Stertz to be the lead on getting the lease or the agreement set up with ADOA to take -- I don't want to say take possession, to lease the Evans House?
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes.
CHAIR MATHIS: And explore any furniture, fixtures and equipment.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And ancillary --
CHAIR MATHIS: And ancillary --
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I make that option -- I make that motion.
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Thank you. Do I hear a second?
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Second.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Would you accept an amendment to the motion that this will be done in cooperation with our new executive director?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes. Great suggestion.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I amend my motion.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Accepted.

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor of this amended motion?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Wonderful. Thank you to the ADOA, to Buck and Nola and Megan for all the legwork you guys have done on this. We're really excited about the new space, and I think it's pretty exciting to go -- you know, just even with the Centennial coming up next year, I just think it's a neat iconic building to be located in. And I'm excited about occupying it, so --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And, Madam Chair, also --

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- I'd like to thank Commissioner Stertz for his work on this. He knows more than I do about buildings and square footage and gross lease costs per year, so thank you Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My pleasure.

CHAIR MATHIS: I agree. Thank you,
Mr. Stertz. And thanks for the great spreadsheet you put together.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Oh, thank you. And, Nola, again I apologize for dragging you back over here today. It was imperative, so I really thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Great. Moving to Item VI on the agenda, discussion and possible action on hiring process for executive director, public information officer, information technology support, community outreach officer and other administrative support positions.

As we've discussed in previous meetings, Ron Loyd is handling the rest of the HR processes for us for any other position we opt to fill. And we've had numerous discussions in past meetings about this IT support specialist position due to the importance of having as much connectivity at our meetings as possible and allowing the public to provide input and that there be lots of transparency for us going forward.

So we know that IT support's going to be very important; and, especially, as we occupy this new space. So Mr. Loyd has created for us this IT specialist position based upon conversations we've had, and we all liked his description of the position.

And the good news is that the ADOA director, Scott Smith, expedited our request or Justification To Fill that position. And, fortunately, it was approved. And I thank Mr. Smith for that and his colleagues for getting that approved quickly. And so that means, under the hiring
freeze, we can go ahead and move forward on that position.

This position is uncovered; meaning, that --
and maybe Mr. Loyd would be the best person if someone has
additional questions on that. But my understanding is
because it's classified uncovered, we can actually as a
Commission appoint someone that we want to fill that
position.

I have received an expression of interest from
Mr. Buck Forst, who is the person who has been helping us so
far on all of our data connectivity issues and Web site. And
so we have some alternatives. We can appoint someone today,
or we can go through a normal hiring process of posting the
position, looking at resumes and making a decision.

So I open the floor for discussion on thoughts

on that position and how we move forward.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?
CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Just for clarification,
the PDQ created the IT position. That has been posted,
correct?

CHAIR MATHIS: It has not been posted. It
is -- and I would appreciate Mr. Loyd's explanation of what
the PDQ does, but the position has not been posted.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay.

CHAIR MATHIS: So if you could explain, Mr.
Loyd. And thank you for your help also.

MR. LOYD: Certainly. Certainly. What has
been done with the -- there was no position. It had not been
established yet. So the first part of establishing a
position is to get the justification approved so we can go
ahead and do that.

We got the mission critical the same time we
were getting the position description, which you approved.
So we've already -- we have a position now. It just means
it's available. We have not done any postings on the State
Web site or anything, so the position hasn't been posted.

It's an uncovered position; meaning, it's not
covered by the State merit system. It's not covered by the
ADOA personnel rules, which means you have the option to

either appoint somebody that you believe has those
qualifications or you can go through the hiring process,
which would start with a posting, which we have prepared, I
believe, and was sent. So you've had a chance to look at
that.

We -- we could post that on the State Web
site. We could also post it anywhere else that you want to
post it for a fee. But, you know, that would be up to the
Commission, or you could give it to the executive director,
because he has authority to do the hire process, to go ahead
and have the executive director proceed on that. That would
be the option of the Commission.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Once posted, are we
committed to follow through with that procedure?

MR. LOYD: No. It's an uncovered position.
So once posted, you could -- you don't have to -- you don't
have what we call a rule of three, which, by the personnel
rules, you have to interview, at least, three. You don't have to do that with an uncovered position.

So you can just -- if you found somebody right away that you thought was, you could bring them in for an interview and you could -- you could hire them.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Other thoughts?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr. Loyd, if we were to appoint someone, how is the contracting and salary scale and the terms of the contract done?

MR. LOYD: It's a State employee, so there's a salary range for that position. It's a very broad salary range on -- it's a C-4 position. I think on -- we -- I forget the exact range, but I probably have it here. I don't know if it's on this one or not. I don't see it.

But it's a broad range for a Grade C-4, and you'd be committed somewhere in that range. We can -- you can make an offer and negotiate that salary in that range.

So it's -- it's up to the Commission how much they want to pay that individual based on all of the other factors that may come up.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Loyd, would you assist us in that process if we were to take that route, in the same way that Ms. Laurence would be assisting on the --

MR. LOYD: I could certainly --

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- executive director position?

MR. LOYD: It's normally not my role to do
that, but I would give any assistance to the Commission that 
you request, yes. That as far as helping the Commission and 
the executive director as far as the normal process we go 
through, we can provide interview questions.

If -- if you needed some kind of a test that

you want the individuals to take to screen to see if their 
knowledge was there for certain areas, we have some tests 
available -- go through what we have available and what 
you're asking for. And as long as it's not -- not an 
unreasonable number. We like to narrow it down, because we 
don't have that many tests that we purchase. So we can't 
screen, say, five or so. We could test that many.

And if we narrow it down, we probably couldn't 
test, you know, twenty-five or thirty people, because we just 
don't have that many tests left for the year.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: But with the actual 
hiring process, I was thinking of the actual hiring 
process --

MR. LOYD: As far as we would help post --

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- you would set --

MR. LOYD: Yes, we would certainly help post 
when you approve the posting. We could help post it. We 
would get the resumes in for you. We could screen them for 
you if you like. We could forward all of the resumes to you, 
whichever you prefer, because it's an uncovered position.

We would -- we could set a hiring list up for 
you, so that you could -- and we could help with the 
interview questions. And we can help as far as if you want
to set how you would like the interview, if you want to do
one-on-one interviews or panel interviews. We're available
to do all of that.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: And if we wanted to
interview one person and do it right now and enter into a
contract, would you help us with that contract and deciding
the salary range for --

MR. LOYD: It would just be an offer letter. Yes, we could probably do that. I don't have one with me
right now, but we could certainly -- we could certainly make
a verbal offer to that individual and prepare the paperwork
later, so...

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Why I'm talking so
much, Madam Chair, sorry --

CHAIR MATHIS: No, no, please.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I might as well just
spit it out. I'm excited to hear that Mr. Forst is
interested. There's, you know, nothing like success. To me,
it's all a mystery. And all I care about is that it works,
and everything he's done for us has worked.

And I'm not sure why he'd want to do this, and
I'd be curious to hear about that. But if he's interested in
doing it, I'm all for it.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'd like to get the
opinion of our newly selected executive director.
CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Bladine.

MR. BLADINE: My -- I guess I should put it on the record.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

MR. BLADINE: My opinion would be if that's what you feel is the right thing to do, do it. You, obviously, have had the opportunity to work with the individual, and if the individual's provided you good service and I know all of you feel that time is of the essence, I would say go ahead and do it.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My next question is that -- again, for -- I think it's going to be for ADOA. How is Mr. Frost been compensated -- or Forst -- Mr. -- how has he been compensated over the -- over the term that we've been utilizing his services so far?

MR. FORST: I'm sorry. I don't really understand the question.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Is anything coming out of our budget paying you right now?

MR. FORST: The only thing that I have been paid for so far -- or my department that I work for been paid for so far is the Web site design.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And in regards to the Web site design and the -- currently -- currently, we are getting back -- we've got audio available on the Web site,
we've got -- who got us to the point that we are on the Web site?

MR. FORST: I did.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay. That is the answer I needed. Thank you. Are you going to put this in the form of a motion?

MR. BLADINE: Madam Chair, I just had, I guess, one question.

CHAIR MATHIS: Sure.

MR. BLADINE: It probably would be good to make clear as to what the future employee thinks. Is he going to be coming over here as a transfer, a loan or complete rehire, that he might lose other State seniority. That would be the only question I have, so that we don't get down the road and wonder.

CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah. It's a great question. And it's one that I kind of asked about as well, because I wasn't sure how that would work in kind of a transfer. So I don't if Mr. Forst has any comments to that question.

MR. FORST: I'm not -- I'm not quite sure how that would work to be honest with you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Mr. Loyd does --

MR. LOYD: I can probably --

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Sorry.

MR. LOYD: -- answer that question.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you.

MR. LOYD: Since you -- since the position is
yours, it's Redistricting Commission's position, the individual would have to transfer over. We would transfer that individual. It would be a straight transfer. It's an uncovered position, so it's available for hire, because you've got the justification for the mission critical, so you can make an offer within the salary range. And we'd just move the individual. There'd be a requirement for us to transfer it, and we can do that internally. Our office does that, so it shouldn't be a hard process.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Loyd. Other comments from other commissioners, questions?

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: I would move that we make an offer to Mr. --

MR. FORST: Forst.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: -- Forst -- thank you. I was about to say Horst -- to serve as our information technology staff person, and that Mr. Loyd work with Mr. Bladine to do the necessary paperwork.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Barton.

MR. BARTON: Just that we have the record clear, does "necessary paperwork" include negotiating the salary?

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Yes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I wanted to actually appoint one of the commissioners to join in that negotiation if needed. I think it makes sense. We did that with the other, you know, contract negotiations.

So anybody here interested in doing it?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: If you're volunteering, Mr. Herrera, I would add that to my motion.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: That'll teach you.


CHAIR MATHIS: That's it, that's affirmative?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That's affirmative.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Great. Any other discussion?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Great. The motion carries.

So going forward, Mr. Loyd and Mr. Bladine will work together to provide the necessary paperwork and negotiate salary. And Commissioner Herrera will join in on that process and facilitate as well. And thank you very much for helping us get that position filled.

And congratulations to Mr. Forst.

MR. FORST: Thank you very much.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you for the superb work.
you've provided and the service you've provided to us.

    MR. FORST: Thank you very much. It's been a
    pleasure.

    CHAIR MATHIS: Thanks. All right.

    COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I must add that our
    expectations are extraordinarily high.

    MR. FORST: I expect that.

    CHAIR MATHIS: On this agenda item, we say
    "and other administrative support positions." And we heard
    Mr. Bladine in his interview today reference the executive
    assistant position or some kind of support for the executive
    director. And we've all talked about these other positions
    that the last Commission hired, too.

    And I just wondered the commissioners'
    thoughts on any ideas for moving forward with some of these
    other positions and what you see as important to fill next.

    COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

    CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

    COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I think this is the time
    and place where the executive director brings forth his
    outline and his structure and has preparation for this to be
    an agenda item at our next meeting to give us his
    recommendations and structure about how he intends to run his
    office and start to develop a schedule of how he intends to
    operate our -- our next couple of months and then the six
    months thereafter.

    VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

    CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I would agree with that.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Same here, I agree with that all.
CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah, I think we're all in agreement. It's a great suggestion, Mr. Stertz.
So, Mr. Bladine, you're on the hook for --
MR. BLADINE: Great.
CHAIR MATHIS: -- coming up with a plan, a staffing plan for the office and what you recommend we fill next. So --
MR. BLADINE: Great. Thank you.
CHAIR MATHIS: -- that will be an agenda item for our next meeting. Great. Thank you.

Any other comments on these positions, Item VI, before we move on?
(No verbal response.)
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Hearing none, Item VII, discussion of evaluation process for RFPs, Request For Proposals, for legal counsel and mapping services.
I believe, yeah, John Red Horse is here from the State Procurement Office. Thank you, John, for being here. John's been a great assistance in helping us get our Request For Proposal for legal counsel drafted, as well as issued. And I thought it would be great to have him tell us where we are in the process, and we can go ahead and ask questions after that.
So thank you for all of your help and hard work on getting that issue.

CHAIR MATHIS: Good afternoon.

MR. RED HORSE: Status, it is -- has been issued. It is on the street. I've gotten several inquiries about, you know, how to respond, and, you know, what is it for and things of that nature from several firms. It closes -- I believe it's next Thursday, the 28th, at 3:00 p.m.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Red Horse, Madam Chair, which RFP are you referring to -- the legal services?

MR. RED HORSE: I'm sorry. This is the legal services RFP.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you for clarifying that. Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I have not seen a copy of the mapping services RFP.

CHAIR MATHIS: Right. Yeah. I don't think that's been issued yet. We'll get to that in a minute. I don't -- is Don Ellwanger --

MR. RED HORSE: No.

CHAIR MATHIS: -- here? Okay. So we only have John from State Procurement with us. So let's deal with the legal counsel one for now. Any other comments or questions for Mr. Red Horse on the evaluation process and what our next steps are?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?
Chair Mathis: Mr. Freeman.

Vice Chair Freeman: So the plan, then, is on April 28th at 3:00 p.m., would the Commission then be provided with responses, or do you need to do -- is there an additional step before you send them on to us?

Mr. Red Horse: The initial step would be for me to physically open the bid in ProcureAZ. At that point,

I'll have access to all of the proposals. The plan that has been discussed so far has been to burn all of those proposals onto a disc for each commissioner. I understand that each commissioner's going to be on the evaluation committee, at which point those will be given to you for evaluations.

In the effort of speeding this up, you would do that on your own time. And then we would convene at the next meeting immediately following when it closes to actually go through and then evaluate the responses based upon your initial review.

Vice Chair Freeman: Thank you.

Chair Mathis: And I understand we need to sign a nondisclosure agreement in order to take --

Mr. Red Horse: That's correct.

Chair Mathis: -- possession of that CD?

Mr. Red Horse: That's correct.

Chair Mathis: Okay.

Mr. Red Horse: And those were e-mailed to Megan. I believe they were passed out to the Committee today.

Chair Mathis: Okay.
Chair, can you explain the nondisclosure statement, please?

MR. RED HORSE: The disclosure statement is, you know, as you review it, a basic understanding that you will, you know, adhere to certain rules and guidelines keeping these proposals confidential, not discussing, not disclosing. That you don't -- that you don't have any conflicts of interests with any offers that have been proposed, at which point, you know, we will know when the offers are in.

But it turns out I do have something with these three, then we can address those at that time.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

MR. RED HORSE: But it's, essentially, that you will take guardianship of these and keep them confidential and agree to evaluate in all fairness, unbiased, et cetera, et cetera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, Mr. Red Horse, this is a one-page document; is that correct?

MR. RED HORSE: Yes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Is that all you need?

MR. RED HORSE: Yes.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions for Mr. Red Horse and questions about our plan to move forward? I think it was well articulated.
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Ms. McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Mr. Red Horse, thank you. That sounds like a plan to me.

MR. RED HORSE: Okay. And then the process would be, again, similar for the mapping services. We'd have you sign the same form. And, again, to expedite, the intent is the same thing -- you know, burn discs, deliver those discs, evaluate, you know, on your own, at your pace. And then at the very immediate meeting following that, assuming that -- you know, again, if we get a hundred proposals, that may not be possible. But the intent is as quickly as possible then to come together to finalize it.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: One question. Will we get one of these nondisclosure statements from our executive director, or will this be a committee of five? Will we typically want our executive director to be reviewing these and commenting on these also?

CHAIR MATHIS: That's a good question.

Mr. Red Horse, in other commissions, in your experience with those?

MR. RED HORSE: He could be if he, you know, has the background. And it's not something that I would say would be a definite no. And, in all likelihood, it could be -- it could be a yes. So there really isn't anything coming from my end that would preclude him from being on the
evaluation committee.

I would, again, just need to, you know, get a signature. And I can get him a form directly.

CHAIR MATHIS: I would only comment I think it would be helpful to have him, because if we're expecting Mr. Bladine to do any kind of contract management work with our responders, that it would be probably useful to have him from the beginning to hear that discussion. But --

MR. RED HORSE: And if -- there is also an option if the voting -- if the Commission prefers that the voting stay with you five, he can be added as a technical advisor to where he may not have voting rights, but he definitely would have input and insight as well.

CHAIR MATHIS: Good. Okay. Any other questions or thoughts, comments?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, Mr. Red Horse?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: When do we decide that? Let's just say we want -- obviously, we have a couple of options for Mr. Bladine. And if the option is to have him as a technical advisor, nonvoting member of the -- of this interview group, when do we -- when do we decide?

Do we decide now or --

MR. RED HORSE: I would just need a decision before I passed out those discs. So if that would be next Friday, if you had a meeting next Wednesday, it could be done
there. It could be addressed now.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We're -- Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We're not meeting next week.

CHAIR MATHIS: Right.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm going to suggest that Mr. Bladine provide under signature the evaluator contract of interest form, so it is on file so that -- and act in the capacity of a technical advisor.

And that this Commission stays as a voting Commission, and that our executive director stays in the capacity as executive director and technical advisor.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any discussion?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: The motion carries. Great.

So Mr. Bladine will be a technical advisor to this process. So we'll make sure that he gets one of these NDAs to sign. And anything else on the legal counsel RFP that we want to talk about today?

Okay. Mr. Red Horse.

MR. RED HORSE: I do have a couple of items that we would need to address for the evaluation that would
need to be handled in executive session that I don't
anticipate would take very long.

CHAIR MATHIS: And are you proposing we would
do that today --

MR. RED HORSE: If --

CHAIR MATHIS: -- April 20th?

MR. RED HORSE: If there's not going to be a
meeting before it closes --

CHAIR MATHIS: Right.

MR. RED HORSE: -- and we go into evaluations,
yes.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Do I hear a motion to go
in executive session to --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We still have one more
item that's left regarding minor discussion on the mapping
consultant. Let's get that, just so that --

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Referring to that
first --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- the rest of the
Commission has an understanding before we --

CHAIR MATHIS: Sure.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- lose everyone.

CHAIR MATHIS: Sure.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And I'll butcher his
name. Mr. Zalwanger -- close?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you. -- and I have been in communication. And, Madam Chair, you've been -- you've been copied on all of our communications. We're in development of and coming to the finish line on the mapping consultant RFP. And we're nuancing it.

And my recommendation's going to be that we follow the identical procedure that we are handling in the -- in the acquisition of legal services for the mapping consultant.

It is crystal clear to me that we are -- as Coach Woodsen would say, "we are -- we are being quick, but we're not" --

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Hurrying.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- "hurrying." So I truly appreciate your understanding. And as we're moving this thing forward, we are moving in the appropriate steps and the appropriate time frame.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Just with respect to the mapping consultant RFP, a couple of weeks ago we had an extensive session where we worked -- we ensured that the scope of work we had developed at the previous hearing was incorporated in the RFP, and then there was going to be a final step -- at least, my understanding was -- where some final small changes were made and then approved and it was issued.

What -- what has been transpiring -- I guess
this is a question for Commissioner Stertz -- between that hearing, which was down in Tucson and today?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: In regards to the scope of services, we -- there's been -- it's been mostly in the -- in Mr. Ellwanger's crafting of the sort of preamble contract, terms, conditions, scope.

And he is working on an evaluation process that is going to -- he wants to present to us in such a way, so that we have a clear understanding about how to evaluate these proposals when they come in. That's really what his focus has been on.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay. So Madam Chair, Commissioner Stertz, this, it sounds like to me, is something that's going to need to be reissued to the Commission and all of us take a look at again --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- and approves.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes. Yeah, the scope -- the scope of the discussion that we had for the length that we had it is staying -- is staying for all intents and purposes intact.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And you would anticipate that we would -- the Commission will be provided this in advance of our next meeting --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: That's correct.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- when it's contemplated
on May 3rd or 4th, I believe, at this point?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: That's correct.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, just to confirm, so the RFP for the mapping services will not go live until the Commission has one final look; is that correct?

CHAIR MATHIS: That's what I'm hearing.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. I just wanted to make sure.

CHAIR MATHIS: Is there any way around -- this is in terms of expediting this. Is there anything we can be doing to help accelerate it, or is it pretty much we're going to have to review it again?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We're going to have to review it again. It's incumbent upon us to have one last review on it before it goes out the door. We did this -- with this, we should follow the same process. We're not -- again, we are being quick, but we're not hurrying.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I agree.

CHAIR MATHIS: Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, I -- I have two thoughts, two questions. One is that I think we -- it may make sense to meet next week if we need to to get that wrapped up, because I do think we need to get that out of the door. I think it's absolutely essential. Of all of the things we're looking at, I think that's the most important to get underway.

I also -- I also would ask why we're including an evaluation process in the RFP. It seems to me that that...
is something that we should be working on after we issue the
RFP. Because I don't think we built an evaluation process
into our legal counsel RFP. But I would like to just get it
out the door.

MR. RED HORSE: A lot of how you want to craft
the RFP is going to be based upon how you're going to
evaluate the requirements. So a lot of times you have to
know the ending to know what you put in, so you get those
correct responses back in the offer. So -- you know.

And given the technical nature of the mapping
services with Commissioner Stertz and Don going over, you
know, where they've looked at, there is this need to be a bit
more -- I don't know if it's thorough investigative, but
concise than what is needed with the legal services RFP.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, all of the
commissioners, I think last time, as Mr. Freeman said, it was
our understanding that we were going to be plugging the scope
of work into an RFP that looked very much like what had been
given to us and what had gone out last time.

And I do think we know that the end game is
the Arizona Constitution and the ability to provide us with
mapping that complies with that. And that we, as
commissioners, once we receive the applications are going to
have a pretty good sense how to evaluate whether or not the
consultant is in a position to provide those services.

So, again, I would like to see the RFP
finalized if possible this coming week and out the door, so
that we can start getting applicants to evaluate.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair --

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- and Commission Stertz,

how -- what's your sense of how quickly it could finalized?

Perhaps, then, we could have a meeting

where -- of course, we'd provide public accommodations, but
we appear by phone for one agenda item, which is to review
the final -- the final document and approve it. So I guess
the timing is my question.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: My last -- Commissioner
Freeman, my last -- my last go-round was about 4:30 yesterday
afternoon, where I got my last sort of criteria outline from
Mr. Ellwanger. And I think it's going to take one more phone
call from him and say, "Listen, let's just tighten this up."

Because the last conversation that I had with
him in person was yesterday morning, and I said, "I think
we're -- I think that we can tighten it up, go to the street,
define that the criteria's going to be constitutionally
based." It's really reflective of what you just said,
Commissioner McNulty.

His concern was that -- was -- was -- was more
how are we going to grade it. How are we, as a Commission,
going to be able to grade these after the fact the questions
are asked. I think that I'm -- I think we've got a strong
enough Commission that we're going to able to set up a
grading process that when we ask questions that are all
constitutionally based, it's going to be relatively easy for
us to get -- to be able to evaluate these and score these
thing -- unfortunately, I'm going to be unavailable next
week. And if there's a call-in for a one-time meeting, that
we do a call-in for review and approval. I think I can speak
with Don later today or tomorrow, and let's see if we can get
this thing buttoned up, so we can get it distributed, have a
call-in meeting next week, and get this thing on the street.
I'm all for it.

CHAIR MATHIS: I agree. I would like to have
a call next week if we could to finalize this document. I'm
getting requests, actually, for -- it has ramifications for
proceeding in other areas. Because I'm getting requests from
the voter registration file and information, and it's my
understanding from counsel that in our March 1st meeting, I
think it was when I was sworn in, there was an agenda item
regarding releasing data.

And we agreed, as a Commission, that the
secretary of state, who is housing that data won't release it
until we direct them to. And we're kind of waiting to see
who we decide on for these mapping services in order to
release that data.

So I think -- I think time's of the essence,
and we should go ahead and plan on a call if we could. I'll
find a time next week to finalize.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr.
Stertz, when would we anticipate receiving the draft? By
Friday, perhaps?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm going to have to confer with Mr. Ellwanger.

MR. RED HORSE: If you guys can get together this afternoon or tomorrow, that's -- yeah, we could do that.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would like to request that if at all possible.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We'll make that happen. Because he got -- he got really focused on the grading system --

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I understand.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- and started to back out of the grading system into the RFP.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I think we just need to focus in on that we're going to have a really small number of applicants, and we aren't going to need a grading system that will work for a position which we're going to have a hundred applicants. And it's all going to be probably like what we did earlier today. It's going to come down to some intangible center.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So any other questions or thoughts on either RFP we'll deal with when we're meeting later in the agenda?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Hearing none, Mr. Red Horse,
thank you for being here today and for your help in
getting that legal -- oh, sorry. Mr. Barton.

MR. BARTON: Well, Madam Chair, there was the
idea, and I think we actually had a motion for executive
session.

CHAIR MATHIS: Oh.

MR. BARTON: I'm not sure if we had or not,
but -- to deal with some questions that need to be dealt with
confidentially.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: I'm sorry. I forgot --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- is there anything
else on the agenda --

CHAIR MATHIS: -- about that. Yes.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- that could be dealt
with at this time that we could --

CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Release --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- release the --

CHAIR MATHIS: -- the public?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- the public?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, before we --

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I have a quick comment.

CHAIR MATHIS: Go ahead.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: The scope of work for
both the RFP for legal counsel and also for the mapping
consultants were done -- they were done in public.

what could we possibly be discussing in
executive session that we haven't already discussed with the
scope of work being done in public?

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, Commissioner Herrera, as you'll recall, we actually went into executive
session -- and this, I believe, was when you were
telephonically, so it may not be as strong a memory -- but
when we were actually crafting specific issues with the RFP,
which we -- those documents are confidential until -- until
the bid is disclosed.

We did go into executive session for that, and
I believe this is tweaking some of the matters in the RFP.
Again, I think it's actually the evaluation
process; is that right?

(No verbal response.)

MR. BARTON: So these are -- these are
adjustments to components of the RFP, which is a -- it's a
personnel matter in the sense that it's hiring a lawyer, but
then it's also sort of a confidential document matter.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, Mr.
Barton, how would the RFP, when it's ready, be issued?

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, Commissioner

MCNulty, this goes, I think, to something you said earlier
about when you use different parts of the RFP. The RFP
contains within it the evaluation criteria. And so I believe
Mr. Red Horse has some questions about just sort of
clarifying some components that are not a part, necessarily,
of what the applicants would use, but are just a part of what
So, for example -- and I'm -- these are entirely fictional now. Say you had, you know, two -- two criteria and you weighted one more than the other. That's not something that's released to the applicants, the people that are responding to the proposals, necessarily, but it is something that the body uses in evaluating it.

And so I think there's just some questions -- just some questions to clear up on that score.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any other questions?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Do I hear a motion to go into executive session to discuss the evaluation process for the RFP for legal services?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, before we --

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- second the motion, I think Commissioner Stertz made a comment that --

CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Did I miss something?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- there was anything we can discuss now before we went into executive session.

CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. That's right.

Is there -- yeah, do we want to move -- is that okay to take agenda items out of order, Mr. Barton, and --

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, yes. You can take agenda items out of order.
CHAIR MATHIS: So the next item on the agenda is the -- so, Mr. Red Horse, if you don't mind just sitting down --

MR. RED HORSE: Yes.

CHAIR MATHIS: -- and waiting. I appreciate your help. Thank you. Next item on the agenda, then, is Item VIII, approval of the April 8th, 2011, minutes, the April 8th, 2011, minutes in the form of a transcript, and the April 14th, 2011, minutes.

At our last meeting, Mr. Freeman agreed to take the lead on edits to the April 8th minutes, because there were numerous ones last time and we ended up tabling the item until today. So if we could start maybe with Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair,

Commissioners, I apologize. I did not complete my homework assignment.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Oh-oh.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I thought it prudent to review the transcript of that hearing as I revised the minutes. I received the transcript; it was e-mailed to me yesterday. And I looked at it yesterday afternoon, and I just didn't have enough time.

I did complete a redraft of the minutes of the public session of our April 8th meeting, and I'll be happy to provide a copy -- I wouldn't expect us to approve them today -- to everyone before they leave. And I will have the draft of the minutes of our executive sessions -- or
executive session -- no, executive sessions, we had two -- at our next hearing.

So I would suggest with respect to the minutes for the April 8th meeting, we table that again until our next hearing.

CHAIR MATHIS: And how about the April 14th, 2011, minutes -- the same?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, we have a draft of those.

CHAIR MATHIS: Right.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And I have one or two minor comments if we want to go through those at this time.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair,
for us to maintain throughout if the rest of the
commissioners -- rest of the Commission likes that sort of
format.

It identifies our meeting date, location, who's attending. And, basically, tracks our agenda in a concise bullet form manner, sort of summarizes matters discussed and with some precision identifies action taken by the Commission, which I think is the most important thing our minutes set forth.

If we want to go through the April 14th minutes -- why don't we do that now -- I have very few changes to those minutes.

CHAIR MATHIS: Can you just clarify, Mr. Freeman. I missed it. The format that you are proposing we use is this April 14th version with the bullets?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes, essentially.

CHAIR MATHIS: The only thing I would say format-wise on that is I've seen minutes before where motions -- anything to do a motion is emboldened in a darker font, so that it just stands out. And I think that would just be helpful if we could incorporate that into future minutes. That's it.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: On the April 14th minutes, a couple of things. First -- and I'll ask this to Mr. Barton -- does a comma go after your name, before the Roman numeral II? What's the convention on that?

MR. BARTON: Commissioner Freeman, it does not. No comma.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And then I think Mr. Barton should be defined as Assistant Attorney General.

And going to Page 3 of those minutes, Item No. 8, third bullet point. And this, perhaps, is for Mr. Barton as well. I believe you said the prior Commission had an executive director in place by March 20th; is that correct?

Because our minutes say March 30th.

MR. BARTON: Commissioner Freeman, I believe that it was -- the way it's -- the way it reads is it's three one as I recall. So it's March 1st is what it said.

But, yes, it was March 20th. But did they say March 30th?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It said March 30th.

MR. BARTON: Okay. It should be March 20th.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And those were the only changes I had to the minutes of our public session.

With respect to the minutes of our executive session -- which there's some question as to where we can discuss changes to those -- the only changes I had are formatting changes to identify you assistant attorney general.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any other comments from other commissioners on edits to these April 14th minutes?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: On Page 3, No. 9, the first bullet point says Commissioner McNulty contacted the Department of Justice to get a sense of the process and
timing of events. I just want to clarify if she really did say that.

CHAIR MATHIS: Did you say that, Ms. McNulty?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Did you --

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Yes. Well, it wasn't quite like that, but I did place a call to the Department of Justice to ask them if they would talk with us in the future --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: -- about those things. We're still trading phone calls.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Any other comments or questions on these minutes?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I do have one comment. Mr. Barton, if it concerns the minutes of the executive session, how do we address that?

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, Commissioner McNulty, if you can address it without disclosing the confidential nature of the minutes, then you can talk about it now. If it is something that discloses what we discussed in executive session, then the Commission would have to go into executive session to discuss it.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Okay. I'm going to give it a try, but we all need to have the minutes in front of us, the Thursday, April 14th, 1:00 p.m., Executive Session 1. Under the interview of Kristina C. Gomez, seventh line down, after the seventh word insert a period, remove the words "other than working," substitute capital S, she worked.
CHAIR MATHIS: Any other comments or edits to
the minutes, public or executive session?
(No verbal response.)
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Hearing none, do I hear
a motion to approve the April 14th, 2011, minutes as amended
with the edits and corrections mentioned today?
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: So moved.
CHAIR MATHIS: Second anyone?
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Seconded with the
removal of the "Draft # 1" on each one of the title pages.
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Second.
CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?
VOICE VOTES: Aye.
CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?
(No verbal response.)
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Those minutes carry for
the April 14th, 2011.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?
CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I move to go into
executive session.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well, we still have
the -- Madam Chair, we still --
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Oh, yeah. I'm sorry.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: -- have a couple of more
items.
CHAIR MATHIS: Yeah. Agenda -- the next item.
Okay. I think we're okay on the minutes. So just on the
April 8th, '11, minutes, just so I understand, Mr. Freeman,
you're going to, I guess, give them to Megan or Mr. Bladine,
and they'll distribute to all of the commissioners the
redraft of those April 8th minutes?
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes.
CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you very much.
Okay. Let's move to Item IX, agenda items and
dates of future meetings. So we've talked about how we want
to have a meeting next week to discuss the RFP for mapping
services. And if there's any other agenda items that anyone
would like to raise now, this would be the time. But that's
definitely the focus of that meeting.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?
CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: May I ask Mr. Bladine if
there are any agenda items that he would like to add to next
week's meeting specifically, other than -- because we'll
solely be discussing the mapping consultant.
MR. BLADINE: I don't. But, Chairman Mathis,
Council Member Stertz, I don't have anything right now that I
can think I would suggest, but I can see that I have some

homework to do.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.
MR. BLADINE: Thank you, though.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks.

CHAIR MATHIS: Thank you. Good suggestion.

Any other agenda items anybody has?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So we'll be addressing that RFP, finalizing the RFP for mapping services so that can be issued. Let's talk about dates and times and what might work for folks. Any other -- any conflicts that don't -- that do or don't work?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I have a conflict Wednesday afternoon. That's all.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Monday, Tuesday and Friday are out for me. And telephonically, I'll be in Orlando, so --

CHAIR MATHIS: So that leaves --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- knowing -- knowing the schedule for -- I'll be -- what is it, two hours ahead or three hours ahead?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Three.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Three, so --

CHAIR MATHIS: And you said no on Wednesday afternoon?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Wednesday afternoon.

CHAIR MATHIS: So Wednesday morning is a possibility. That is the 27th, a week from today.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: It's good for me.

CHAIR MATHIS: Wednesday morning. Okay.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yeah.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What time?

CHAIR MATHIS: And this will be a telephonic meeting; is that my understanding?

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Barton.

MR. BARTON: A purely telephonic meeting is very difficult to do. We need to have ways for the public to call into it. However, you know, if you have a meeting where you expect, you know, multiple commissioners to appear telephonically, we could -- we could work to get a location where there's plenty of room for the public to attend the meeting, but you could just set up a -- you could sort of set up a speaker phone that would allow the meeting to be held that way.

And this might be an opportunity, for example, if one of the vice chairs is going to be here in person, if you're going to be appearing telephonically, it might make sense for one of them to convene the meeting. That's something that -- those are options.

So if the Commission's intention is to do a purely telephonic meeting, that's very difficult. I would have to look into how -- how we do that, how we get the phone number out, and how we get the capacity of the line.

If you want to do a meeting that you just expect a number of commissioners to appear telephonically, that's relatively easy.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Mr. Freeman.
VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair, I probably work the closest to this. I'd be happy to, quote/unquote, host it. And I believe we'll be in executive session for much of this meeting to hash out the final details of this RFP. So I'll be happy to sit here in front of the phone and -- in front of a speaker, basically, and host the meeting if that's what you want to do.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Freeman. Timewise, is 10:00 a.m. good for everyone?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Wednesday morning, the 27th, will be our next meeting, then. We'll work with Megan and Mr. Bladine to find a space and also provide -- we'll still need to provide a number for the public to dial in -- right? -- or -- I don't know. If --

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, no.

CHAIR MATHIS: If commissioners are --

MR. BARTON: And, actually --

CHAIR MATHIS: -- appearing telephonically.

MR. BARTON: -- if everything that's going to be discussed -- and we've noticed the meeting ahead of time as executive session. Everything that's going to be discussed is executive -- it's going to be an executive session. And if we want to do that, then the commissioners should vote right now to go into executive session during this meeting on Wednesday.

The Commission can do that, and then it already has a vote on record that everything's going to be in
executive session.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And if we do that, then we can all appear by phone then --

MR. BARTON: Yes.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- is that correct?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I would move that we state that the meeting will be an executive session.

CHAIR MATHIS: Do I hear a second?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I second it.

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Oppose.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. One opposed, Mr. Herrera. Okay. So our next meeting will be Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. It will be all executive session, and commissioners will be able to dial in telephonically.

And can we rely upon Megan or Mr. Bladine to help set up a phone number, a dial in? I don't know if ADOA has --

MS. DARIAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes.

MS. DARIAN: We have the phone number.

CHAIR MATHIS: Great.

MS. DARIAN: I set it up for the Commission. And it is a permanent number every time that you want to have an executive session.

CHAIR MATHIS: Wonderful. Thank you. So
we'll get that -- the details from Megan for dialing in.

Okay. Next meeting after that. I apologize.

At our last meeting, we had said May 2nd and I had a work conflict that I wasn't aware of until I got home and saw it.

So I'm requesting that we meet after May 2nd.

That was a Monday and is a Monday. So we talked about May 3rd or 4th, and I'm wondering if those days work. I believe Megan has done some research into meeting space on both of those days. Can you refresh our memories on that?

MS. DARIAN: Yes, Madam Chair. We have two places on the 3rd and 4th. One of them is we'll rent out a room in SOS, and the other one is in Scottsdale at the Board of Medical Examiners, the 3rd and 4th.

CHAIR MATHIS: They're available both days, all day?

MS. DARIAN: Yes, both places.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So -- and we've met in the Scottsdale room before. And then, of course, we've met in the Secretary of State Miranda Room as well.

Any preferences or thoughts and then days for a meeting?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And Monday got moved. I loaded everything to Wednesday. So I only have Tuesday available.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And I'm available all
CHAIR MATHIS: Great. How about others, are you available May -- May 3rd --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes.

CHAIR MATHIS: -- Tuesday, May 3rd?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes, I am.

CHAIR MATHIS: Wonderful. Okay. Ms. McNulty?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So we'll plan on May 3rd. I think we should probably start early in the day, earlyish, so that we can -- we may -- we just don't know what kind of response we're going to have to the legal counsel RFP, and we'll be considering those responses at that meeting, so...

Ms. McNulty, did you have something?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: No.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: May I ask that the -- that on Friday, when the CDs are cut, that they are overnighted for weekend delivery, so that we have as much time available to us prior to that Tuesday meeting?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, I agree. And I see Mr. Red Horse shaking his head "yes" in the back affirmatively. We will definitely request to do that.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So start time May 3rd
is -- what's the pleasure of the Commission? Is 9:30 a.m. good or -- I think we've started then before.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: 9:30 works for me. And Mr. Bladine will be bringing the donuts?

CHAIR MATHIS: That's what I heard. I don't know if we put that in the job description, but...

MR. BLADINE: I thought it would be vegetables.

CHAIR MATHIS: That's better.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, that works for me. I would prefer to meet at the Secretary of State's Office if there's a place there where we can meet in executive session without uprooting the public. I'd really like to find a place we can meet so --

MS. DARIAN: I'll have to check that.

CHAIR MATHIS: I believe there is, though. Because I think that's the room where we --

MS. DARIAN: Yeah.

CHAIR MATHIS: -- had our first two meetings, and you all went into executive session.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: We went into Mr. Bennett's office.

CHAIR MATHIS: Oh. Okay.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I'm not sure that he's going to want us to kick him out now.

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, that wasn't -- that actually wasn't the secretary's office. That was the old supreme court chambers.
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Can we use that?

MR. BARTON: I'm not in charge of scheduling, but I would assume that we could.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. So we'll plan on 9:30 a.m. Our preference, Megan, would be to try for the Secretary of State's Office and confirm that there is ample executive session meeting space.

MS. DARIAN: Outside of the Miranda Room?

CHAIR MATHIS: Right. That would be great. Thank you. Do we want to set any future -- well, first, are there any agenda items that we know we want to cover at that May 3rd meeting?

I think we talked about one earlier, where we're hopeful that Mr. Bladine can provide us with his ideas for staffing the office and what would make sense for him. Any other --

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam --

CHAIR MATHIS: -- agenda items?

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Would it make sense to have a standing agenda item for a report from our executive director -- or, perhaps, is that too broad of an item?

CHAIR MATHIS: Great idea.

MR. BARTON: Madam Chair, that's fine. A report from the executive director is a fine item to be on the agenda.
CHAIR MATHIS: Any other --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair, what about an update on the -- our headquarters?

CHAIR MATHIS: Good idea. Yes. We can finally take all of those other locations off our agenda.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I might go over there and have lunch over there.

CHAIR MATHIS: Great. Any other agenda items?

And then -- well, this won't be our last opportunity, of course, because a draft agenda will come out and you will have the opportunity to provide agenda items if you think of something later.

Do we want to set any future dates of the Commission meeting looking into the week of -- you know, post May 3rd, so May 9th -- the week of May 9th?

I'm actually going to have a conflict May 17 through the 19th. That's the next week, but I just wanted to raise that now, so that people are aware.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Madam Chair, I think it would be helpful to have some set dates going forward, but, perhaps, Mr. Bladine can help us pull that together once he's on board.

CHAIR MATHIS: That would be great, to provide some sanity to our scheduling. We'd love that. Then everyone clears their calendars for that particular day.
CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. I think that concludes Item IX, unless there's any other comments on agenda items and future dates.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Is there any other business?

CHAIR MATHIS: I don't think -- I think we're at the end of the agenda, except just going back to deal with the executive session for discussing the evaluation process for RFP for mapping services -- I mean, for legal counsel, excuse me.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Mr. Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I propose that we take a quick break before we go into executive session.

CHAIR MATHIS: Certainly. How about a ten-minute break?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That's more than enough.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Maybe even five. So just --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Five is good.

CHAIR MATHIS: And then -- and then we'll go into executive session after that.

Okay. It's 3:30 p.m. So a quick five-minute break.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes, Mr. Stertz.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Do we have to have a motion in order to go into executive session?
CHAIR MATHIS: Do we have to have one?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes.

CHAIR MATHIS: Yes. But I didn't know if we could do that when we came back from break.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We can do that if you'd like.

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. We'll have a quick break, and then we'll come back. Thanks.

(whereupon, a break was taken, and the following was had:)

CHAIR MATHIS: Okay. Let's go back into our meeting. Do I hear a motion to go into executive session for the purposes of discussing the evaluation process with regard to the RFP for legal counsel?

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: I'll make that motion as you've stated it.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I second that.

CHAIR MATHIS: All in favor?

VOICE VOTES: Aye.

CHAIR MATHIS: Any opposed?

(No verbal response.)

(whereupon, a recess ensued at 3:41 p.m., and the following was had commencing at 4:38 p.m.:)

CHAIR MATHIS: And now that we are at the end of the agenda as well, the meeting is adjourned.

(whereupon, the public meeting concluded at 4:38 p.m.)
STATE OF ARIZONA  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA  

I, Debra Galvin, hereby certify that the foregoing pages 1 to 140, inclusive, constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the above matter, all to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 4th day of May,
2011.

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Debra M. Galvin, CSR #50375