

CAPTIONING
MARCH 8, 2010
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

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***that did not translate.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: [MICROPHONE NOT ON]

WELCOME TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN THIS MEETING WITH MR. FRANK REDDICK
LEADING US IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

>>FRANK REDDICK: PLEASE STAND.

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

NEXT UP IS PUBLIC COMMENT.

WE HAVE MR. AL DAVIS WHO HAS SIGNED UP.

COME FORWARD.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, I JUST WANTED TO MENTION -- I WANTED TO
READ THIS STATEMENT.

THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD ENCOURAGES CITIZENS TO EXPRESS
THEIR OPINIONS AND CONCERNS; HOWEVER, THE BOARD REQUESTS
THAT CITIZENS PRESENT THEIR CONCERNS IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER
IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A POLITE ATMOSPHERE, SO THANK YOU.

MR. DAVIS.

PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

MY NAME IS AL DAVIS, AND I'M A RESIDENT OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, A REGISTERED VOTER, AND I EXTEND GREETINGS TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY COMMENTS ARE GOING TO BE VERY BRIEF, YET I THINK IT MAY HAVE SOME BEARING ON HOW SUCCESSFUL THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD'S WORK WILL BE.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I CAN DEEM MYSELF AS A STUDENT OF GOVERNMENT OR AS A LEARNER OF HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS.

I BELIEVE I CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR BEING A 101 STUDENT OF GOVERNMENT ANYWAY, AND THAT 101 COURSE, YOU KNOW, GIVES US THE STRUCTURE OF HOW THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CAME TO BE, ET CETERA, ET CETERA, AND IT OUTLINES, YOU KNOW, THE THREE TIERS -- EXCUSE ME -- OR THE THREE-STOOL GOVERNMENT, EXECUTIVE, THE LEGISLATIVE, AND THE JUDICIARY, AND I THINK THEY DEEMED THAT KIND OF STRUCTURE A SEPARATION OF POWERS. AND THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER PRINCIPLE THAT SEEMED TO HAVE DEVELOPED IS THE ONE CALLED CHECK AND BALANCE.

YOU KNOW, ON THE THREE-LEGGED STOOL, IF ONE IS WEAKENED, THAT WEAKENS THE OTHER TWO, OR IF TWO IS WEAKENED, THAT WEAKENS THE THIRD, SO THERE HAS TO BE THIS BALANCE.

AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS BOARD AS THEY CONTINUE THEIR WORK AS TO WHATEVER THE STAGES YOU MIGHT REACH IN REGARDS TO ANY PROPOSED CHANGES THAT IT BE WEIGHED IN THE INTEREST OF SEPARATION OF POWER AND CHECKS AND BALANCE.

I JUST WANT TO MAKE ONE OTHER COMMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN.

NOW, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HEAR --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU STILL HAVE 30 SECONDS.

>> OKAY.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HEAR IS THAT YOU MAY BE
CONSIDERING THIS THING CALLED AN ELECTED MAYOR.

WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS RESOURCE IN OUR COMMUNITY JUST ABOUT
FIVE MILES TO THE NORTH, THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA.
THEY HAVE A COLLEGE THERE THAT I UNDERSTAND IS THE COLLEGE
OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU, MR. DAVIS.

>> WOULD YOU CARE -- SINCE THE HOUSE IS NOT FULL --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, YOU CAN GO -- YOU CAN FINISH
UP.

I'LL LET YOU.

>> TO INVITE -- NOW, I KNOW THERE'S ONE PERSON BY NAME IS
PROFESSOR SUSAN MacMANUS.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE HEARD OF HER OR SEEN OF HER, BUT I
WOULD ENCOURAGE THIS COMMISSION IF THEY ARE THINKING ABOUT
THAT -- AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE
PROS AND THE CONS --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> -- THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES THAT IF WE DID WANT
TO CHANGE OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT FROM THAT TO AN ELECTED
MAYOR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT?

NEXT ON OUR AGENDA, I WANTED TO GO AROUND AND HAVE THE BOARD MEMBERS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES STARTING WITH MR. WHITE, INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND THE COMMISSIONER THAT APPOINTED YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: GERALD WHITE -- GERALD WHITE -- GERALD WHITE, APPOINTED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONER COUNTYWIDE MARK SHARPE, COMMISSIONER.

>>JAN PLATT: JAN PLATT, APPOINTED BY ROSE FERLITA.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: JOE ROBINSON, APPOINTED BY KEVIN WHITE.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: ROCHELLE REBACK, APPOINTED BY KEVIN BECKNER.

>>FRANK REDDICK: FRANK REDDICK, APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONER WHITE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MITCH THROWER, APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONER KEN HAGAN.

RALPH.

>>RALPH FISHER: HI.

RALPH FISHER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I POINTED BY?
APPOINTED BY?

WHICH COMMISSIONER?

>>RALPH FISHER: WE INTRODUCED OURSELVES BEFORE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

I WANTED YOU TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND THE COMMISSIONER
THAT APPOINTED YOU.

>>RALPH FISHER: OUR NEXT SENATOR.

GO AHEAD.

>>JAN PLATT: WHO IS THAT?

AGAIN, DON'T PLAY GAMES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: RALPH, THE COMMISSIONER WHO APPOINTED
YOU.

>>RALPH FISHER: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: JIM NORMAN?

>>RALPH FISHER: YES, SIR.

>>DAVID CATON: DAVID CATON, APPOINTED BY KEN HAGAN.

>>JOE AMON: JOE AMON, APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONER NORMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

WE HAVE A QUORUM NOW.

I JUST WANTED TO STATE THAT.

AND THE NEXT ITEM ON OUR AGENDA -- I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A
BRIEF STATEMENT BEFORE WE MOVE ON.

WE DO HAVE A HEAVY AGENDA, SO PLEASE, YOU KNOW, I WANT TO
MAKE SURE THAT -- BEFORE YOU SPEAK, MAKE SURE YOU'RE
RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.

WE'VE GOT A LOT OF INFORMATION, AND IF WE DON'T GET THESE MEETINGS TO FLOW SMOOTHLY, WE WILL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE AND WE WILL NEVER GET THROUGH ALL THE ISSUES THAT WE NEED TO DISCUSS, SO NEXT UP IS RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE CLERK'S OFFICIAL MINUTES, WHICH I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE RECEIVED AT THIS POINT.

I KNOW -- I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE RECEIVED, SO WE'LL WAIT FOR THE NEXT MEETING BEFORE WE RECEIVE THEM.

I THINK WHAT'S HAPPENING IS WE -- THE FACT THAT WE'RE RIGHT NOW MEETING ONCE A WEEK, THE CLERK HAS TOLD US THAT IT TAKES AT LEAST TWO WEEKS TO GET THE TURNAROUND, SO WE WILL -- IS THAT CORRECT?

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IF WE RECEIVE THEM TODAY, I'LL TELL YOU.

HONESTLY, I DON'T GET MY E-MAILS IF THEY COME TO MY HOUSE DURING THE DAY.

I WORK FOR A GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY TOO, AND WHEN I'M AT WORK, I DON'T DO ANYTHING BUT WORK, SO IF IT CAME TO MY HOUSE TODAY, I WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED IT.

>> WE DIDN'T RECEIVE IT, MR. CHAIRMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

BUT WE WILL APPROVE -- WE WILL RECEIVE AND APPROVE THOSE MINUTES AT THE NEXT MEETING.

>>GERALD WHITE: THEY WERE E-MAILED, THOUGH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WERE THEY E-MAILED?

OKAY.

NEXT UP WE HAVE -- ANY DISCUSSION?

>>JOE AMON: YEAH, MR. CHAIRMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: JOE.

>>JOE AMON: I UNDERSTAND THEY WERE E-MAILED?

>>JAN PLATT: I DIDN'T RECEIVE THEM.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SOMEBODY MENTIONED THEY MAY HAVE COME OUT TODAY.

I HAVEN'T BEEN BACK HOME SINCE THIS MORNING, SO --

>>GERALD WHITE: THEY WERE E-MAILED AND THEY'VE BEEN ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WEB SITE SINCE LAST WEEK FOR THE FEBRUARY -- THE SECOND MEETING.

>>JOE AMON: 22nd MEETING?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

>>JOE AMON: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> WELL, I JUST CHECKED MY E-MAIL PRIOR TO COMING HERE, AND I DIDN'T HAVE THAT.

>>JOE AMON: I DIDN'T EITHER.

THAT'S THE REASON I'M ASKING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, I DIDN'T RECEIVE THEM EITHER, BUT WE'LL -- I'LL WORK WITH EDITH AND MAKE SURE WE GET IT STRAIGHTENED OUT, AND WE WILL APPROVE THOSE MINUTES THAT WE

HAVEN'T APPROVED YET AT THE NEXT MEETING, THE ONES WE RECEIVED, SO -- NEXT ON OUR AGENDA IS MARY HELEN FARRIS WITH THE CODE OF ETHICS DISCUSSION.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: GOOD EVENING, BOARD MEMBERS, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY FOR THE RECORD THAT EDITH IS OUT OF TOWN AND SHE HAS BEEN SINCE MIDWEEK I BELIEVE IT WAS, SO I'LL CHECK ON THAT AND WE'LL MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET ALL THE MINUTES THAT -- THAT ARE READY TO BE SENT OUT.

I'M -- I WAS ASKED AT THE LAST BOARD MEETING TO GO OVER THE -- ANY ETHICS PROVISIONS OF THE ETHICS CODE THAT APPLIES TO THIS BOARD.

THE ETHICS CODE IS FOUND IN CHAPTER 112, PART 3, AND IT IS ADOPTED -- NOT ONLY DOES IT APPLY BECAUSE IT'S STATE LAW, BUT IT'S SPECIFICALLY ADOPTED IN OUR CHARTER THAT THAT SHALL BE THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, WHICH DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE COUNTY FROM HAVING ADDITIONAL ETHICS REQUIREMENTS OF ITS EMPLOYEES, BUT THAT IS A BASIC DOCUMENT THAT WE LOOK AT.

SO I WENT THROUGH THAT.

THERE ARE MANY PROVISIONS THAT DO NOT APPLY TO THIS BOARD FOR VARIOUS REASONS, BUT I WILL TOUCH ON SOME THAT POTENTIALLY COULD APPLY TO THIS BOARD.

FIRST OF ALL IS A PROHIBITION ON THE SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS, AND IT BASICALLY SAYS THAT NO PUBLIC OFFICER, WHICH YOU WOULD BE, SHALL SOLICIT OR ACCEPT

ANYTHING OF VALUE UPON ANY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE VOTE, OFFICIAL ACTION, OR JUDGMENT OF THE PUBLIC OFFICER WOULD BE INFLUENCED THEREBY.

I THINK THAT IT GOES WITHOUT STATING THAT IT'S PROHIBITED FOR YOU TO ASK FOR A GIFT IN RESPONSE TO AGREE TO USE YOUR OFFICIAL ACTION, AND THAT MEANS, YOU KNOW, BASICALLY, BASED ON ANY UNDERSTANDING -- AND SOME PEOPLE CALL THIS LIKE THE -- YOU KNOW, THE BRIBERY STATUTE, BUT THERE'S A COMPANION ONE OR A SIMILAR ONE THAT SAYS, NO PUBLIC OFFICER OR HIS OR HER SPOUSE OR MINOR CHILD SHALL ACCEPT ANY COMPENSATION PAYMENT IF THEY KNOW OR SHOULD KNOW THAT IT WAS GIVEN TO INFLUENCE THEIR VOTE OR OTHER ACTION.

AGAIN, THE DUTY OF THIS -- THIS BOARD AND THE CHARGE OF THIS BOARD TO LOOK AT THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER AND LOOK AT THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT REALLY KIND OF REMOVES IT FROM THE KINDS OF DECISIONS THAT THIS WAS REALLY PLANNED TO GO TO, AWARDING CONTRACTS AND THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

SIMILARLY MISUSE OF PUBLIC POSITION PROHIBITS A PUBLIC OFFICER FOR CORRUPTLY USING HIS OFFICIAL POSITION OR ANY PROPERTY OR RESOURCE OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY TO SECURE A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE BENEFIT OR EXEMPTION FOR HIMSELF OR FOR OTHERS.

AGAIN, THAT -- THAT GOES TOWARDS USING YOUR OFFICIAL CAPACITY TO BENEFIT YOURSELF.

DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION, THERE'S A PROHIBITION

THAT YOU NOT DISCLOSE OR USE INFORMATION NOT GENERALLY AVAILABLE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR YOUR OWN GAIN OR BENEFIT.

AGAIN, MOST OF THE INFORMATION THAT THIS BOARD IS GIVEN IS SIMULTANEOUSLY POSTED ON THE INTERNET FOR -- FOR ALL TO SEE.

AND FINALLY, VOTING CONFLICTS WHICH WOULD APPLY TO THIS. AND IN SUMMARY, YOU CANNOT VOTE ON ANY MATTER WHICH INURES TO YOUR SPECIAL PRIVATE GAIN, THAT OF YOUR PRINCIPAL, OR CERTAIN RELATIVES, AND THE SPECIAL PRIVATE GAIN HAS TO BE A DIRECT OUTCOME OF THE VOTE AND NOT REMOTE.

AN EXAMPLE WOULD BE, YOU KNOW, VOTING ON SOMETHING WHERE THE OUTCOME WOULD BE A DIRECT CONTRACT, FOR INSTANCE, AND YOUR SPOUSE OWNS THE COMPANY AND YOU'RE VOTING TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT.

IT'S A FINANCIAL GAIN THAT IS PROHIBITED, AND IF YOU ABSTAIN, THEN THERE'S SOME FORMS YOU FILL OUT.

AGAIN, WITH THIS BOARD AND THE KIND OF ISSUES THAT YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING, IT WOULD BE HARD TO IMAGINE A SET OF FACTS WHERE THAT WOULD COME INTO PLAY UNLESS YOU WERE GOING TO PUT SOMETHING IN THE CHARTER THAT WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE BOARD ONLY -- THE COUNTY ONLY USE A CERTAIN LAW FIRM AND YOUR SPOUSE OWNED THE LAW -- YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING?

AND EVEN BECAUSE ANY -- ANY VOTE OF THIS BOARD HAS TO GO TO THE PUBLIC, IT'S NOT AN AUTOMATIC THING, SO -- BUT -- BUT I

JUST WANTED TO MENTION THOSE TO YOU.

THAT WAS REQUESTED.

AND I'M HAPPY TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS IF THERE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY QUESTIONS?

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I SEE THAT WE HAVE A CODE OF ETHICS -- A LINE IN THE CHARTER RELATED TO ETHICS.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW MANY CHARTER COUNTIES HAVE AN ETHICS BOARD AND HOW ARE THEY STRUCTURED BECAUSE MY IDEA RELATED TO THAT IS TO HAVE THE OFFICERS OF THE COUNTY, WHICH WOULD BE THE SHERIFF, THE TAX COLLECTOR, THE PROPERTY APPRAISER, THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, AND THE CLERK OF THE COURT SERVE AS THE ETHICS BOARD WITH THE CIRCUIT CHIEF JUDGE BEING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD, AND SO THAT'S -- THAT'S SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE FOR US TO STUDY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT MIGHT GET INTO A DUAL OFFICE-HOLDING PROBLEM WITH THAT.

I'D HAVE TO LOOK INTO IT.

I DO KNOW THAT MIAMI-DADE, I BELIEVE, HAS A STANDING ETHICS -- KIND OF LIKE THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS BUT IT'S AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

I'M NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH HOW IT WORKS, BUT -- BUT I CAN FIND THAT INFORMATION OUT AND THE CHARTERS, AND I CAN PROVIDE IT.

AT LEAST I HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME THIS TIME TO PULL THE INFORMATION TOGETHER.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

OKAY.

THANK YOU, MARY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I THINK IF IT'S OKAY I'LL GO RIGHT INTO 7.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR GETTING -- IT WAS QUITE A BIT OF INFORMATION YOU GATHERED FOR US ON PRETTY SHORT TURNAROUND, SO I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR DOING THAT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE, SURE.

AND IT WAS, AND I WAS FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON GATHERING THE INFORMATION.

WHAT I WOULD SUGGEST -- AND OF COURSE, I'M OPEN TO ANYTHING THE BOARD WANTS TO DO -- IS TO -- YOU KNOW, RECEIPT OF THE INFORMATION.

IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON HERE -- AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME YOU'VE HAD TO READ THE INFORMATION.

I BELIEVE IT WAS E-MAILED OUT FRIDAY.

WE HAVE HARD COPIES IF THAT'S MORE CONVENIENT, AND THAT BRINGS UP ANOTHER ISSUE.

IF I'M -- IF I AM GIVING THE INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY,

IT'D BE HELPFUL IF WE KNOW IF YOU WANT HARD COPY AS WELL AS THE ELECTRONIC COPY OR IF THE ELECTRONIC COPY IS ALL YOU NEED BECAUSE WE WEREN'T SURE IF WE NEEDED TO MAKE THE 14 COPIES OR NOT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MRS. REBACK.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: IF YOU'RE ASKING, I WOULD LIKE THE ELECTRONIC COPY SO I CAN LOOK AT IT IN ADVANCE, BUT I'D LIKE TO HAVE A HARD COPY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU'VE GOT TO PUSH YOUR BUTTON. TOP BUTTON.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: THANKS.

IF YOU'RE ASKING ME MY PREFERENCE, I APPRECIATE THAT YOU SENT THE E-MAIL IN ADVANCE SO I CAN TRY TO LOOK AT IT IN ADVANCE, BUT IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE A HARD COPY AT THE MEETING.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I'M HAPPY TO DO SO, AND THAT'S THE WAY THAT WE HAD PROCEEDED, SO I WILL -- IF THAT'S THE PLEASURE OF THE BOARD, WE CAN DO THAT.

THERE'S SOME PEOPLE THAT DON'T LIKE HARD COPIES, THEY JUST LIKE IT ELECTRONICALLY, BUT WE'RE HAPPY TO -- BECAUSE WE -- WE ACTUALLY PULL ALL THE HARD COPIES AND THEN SCAN THAT IN, SO --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: NOW, WE DIDN'T GET THAT TODAY; RIGHT? THERE'S NO HARD COPY --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WE HAVE A FEW, AND IF YOU WANT A SET,
I'M HAPPY TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

I THINK I HAVE AN EXTRA ONE.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: IF YOU DON'T MIND.

THANK YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MR. CHAIR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, MR. ROBINSON.

BACK THANK YOU, MARY HELEN.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MARY HELEN, I HAD ASKED -- YOU GAVE US
THE POPULATION FROM 1980, THIS WAS AROUND WHEN THE CHARTER
WAS STARTED, BUT I DIDN'T SEE ANY CURRENT WHAT THE
POPULATION IS NOW IN 2009.

>>JAN PLATT: POINT OF ORDER.

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO DOWN THIS WHOLE LIST, AND WE'RE TO
THE FIRST ONE.

WE'RE NOT TO THAT ONE YET.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: EXCUSE ME, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY
ORDER.

>>JAN PLATT: YES.

WELL, WE -- ACTUALLY, THERE IS AN ORDER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, COMMISSIONER PLATT IS CORRECT.

MARY HELEN'S GOING TO GO DOWN THAT LIST, AND WE CAN GET TO
THAT QUESTION IF YOU DON'T MIND WAITING.

SHE'S GOING TO GO DOWN THE LIST.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SHE'S GOING TO GO DOWN IT?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

SHE'S GOING TO GO DOWN THE LIST.

WE MAY NOT HAVE TIME -- SHE'S GATHERED THIS, AND SHE HAS TOLD ME -- SHE TOLD ME IN ADVANCE THAT TO GET INTO DETAIL ON ALL THESE ITEMS --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- TO GET INTO DETAIL ON ALL THESE ITEMS MAY TAKE QUITE A BIT OF TIME.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: ARE WE GOING TO DISCUSS THESE AS SHE GOES DOWN?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SHE'S GOING TO RUN DOWN THEM?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, SHE'S GOING TO GO DOWN THE LIST, BUT I'M GOING TO MENTION IS TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THESE ITEMS MAY TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME.

WE MAY WANT TO LET HER GO THROUGH THE LIST RIGHT NOW, AND THEN IF THERE'S ITEMS THAT WE WANT TO PUT ON -- POSSIBLY ON OUR AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING TO POSSIBLY GET INTO MORE DETAIL, WE MAY WANT TO CONSIDER THAT BECAUSE IF WE STOP HER AND TALK IN-DEPTH ABOUT ALL OF THESE, SHE SAID -- I MEAN, SHE'S THE EXPERT ON THIS, BUT IT COULD TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME AND WE MIGHT BE HERE FOR HOURS ON END.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SO WHEN WILL WE BE ABLE TO COMMENT?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WELL, I MEAN, SHE'S GOING TO GO

THROUGH THESE ITEMS AND YOU CAN ASK SOME QUESTIONS.

WHAT I'M SAYING IS I WOULD PREFER IF WE DON'T GET INTO DETAILED CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW.

YOU CAN ASK SOME QUESTIONS.

WE'LL GO THROUGH THE LIST AND THEN WE CAN COME BACK TO SOME ITEMS, OR WE COULD ACTUALLY ADD THEM TO OUR AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING IF WE WANT TO GET INTO AN IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OR WE CAN CONTINUE IT IF WE DON'T FINISH IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE COULD DO THAT.

I MEAN, WE COULD DO THAT IF --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: TO ME WHEN WE'RE ON A SUBJECT, IF WE WAIT FOR EVERYBODY TO MAKE THEIR COMMENTS, WE'RE GOING TO LOSE TRAIN OF THOUGHT, OKAY, BECAUSE THE NEXT MEETING IS -- IS QUITE A WAYS AWAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT'S A MONTH AWAY, YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: A MONTH AWAY.

SO I WOULD RATHER KNOCK THEM OUT AS WE GO, AND IF WE DON'T GET TO THEM, THEN WE'LL PICK THEM UP BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING LOST IF WE DON'T [INAUDIBLE] A MONTH FROM NOW.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THE ONLY CONCERN I HAD IS I DON'T KNOW IF EVERYBODY'S HAD A CHANCE TO READ THESE IN-DEPTH, SO IF WE HAVE AN DETAILED DISCUSSION RIGHT NOW AND INDIVIDUALS -- BOARD MEMBERS HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW, THEN WE MAY HAVE SOME BOARD

MEMBERS WHO CANNOT PARTICIPATE.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YOU HAVE BOARD MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT
HERE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, SIR, YOU ARE CORRECT.
AT LEAST WE HAVE A QUORUM.

>>GERALD WHITE: I'VE READ ALL THE DOCUMENTS, MR. CHAIR.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: MITCH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: IT'S GREAT TO HAVE THE INFORMATION AND
ANSWER EVERYBODY'S QUESTIONS, AND I'M GRATEFUL THAT YOU'RE
ABLE TO DO THAT FOR US, BUT I THINK UNLESS WE HAVE A
TOPICAL FOCUS FOR ALL THIS INFORMATION COMING AT US, WE'RE
NOT GOING TO GET VERY -- ANYTHING PRODUCTIVE DONE ON THIS
COMMISSION, AND JUST TO TAKE EVERYBODY'S REQUESTS MEETING
AFTER MEETING ABOUT THINGS THAT THEY'D LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT I
FRANKLY THINK IS JUST NOT A HELPFUL WAY TO PROCEED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: AND I ALSO THINK THAT WHILE ALL OF
THESE THINGS ARE INTERESTING, WE REALLY NEED TO FOCUS OUR
QUESTIONS ON THINGS WHICH DIRECTLY RELATE TO THE CHARTER
AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CHARTER AMENDMENT OR NOT, AND SO IN
THAT REGARD, BEFORE COMING HERE, FOR MYSELF, BASED ON
HAVING BEEN HERE AT EVERY MEETING SINCE WE BEGAN, IT SEEMS
TO ME THAT THERE ARE THREE VERY PRESSING TOPICS THAT
EVERYBODY ON THIS COMMISSION HAS EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN

AND THE PUBLIC HAS EXPRESSED SOME INTEREST IN, AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE FOR US TO DECIDE IF WE WANT TO PROCEED BY TOPIC AND THEN ASK ALL THE COMMISSIONERS TO DIRECT THEIR QUESTIONS OR THEIR INFORMATION REQUESTS TO THOSE TOPICS BECAUSE OTHERWISE WE'RE JUST ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND IT'S JUST NOT A PRODUCTIVE WAY TO PROCEED.

SO I'M JUST GOING TO THROW THIS OUT THERE BEFORE MARY HELEN GOES THROUGH ALL OF HER THINGS BECAUSE FRANKLY, MARY HELEN, THEY SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I THINK SO, A LOT OF THEM.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: THEY'LL EITHER ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT THE COMMISSIONERS HAD THAT YOU TRIED TO ANSWER BY PRODUCING THIS INFORMATION OR THEY WON'T.

I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY PRODUCTIVE TO HAVE YOU GO THROUGH AND TELL US WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN US BECAUSE ANYBODY WHO'S INTERESTED IN THESE THINGS CAN SIMPLY LOOK AT THEM AND THEY SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, SO I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE OR SUGGEST -- I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A MOTION OR JUST FOR DISCUSSION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: BUT WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM THIS BOARD AND WHAT I HAVE HEARD FROM THE PUBLIC IS THAT THERE ARE THREE VERY PRESSING ISSUES THAT ARE CHARTER-RELATED ISSUES THAT PEOPLE WANT US TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON.

NUMBER ONE IS THE ISSUE OF COUNTY MAYOR, AND THE SUBISSUES

THAT RELATE TO COUNTY MAYOR ARE WHETHER OR NOT THIS BOARD FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO AMEND THE CHARTER TO CREATE THE POSITION OF AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR OR COUNTY EXECUTIVE, WHETHER THAT POSITION SHOULD -- IF WE DETERMINE THAT -- THAT THAT POSITION IS SOMETHING THAT WE WANT TO EXPLORE FURTHER, WHETHER THE -- WE WANT INFORMATION THAT ADDRESSES THE PROS AND CONS OF THAT POSITION ON A NUMBER OF LEVELS.

NUMBER ONE IS WHETHER IT IMPACTS ON MINORITY VOTING RIGHTS IN A POSITIVE WAY, A NEGATIVE WAY, OR NO WAY WHATSOEVER. THAT SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING THAT -- THAT THE BOARD -- A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE BOARD HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN EXPLORING.

NUMBER TWO, WHETHER OR NOT IF YOU CREATE SUCH A POSITION, DO YOU ALSO HAVE TO CREATE A POSITION TO GET RID OF AN ELECTED -- OR CREATE A MECHANISM TO GET RID OF AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR.

RIGHT NOW WE HAVE A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR WHO CAN BE FIRED BY THE BOARD.

IF THERE'S AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR AND THAT PERSON IS UNSATISFACTORY, IS THAT A POSITION THAT THEN HAS TO BE SUBJECT TO THE FULL PANOPLY OF ELECTORAL RECALL MECHANISMS, AND IF SO, IS THAT GOING TO BE DONE OR AVAILABLE TO BE DONE BY CITIZEN INITIATIVE ONLY OR BY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

THIS IS A COMMISSION THAT ONLY MEETS ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS.
WE CAN'T DO IT.

WHAT IF IN THE THIRD YEAR, YOU KNOW, THERE'S A -- A SENSE
THAT THAT PERSON NEEDS TO GO?

>>DAVID CATON: ROCHELLE, THERE'S THREE POINTS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DAVID.

>>DAVID CATON: YOU'RE DEBATING THE POINTS.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: NO, I'M JUST TRYING TO THROW --

>>DAVID CATON: I'M HEARING THERE'S THREE POINTS.

I'D LIKE TO HEAR THOSE THREE POINTS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON, LET HER FINISH REAL QUICK.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: AND I WILL, AND OBVIOUSLY YOU'LL HAVE A
CHANCE TO SPEAK TO ALL OF THEM, BUT I THINK THERE ARE A
NUMBER OF QUESTIONS UNDER THE UMBRELLA ISSUE OF COUNTY
MAYOR.

WHETHER OR NOT THE POSITION, IF WE'RE INTERESTED IN HAVING
IT, SHOULD BE PARTISAN OR NOT OR NONPARTISAN.

ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE -- AND THERE ARE MANY MORE, I'M
SURE, THAT ARE UNDER THE UMBRELLA ISSUE OF COUNTY MAYOR,
YES, NO.

THE SECOND ISSUE THAT I'VE HEARD A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF
THIS BOARD DISCUSS THAT THEY WANT TO EXPLORE AND MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC IS WHETHER OR NOT THE CURRENT BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' SIZE SHOULD BE AMENDED TO EITHER -- TO
INCREASE EITHER MORE SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS OR MORE

SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS AND MORE AT-LARGE DISTRICTS AND WHETHER OR NOT, GIVEN THE GROWTH OF THIS COUNTY SINCE THE ORIGINAL NUMBERS OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS DETERMINED, WHETHER IT -- WHETHER IT'S APPROPRIATE NOW FOR THE SIZE OF OUR COUNTY FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO BE INCREASED IN SOME FASHION AND WHETHER AMENDING THE CHARTER OR A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE CHARTER BY THIS BODY IS THE APPROPRIATE WAY TO DO THAT IF WE DETERMINE THAT IT'S A GOOD IDEA.

AND AGAIN, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE EXPLORED ABOUT THAT UMBRELLA ISSUE, AGAIN INCLUDING IMPACT ON VOTING PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES, NUMBER OF SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS VERSUS AT-LARGE DISTRICTS, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE BETTER AT ME THAN MATH WHO COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT NUMBERS ARE APPROPRIATE SO THAT EVERY CITIZEN WOULD STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE FOR A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OR NOT, WHETHER THAT CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: -- ALL UNDER THE ISSUE OF THE SIZE OF THE BOARD.

AND THE THIRD ISSUE THAT I'VE HEARD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THIS COMMISSION EXPRESS INTEREST IN AND A LOT OF INTEREST FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPOKEN TO US FROM THE PUBLIC SO FAR, AND THAT IS THE ISSUE OF CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION.

I'M NOT SAYING THAT ANY OF US HAVE ANY POSITION ON THAT,

BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT I'VE HEARD A NUMBER OF PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY WANTED TO EXPLORE OR TALK ABOUT, AND UNDER THAT UMBRELLA ISSUE, THE ONE VERY SIGNIFICANT SUBISSUE IS WHETHER CITY OR COUNTY CONSOLIDATION MEANS TOTAL CONSOLIDATION OR WHETHER IT MEANS PARTIAL CONSOLIDATION, AND IF SO, ONLY CERTAIN SERVICES, AND IF IT'S ONLY CERTAIN SERVICES, IS THAT SOMETHING THAT THIS BOARD AS A BOARD -- IS THAT SOMETHING THAT'S EVEN APPROPRIATE TO A CHARTER AMENDMENT OR IS THAT SOMETHING THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ITSELF COULD DO BY WAY OF LEGISLATION?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: SO THAT'S HOW I SEE THE ISSUES THAT PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING ON THIS BOARD AND THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THAT THEY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FROM THE PUBLIC.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

LET ME GET MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, FIRST OF ALL, WE'VE JUST GOT ORGANIZED, AND THIS IS JUST OUR FOURTH MEETING, AND THE WAY I INTEND TO CONDUCT MYSELF IS TO DO A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ANY AND ALL PHASES OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND WE'RE -- REALLY, WE HAVEN'T EVEN HAD ONE GUEST SPEAKER YET, SO WE'VE YET TO EVEN HEAR WHAT SOMEONE MAY BRING TO THIS BOARD AS AN IDEA OR REQUEST FOR CHANGE OR REQUEST FOR THIS BOARD TO STUDY.

I APPRECIATE YOU OUTLINING SOME KEY ISSUES THAT I HOPE WE GET IN -- IN-DEPTH TO AND IN DETAIL WITHIN AND DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO TAKE THOSE TO A LEVEL OF POSSIBILITY OF DRAFT LANGUAGE, BUT TODAY I'M IN THE PROCESS WHEN WE HAVE A SPEAKER SUCH AS MARY HELEN AND SHE'S GOING OVER ISSUES THAT WE'VE REQUESTED, I HAVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE, I HAVE -- AND I HAVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO SENATE BILL 216, AND SO MY QUESTION TO MARY HELEN, WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE, AND A REQUEST IS I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE PROCESS OF CERTIFYING AN INITIATIVE, HOW IS THAT DONE, AND ONCE THAT IS DONE, WHO IS THE OWNER OF THE INITIATIVE, AND IF THERE'S A SUIT AGAINST THE INITIATIVE, WHO PAYS?

IS IT -- AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHAT HAPPENS TO -- YOU EXPLAINED TO US RELATED TO THE COURT CASE OF THE MAYOR ISSUE GOING TO COURT.

SOMEBODY HAD TO DEFEND IT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OR THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.

I WANT TO KNOW HOW MUCH DID THAT COST?

AND I'M GETTING BACK TO MY ORIGINAL POINT OF SOMETHING GOING ON ON THE BALLOT WITHOUT IT GOING THROUGH SOME SORT OF TEST OR SOME SORT OF LEGAL REVIEW SO THAT THE TAXPAYERS WOULDN'T HAVE TO FOOT THE BILL FOR SOMETHING THAT WAS THROWN OFF THE BALLOT BY THE COURT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CAN I CLARIFY --

>>GERALD WHITE: SO I WANT TO KNOW.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

TO CLARIFY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WAIT A MINUTES.

POINT OF ORDER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SHE JUST SPOKE A LONG TIME TALKING ABOUT THREE THINGS SHE WANTED.

I BELIEVE DAVID HAD HIS HAND UP BEFORE MR. WHITE, BUT MR. WHITE SPOKE.

HE SPOKE ABOUT WHAT HE WANTED TO DO.

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO ENGAGE MARY HELEN UNTIL WE GET THIS STRAIGHT BECAUSE I GOT SOME COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT SHE SAID.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

LET ME MENTION SOMETHING.

BASICALLY WHAT WE ARE DOING RIGHT NOW IS WE'RE TRYING TO GET SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

I MEAN, WE -- WE CAN JUMP INTO THE ISSUES.

I MEAN, WE DO HAVE QUITE A BIT OF TIME.

WE'RE TRYING TO GET SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

GINA GRIMES BROUGHT UP A VERY GOOD POINT, SHE'S NOT HERE TODAY, BUT SHE BROUGHT UP A VERY GOOD POINT.

LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WE INVITED PROFESSORS, THE EDUCATORS.

I -- THAT WAS A GOOD APPROACH IN MY OPINION.

WE GOT THEM.

THOSE ARE THE SUBJECT EXPERTS.

SOME OF THEM -- I MEAN, INVITE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN EDUCATE US.

I MEAN, WE COULD START DEBATING THE ISSUES RIGHT NOW, BUT SOME OF THE ISSUES I DON'T HAVE A GOOD -- I PERSONALLY DON'T HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING ON, SO I'D LIKE -- I THINK THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD APPROACH.

INVITE THE EXPERTS, GET THEM OUT HERE.

WE CAN START LOOKING AT THE ISSUES, AND THE ISSUES ARE GOING TO COME UP.

YOU KNOW, THEY'RE GOING TO CONTINUOUSLY COME UP.

WE CAN JUST START TALKING ABOUT AN ISSUE RIGHT NOW, AND WHERE ARE WE GOING TO GET, YOU KNOW?

I MEAN, I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE FRUITLESS, BUT I THINK AS -- AS CHAIR, I THINK WE SHOULD ALL CONSIDER MAYBE INVITING THE EXPERTS AND JUST ADDRESSING OUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO THE EXPERTS, GATHERING THE INFORMATION, AND, YOU KNOW, GOING FROM THERE.

MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I'M TRYING TO -- I BELIEVE HE WAS UP BEFORE ME AND GERALD, SO I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE GOT TO SAY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: -- AND THEN COME BACK TO ME.

I WANT TO COMMENT ABOUT WHAT MS. --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SORRY ABOUT FORGETTING ABOUT YOU.

>>DAVID CATON: NO, THAT'S OKAY.

THAT'S OKAY.

I BROUGHT THIS POINT UP -- TRIED TO BRING IT UP AT THE END OF THE LAST MEETING, AND IT SEEMED TO ME THAT WE WERE PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE.

WE NEED TO DECIDE ON THE ISSUES WE WANT TO ADDRESS.

AS A TEAM, I DON'T THINK TODAY'S A GOOD DAY BECAUSE WE HAVE FIVE MEMBERS MISSING, BUT I THINK WE NEED TO MAKE IT KNOWN IF WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS AT THE NEXT MEETING THAT WE -- WE'RE GOING TO UP OR DOWN THE ISSUES THAT WE WANT TO EMBRACE BECAUSE WHY SPEND MEETING AFTER MEETING LISTENING TO SPEAKERS ADDRESS ISSUES THAT WE'RE NOT -- THERE ARE CERTAIN ISSUES I WILL -- I'M ALREADY DECIDED ON.

I MEAN, I -- I JUST -- AND I THINK TWO OF THE ISSUES YOU BROUGHT UP ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED FROM EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF THE REPRESENTATION THAT ONE GIVES AND THE MISREPRESENTATION ANOTHER GIVES, SO I'M THINKING THAT WE NEED AS A BOARD TO -- LET'S LOOK AT THE ISSUES AND THEN LET'S GIVE OUR FULL ATTENTION TO THOSE THAT WE CAN -- YOU KNOW, WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT RATHER THAN JUST KIND OF FEELING OUR WAY AROUND.

I MEAN, IF WE KNOW AS A BOARD THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO

DEAL -- EACH MEMBER KNOWS THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH -- WE DON'T SUPPORT THAT ISSUE, WHY SHOULD WE DEAL WITH IT?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON AND COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YOU WANT TO GO FIRST?

>>JAN PLATT: NO, YOU GO AHEAD.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: FIRST OF ALL, COMMENTING ABOUT WHAT THE GENTLE LADY TO THE RIGHT OF ME SAID, FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT HERE JUST TO LOOK AT CHARTER AMENDMENTS, I'M HERE TO LOOK AT ALL COUNTY GOVERNMENT, WHICH THE CHARTER SAYS WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO, SO I'M NOT JUST HERE LOOKING FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER, I'M LOOKING FOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT OR ANYTHING THAT ANYBODY'S TOLD ME ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT, SO I'M NOT LIMITING MYSELF TO CHANGING JUST THE CHARTER.

IF IT REQUIRES THE CHARTER TO CHANGE IT, THAT'S ONE THING, BUT I'M NOT HERE JUST LIMITED LOOKING AT THE CHARTER, I'M LOOKING AT ALL PHASES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

THE OTHER THING ABOUT BRINGING THE -- THE INFORMATION THAT MARY HELEN IS GOING TO PRESENT, I WANT MARY HELEN TO PRESENT IT BECAUSE IT MAY NOT BE COMPLETE, LIKE I WAS GETTING READY TO ASK A QUESTION ABOUT POPULATION FIGURES FROM '83.

WHAT ABOUT POPULATION FIGURES FROM 2010?

THEY'RE NOT IN HERE.

AT LEAST I DIDN'T SEE THEM.

SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS WE NEED TO LET MARY HELEN PRESENT.

THE OTHER THING IS WE CAN'T GET INTO ISSUES UNLESS WE GIVE A PUBLIC NOTICE THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT THOSE ISSUES, SO IF WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT ISSUES TONIGHT -- LET ME FINISH -- THAT'S TALKING ABOUT ISSUES TONIGHT, I CAME HERE BECAUSE I KNEW ON THE AGENDA THIS IS WHAT I WAS GOING TO GO OVER AND NOTHING ELSE, SO I EXPECTED TO COME HERE, LISTEN TO THIS FIRST BULLET.

IF I GOT SOME QUESTIONS, I'M GOING TO ASK THEM.

THEN AFTER EVERYBODY'S DONE, GO TO THE NEXT BULLET AND GO RIGHT ON DOWN TILL WE'RE DONE, AND THEN WE GO THROUGH THE REST OF THE AGENDA, AND THAT'S WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE.

I THINK IT'S TOO PREMATURE TO JUMP OUT HERE AND START SAYING WHAT ALL -- BECAUSE I'VE GOT A WHOLE LIST OF ISSUES THAT WE GOT FROM THE LAST TIME THIS TIME, SO WE'RE DONE COMPOUNDING THEM, I BELIEVE, AND NOW I THINK WHAT WE'RE DOING IS VETTING OUT THE BACKUP INFORMATION, OKAY, FROM THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE ASKED, SO I THINK WE NEED TO LET THE AGENDA GO THE WAY THE AGENDA'S GOING, ALLOW US TO ASK QUESTIONS AS THAT ITEM ON THE AGENDA COMES UP, AND THEN AT THE NEXT MEETING OR SOME FUTURE DATE, LIKE THEY'RE SAYING, WE GO AHEAD AND WE IDENTIFY THE ISSUES, VOTE THEM UP OR DOWN, WHATEVER WAY WE WANT TO RANK THEM, BUT RIGHT NOW I WANT TO HEAR WHAT I ASKED TO BE PRESENTED HERE, WHAT'S ON

THE AGENDA, LET HER GO OVER IT.

IF THERE'S NO QUESTIONS, THEN WE MOVE FORWARD, BUT I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO START TALKING ABOUT WE'RE GOING TO GO WITH ISSUES YET UNTIL WE'VE AT LEAST HEARD WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA TONIGHT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'RE GOING TO LET MARY CONTINUE.

LET ME LET COMMISSIONER PLATT GO.

>>JAN PLATT: LET ME JUST SAY.

WE HAVE AN AGENDA BEFORE US.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>JAN PLATT: LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS IS OUR AGENDA, AND WE NEED TO COMPLETE IT.

LET HER GO THROUGH IT.

AND I THINK IT'S PRESUMPTUOUS ON OUR PART AT THIS POINT TO HAVE A LIST OF ISSUES BECAUSE THAT'S WHY WE'VE INVITED ALL THESE PEOPLE TO COME, FOR THEM TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT, AND THEY MAY GIVE US SOME IDEAS THAT NOT ONE OF US ON THIS BOARD THOUGHT OF.

WE'VE INVITED THE SHERIFF, THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE -- THE CLERK, AND ALL THOSE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS AND THE MAYORS, SO IF I WERE THEM AND WE'D ALREADY DECIDED THE ISSUES, I WOULDN'T SHOW UP BECAUSE WE'VE ALREADY GOT THE ISSUES THAT WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT, SO I BELIEVE WE OUGHT TO GO -- FINISH THIS AND THEN AT OUR NEXT MEETING START HAVING SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE COME IN AND TELL US WHAT

THEY THINK ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT SO THAT WE'RE OPEN-MINDED, SO THAT WE'RE NOT STUCK WITH THREE OR FOUR OR EVEN ANY, BUT THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF HAVING MADE THE MOTION TO HAVE ALL THOSE PEOPLE COME, SO I WOULD URGE US TO SHY AWAY FROM SAYING WE HAVE ANY PARTICULAR ISSUES AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

IT'S -- I THINK THAT'S PRETTY PRESUMPTUOUS ON OUR PART, AND IF I WERE ONE OF THOSE INVITED SPEAKERS, I WOULDN'T SHOW UP IF THAT WERE THE CASE.

>>FRANK REDDICK: [INAUDIBLE]

>> SIR, EXCUSE ME.

>>FRANK REDDICK: OH, I'M SORRY.

I REQUEST A POINT OF ORDER.

MY PURPOSE OF MY POINT OF ORDER IS THAT WE MOVE THIS AGENDA AND GO AHEAD AND GET STARTED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

CONTINUE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

WELL, THE FIRST ITEM IS A COMPARISON OF CHARTER COUNTIES THAT HAVE CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS.

THAT'S SELF-EXPLANATORY.

MOST OF THEM MEET EVERY FOUR, SIX, EIGHT, OR TEN YEARS, AND OURS IS EVERY FIVE, WHICH IS A LITTLE OF AN ODD NUMBER, BUT THAT'S -- THAT'S THAT INFORMATION.

ON THE SECOND ONE IS A COMPARISON OF OTHER COUNTIES'

CHARTERS REGARDING CITIZEN INITIATIVE.

I JUST TOOK THREE OF WHAT USUALLY IS THE MOST PERTINENT HOW MANY -- YOU KNOW, HOW LONG THE DRIVE LASTS, WHAT PERCENTAGE DO YOU NEED TO GET, AND -- AND WHO -- HOW LONG THE SUPERVISOR HAS TO VERIFY.

GERALD, YOU HAD ASKED ABOUT THE MAYOR THING.

THE MAYOR THING ON THE -- THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY WAS BROUGHT BY A PRIVATE CITIZEN, SO HE PAID THE COST OF THE LAWSUIT.

THE PROPOSERS OF THE INITIATED VOLUNTARILY -- OF THE INITIATIVE VOLUNTARILY JOINED IN TO HELP DEFEND.

THE SUPERVISOR WAS NAMED BECAUSE HE'S A REQUIRED PARTY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THE PRIVATE PARTY SPENT.

THE SUPERVISOR FILED SOME DOCUMENTS, AND TYPICALLY IN THAT SITUATION WHERE YOU HAVE TO INCLUDE THE SUPERVISOR BECAUSE IT'S SOMETHING ON THE BALLOT, IT'S -- THE SUPERVISOR TAKES A POSITION OF LET THE COURT JUST DIRECT THE SUPERVISOR WHAT TO DO, GENERALLY SPEAKING.

THAT COULD CHANGE.

SO I DON'T KNOW.

I COULD FIND OUT MAYBE THE HOURS IF IT WAS KEPT THAT THE SUPERVISOR SPENT.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE WAS ANY INCURRED COSTS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I CAN GET THAT FOR YOU.

IF THERE'S NO OTHER QUESTIONS, I CAN GO ON TO THE POPULATION FIGURES, AND I BASED THESE ON 1980 -- I'D BE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU THE LATEST POPULATION FIGURES, SO THAT WE CAN DO THE COMPARISON THERE.

THE NEXT PIECE OF INFORMATION, I GOT THIS FROM THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE.

IT SHOWS THE BREAKDOWN OF THE FOUR DISTRICTS AND THE MAKEUP OF THE DISTRICTS BY NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS, THE FIRST SET OF DATA FROM 1984 AND THE SECOND DATA FROM MARCH 2nd OF THIS YEAR, SO THAT IS VERY CURRENT IF THERE'S ANY QUESTIONS ON THAT.

SENATE BILL 216, IT -- IT -- THERE WAS A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.

I GOT THIS INFORMATION FROM THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES WEB SITE.

IT WAS REALLY ONE OF THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE REVIEWS OF THAT.

I DO ALSO -- I DID ALSO HAVE AN EXPLANATION, IF YOU WILL, FROM THE LEGISLATIVE AIDE TO THE SENATOR, THE LEGISLATOR THAT PROPOSED THIS SENATE BILL.

THE BACKGROUND OF THIS WAS PENNIES FOR PINELLAS WHERE THERE WAS A LOT OF PUBLIC FUNDS USED TO -- YOU KNOW, TO ADVOCATE THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE REFERENDUM.

THIS BASICALLY -- AND YOU CAN READ THROUGH IT.

IT PREVENTS USING PUBLIC FUNDS TO ACTUALLY ADVOCATE VOTE FOR, VOTE AGAINST.

IT DOES NOT PREVENT OPINIONS TO BE EXPRESSED.

ONE THING THAT I WILL SAY IS AS -- AS YOU MAY GUESS, IT REALLY DOESN'T MAKE THAT MUCH DIFFERENCE WHAT A PROPOSER OR AN ASSOCIATION THINKS THE BILL SAYS.

ULTIMATELY IT'S GOING TO BE A COURT OF LAW THAT INTERPRETS WHAT THE LANGUAGE IS, AND IT'S A BRAND-NEW BILL, AND I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY -- EITHER A REQUEST FOR ANY KIND OF INTERPRETATION OR ANY OTHER ACTION, SO SINCE IT'S BRAND-NEW, WE HAVE -- AND I CAN GIVE YOU WHAT PEOPLE'S ANALYSIS IS OF THE BILL.

CERTAINLY AS WE GET CLOSER TO ACTUALLY GETTING PROPOSALS AND DISCUSS PERHAPS HOW TO DO AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN AND THOSE, WE CERTAINLY NEED TO GO BACK AND LOOK AT THIS BILL TO MAKE SURE THAT ANY OF THE STEPS THAT WE WANT TO TAKE WOULD BE IN LINE WITH WHAT THE REQUIREMENTS ARE OR THE PROHIBITIONS OF THIS BILL ARE.

AND BY THEN WE MAY HAVE SOME MORE GUIDANCE FROM -- FROM ANOTHER SOURCE.

THE COMPARISON OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR QUALIFICATIONS, DEBORA HELPED PULL THIS TOGETHER FOR ME, AND IT JUST LISTED -- SOME OF THE CHARTERS SAY IT SHALL BE PROVIDED BY ORDINANCE WHICH CAN BE CHANGED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE BODY.

OTHER CHARTERS HAVE IT RIGHT IN THE CHARTER, WHICH, OF COURSE, MAKES IT A LITTLE HARDER TO CHANGE, BUT YOU CAN SEE THOSE -- YOU KNOW, THOSE QUALIFICATIONS, AND MOST OF THEM REQUIRE THAT THEY HAVE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE OR EDUCATION, AND I THINK THAT THAT WOULD BE EXPECTED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: FOR CLARIFICATION, IN TERMS OF LIKE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY ORDINANCE, IN THAT SITUATION THERE -- THEY COULD REQUIRE A MASTER'S, IT'S JUST NOT LISTED HERE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT.

AND WE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT THEY REQUIRED MAY NOT BE BROKEN OUT HERE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

WE HAD THAT INFORMATION, AND I CAN SEND THAT BY E-MAIL, BUT IT JUST WASN'T READY IN TIME TO GO WITH THE E-MAIL.

I MEAN, WE'RE KIND OF TORN BETWEEN BEING COMPLETE IN OUR RESPONSE BUT GETTING YOU THE INFORMATION EARLY SO THAT YOU HAVE SOME TIME TO LOOK AT IT, BUT I CAN FOLLOW UP WITH THAT, AND IT SEEMS LIKE DEBORA SAID THERE WERE FIVE OR SIX THAT DID IT BY ORDINANCE, AND WE HAVE THAT, AND I CAN E-MAIL THAT OUT TO YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YEAH.

I NOTICED ON SOME OF THESE YOU SAID THEY WERE APPOINTED,
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT HILLSBOROUGH, IT DOESN'T SAY IT'S
APPOINTED, IT JUST GIVES A DESCRIPTION, BUT YOU DON'T SAY
WHETHER IT'S APPOINTED OR ELECTED.

BUT I DO KNOW ON SOME OF THESE, YOU SAY -- LIKE PINELLAS IT
SAYS THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR SHALL BE APPOINTED, BUT ON
HILLSBOROUGH IT DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHETHER IT'S
APPOINTED --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I CAN -- I MEAN, I THINK THE THRUST
OF THIS WAS JUST THE QUALIFICATIONS.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF IT'S
APPOINTED -- I THOUGHT SOMEBODY HAD ASKED WHETHER IT'S
APPOINTED OR ELECTED -- SO WE CAN SEE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I CAN ADD WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE APPOINTED.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YEAH.

YOU SORT OF HAVE IT HERE, BUT I DIDN'T SEE IT FOR EACH ONE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I CAN SUPPLEMENT --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: [INAUDIBLE]

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IF IT'S OKAY, WHAT I CAN DO IS TAKE
THIS DOCUMENT --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: NO PROBLEM.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- ADD THAT INTO IT, AND THEN I CAN

ALSO ADD IN THE ONES THAT HAVE IT BY ORDINANCE AND NOTE THAT THESE ARE DONE BY ORDINANCE, AND THAT WAY YOU HAVE ALL OF THE DETAIL AND WHICH ONES ARE DONE BY ORDINANCE AND THEN JUST SEND THE WHOLE DOCUMENT OUT, AND THEN YOU CAN JUST REPLACE IT AND WE'LL REPLACE IT ON THE WEB SITE AS WELL.

>>JAN PLATT: MAY I ASK A QUESTION?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: DUVAL COUNTY, WHICH HAS AN ELECTED MAYOR, IS A CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT, AND YET ALL OF THE CITIES WITHIN DUVAL COUNTY ARE NOT PART OF IT -- OF THAT CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT, AND I JUST WONDERED ABOUT THIS QUALIFIED ELECTOR OF DUVAL AND A RESIDENT OF DUVAL.

I WONDERED IF THERE WAS ANY PROVISION OR REQUIREMENT THAT THEY NOT LIVE IN THOSE CITIES WITHIN DUVAL THAT ARE NOT PART OF THAT CONSOLIDATED GOVERNMENT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I DON'T KNOW.

I CAN -- I CAN FIND OUT THAT OUT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IF THERE'S ANY RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT, SO TO SPEAK.

I MEAN, IT SAYS DUVAL COUNTY, BUT --

>>JAN PLATT: YEAH, BECAUSE THERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF CITIES THAT OPTED OUT OF THAT.

>>JOE AMON: THREE.

>>JAN PLATT: THREE?

>>JOE AMON: THREE CITIES OPTED OUT.

I LOOKED IT UP ON THE WAY OVER HERE.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>JOE AMON: QUITE INTERESTING.

GOOD QUESTION.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'M SORRY.

>> I NEED HIM ON THE MICROPHONE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OH.

PUSH THE BUTTON FOR YOUR MICROPHONE.

>>JOE AMON: IT'S ON.

I JUST NEED TO BRING IT CLOSER.

I LOOKED IT UP ON THE WAY OVER BECAUSE I'M INTERESTED IN ANOTHER POINT HERE IN A MINUTE, BUT I LOOKED IT UP, AND APPARENTLY THEY WERE EXEMPTED.

THEY WERE PULLED OUT OF IT WHEN THEY PUT THE COUNTY AND THE CITY TOGETHER, BUT THE QUESTION IS, IS HOW THEY PULLED OUT AND HOW THEIR GOVERNMENTS -- HOW THE THREE CITIES' GOVERNMENTS OPERATE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMBINED GOVERNMENT OF DUVAL AND JACKSONVILLE, BUT THE MAYOR IS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BY THE WAY THE CHARTER IS WRITTEN. AND THEN COUNCIL REPLACES THE COMMISSION UP THERE. THAT'S THE WORDING CHANGE.

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S UNIQUE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: AND IT MAY BE THAT DUVAL COUNTY'S ACTUALLY DEFINED IN THE CHARTER, AND IF IT'S DEFINED AS EXCLUDING THAT AND HE HAS TO BE A RESIDENT OF DUVAL COUNTY, THEN BY INTERPRETATION HE COULD NOT BE A RESIDENT OF THOSE THREE CITIES, BUT I'LL LOOK AND DO THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE NEXT INFORMATION THAT WAS PROVIDED WAS PARTS OF CHAPTER 125.

THERE ARE OTHER PARTS OF THIS, BUT I THOUGHT THE -- THE OPTIONAL COUNTY CHARTER WAS -- WAS RIGHT ON POINT AS TO WHAT IS IN THERE.

IF YOU WANT THE REST OF IT BECAUSE IT CAME OUT TO BE ABOUT 85 PAGES -- IF THERE'S MORE INFORMATION THAN THIS -- I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE MOST RELEVANT, AND WHEN WE WERE DISCUSSING AND MENTIONING 125, A LOT OF WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WAS IN THIS PROVISION.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I CAN POST THE REST OF IT.

THERE'S A LOT OF IT ON THERE THAT -- THAT REALLY WOULDN'T BE VERY GERMANE TO WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT, BUT I JUST WANTED TO MAKE -- POINT THAT OUT, THAT I WANTED TO GET TO YOU THE MOST, YOU KNOW, RELEVANT PORTION.

>>JAN PLATT: MAY I ASK FOR CLARIFICATION OF --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: -- 125.85, THE EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES?

DID YOU SEE THAT LIST THAT'S ON THE NEXT PAGE OF --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

>>JAN PLATT: -- ABOUT 12?

ARE THEY -- AND I'M NOT A LAWYER, I'M ASKING THIS FOR
CLARIFICATION.

DOES OUR ADMINISTRATOR AUTOMATICALLY HAVE THESE POWERS?

IF THE -- DO THESE POWERS -- WELL, LET -- AND -- AND --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH.

>>JAN PLATT: EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT LISTED IN OUR
CHARTER --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT, BUT THEY ARE LISTED IN OUR
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE CODE.

IT SAYS THESE SHALL BE -- AND THIS IS A SEPARATION -- THESE
SHALL BE EXECUTIVE POWERS, THESE SHALL BE LEGISLATIVE
POWERS, AND THEN WHAT WE DID -- AND I KNOW THERE WAS SOME
DISCUSSION IN '83 ABOUT DO WE PUT THESE ALL OUT IN THE
CHARTER OR NOT, AND IT'S A BETTER WAY TO GO ABOUT IT IS TO
PUT THESE -- SINCE THEY'RE BASED ON STATUTE PUT THESE IN
THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, WHICH I CAN PROVIDE IF YOU WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THAT AS WELL, AND YOU'LL SEE THE BREAKDOWN AND
THE DETAILS FOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE AND THEN MR. ROBINSON.

WHITE THAT BRINGS UP AN INTERESTING QUESTION BECAUSE

CITIZENS ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT AN ADMINISTRATOR VIOLATES A CHARTER OR VIOLATES THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

THE CITIZENS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. I CAN'T EVEN FIND IT ON THE INTERNET, ON THE COUNTY WEB SITE, SO --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I'LL LOOK, BUT I CAN MAKE SURE THAT THAT'S -- THAT'S AVAILABLE.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IS THAT, WHAT, CHANGED ONCE AFTER EVERY ELECTION, THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, NO.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE IS JUST AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME, NOT SO MUCH THE POWERS AND DUTIES.

IT'S THE PART OF THE OFFICES.

WHEN -- WHEN THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR RENAMED SOME OFFICES, THAT REQUIRES AN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHANGE, BUT THE CHARTER SAYS THERE SHALL BE SEPARATION OF POWERS.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SO -- BUT I -- YOUR POINT'S WELL TAKEN, AND I CAN -- I CAN E-MAIL A COPY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, AND IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, WE CAN ALSO HAVE THAT LINK PUT ON THE WEB SITE SO THAT THEY'VE GOT THE CHARTER AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

>>GERALD WHITE: SO WHO'S THE POLICE OF THE CHARTER?

IF THE CHARTER IS VIOLATED, WHO SAYS THE CHARTER'S BEEN VIOLATED?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I SUPPOSE A CITIZEN COULD. ANYBODY COULD.

I MEAN, THERE IS NO SET, YOU KNOW, GUARDIAN OF THE CHARTER. I THINK IT'S UP FOR -- JUST LIKE ANY OTHER LAW, THAT SOMEBODY COULD -- COULD RAISE AN ISSUE.

>>GERALD WHITE: SO WHO DO YOU TAKE -- I'M SAYING WHO DO YOU TAKE YOUR ISSUE TO?

IF THE CHARTER WAS VIOLATED, A CITIZEN --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YOU COULD FILE SOMETHING IN COURT.

>>GERALD WHITE: YOU GOT TO GO TO COURT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WELL, OR BRING IT TO THE BOARD.

IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THE ISSUE IS.

IF YOU THINK SOMETHING ELSE IS IN THE -- YOU COULD TAKE IT TO THE BOARD.

IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THE VIOLATION IS.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

SO IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE WANTED TO DESIGNATE, SAY, THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION AS A WHOLE TO BE THE ENFORCERS OF THE CHARTER, WE CAN DO THAT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: BUT SOMEBODY COULD SAY THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSION ITSELF IS DOING SOMETHING IN VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: IT'S A POTENTIAL CONFLICT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: BUT YOUR POINT -- EXCUSE ME.

BUT YOUR POINT EARLIER ABOUT HOW WE DON'T HAVE A LOCAL
ETHICS COMMISSION IS --

>> EXCUSE ME.

MS. REBACK, WOULD YOU PLEASE --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I'M SORRY.

THERE'S NO MIKE HERE.

I SAID THAT'S A POTENTIAL CONFLICT IF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS WAS DESIGNATED TO BE THE ARBITER OF WHETHER
THE CHARTER WAS VIOLATED AND THEY THEMSELVES ARE THE MOST
LIKELY, YOU KNOW, ENTITY THAT WOULD BE VIOLATING THE
CHARTER.

THAT'S A CONFLICT, BUT YOUR POINT EARLIER ABOUT THE FACT
THAT WE DON'T HAVE A LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION, YOU KNOW, IS
A GOOD ONE BECAUSE IF THERE WAS A LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION,
PRESUMABLY A CITIZEN COULD MAKE A COMPLAINT TO THAT ETHICS
COMMISSION, AND AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A CITIZEN COULD MAKE A
COMPLAINT TO A STATEWIDE ETHICS COMMISSION OVER A CHARTER
VIOLATION OF LOCAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT, I DON'T KNOW THAT THE
STATEWIDE ETHICS WOULD HAVE ANY JURISDICTION OVER THAT, AND
WHETHER OR NOT A CITIZEN WOULD EVEN HAVE STANDING TO SUE
JUST AS A CITIZEN WITHOUT SUFFERING ANY SORT OF AN INJURY
FROM THE CHARTER VIOLATION, I DON'T -- I DON'T KNOW THAT A
CITIZEN COULD -- COULD ACTUALLY BRING SUCH A CLAIM.

SO TAKING IT BACK TO YOUR POINT ABOUT WE DON'T HAVE A LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION, YOU KNOW, I MEAN, THESE ARE QUESTIONS THAT PRESUMABLY COULD BE BROUGHT -- ANY CITIZEN COULD BRING TO A LOCAL ETHICS COMMISSION IF WE HAD ONE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: AND IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THE COMPLAINT IS.

IF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WHEN IT COMES TIME TO REDISTRIBUTE, SAID WE'RE JUST NOT GOING TO DO IT, THEN I THINK YOU COULD HAVE A CASE WHERE A CITIZEN -- YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING.

SO REALLY IT'S A GENERALIZED QUESTION, HARD TO ANSWER. IT JUST DEPENDS ON WHAT PART OF THE CHARTER YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.

IF IT'S SOMETHING THAT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, YOU KNOW -- THEN YOU COULD MAYBE TAKE THAT TO THE BOARD BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE HIRE AND FIRE POWER OVER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, SO I THINK IT -- REALLY, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE TYPE OF ISSUE THAT WAS RAISED.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IF YOU SEE WHERE I'M -- IF YOU UNDERSTAND MY ANSWER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: GERALD, IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU MIGHT WANT TO PUT DOWN AND WE NEED TO TAKE A LOOK AT, BUT LET ME SAY THIS.

ORIGINALLY THIS 125 WAS BROUGHT UP BY MR. FISHER.

HE MADE A STATEMENT, I THOUGHT, ABOUT IT TRUMPS -- WE CAN TRUMP THE CITY OF TAMPA ORDINANCES.

SOME KIND OF WAY HE WAS SAYING 125 WOULD ALLOW THE COUNTY ORDINANCES TO TRUMP THE CITY'S, AND I WAS JUST TRYING TO FIGURE OUT -- I KNOW YOU DIDN'T PUT EVERYTHING IN HERE, BUT DID WE GET THAT SECTION IN HERE ABOUT WHERE -- HE WAS MAKING A STATEMENT THAT 125 SAID YOU CAN TRUMP CITY ORDINANCES?

AND I WAS JUST TRYING TO FIND OUT IS THAT SECTION INCLUDED IN THESE COPIES YOU GAVE US?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: JUST A SECOND.

>>RALPH FISHER: I'LL FIND IT FOR YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH.

I'M JUST TRYING TO ...

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I DIDN'T SEE THAT, BUT, I MEAN, HE WAS THE ONE -- BECAUSE HE KEPT TALKING ABOUT 125 AND 125, AND MRS. PLATT SAID, OKAY, WE NEED TO SEE 125, SO I'M STILL INTERESTED IN THAT POINT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT MIGHT BE IN THE OTHER PART.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SO NEXT TIME IF YOU CAN GET THAT SECTION THAT HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE BECAUSE IT DOES SAY THE CHARTER HAS TO PROVIDE WHICH WILL PREVAIL.
THEY ALL DO.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THAT SECTION, IF YOU COULD GET THAT,
I'D APPRECIATE IT.

THAT'S ALL.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I CAN -- I'LL GET THE WHOLE CHAPTER, AND THEN -- BUT I'LL
ALSO -- I'LL ALSO INDICATE WHERE THAT'S LOCATED.

OKAY.

JUST A FEW MORE LEFT HERE.

I -- I PUT SOME INFORMATION HERE ABOUT THE VOTING RIGHTS
ACT THAT GOES INTO QUITE SOME DETAIL.

I STILL NEED TO LOOK AT HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

I DID FIND THAT IT WAS, I BELIEVE, 1972.

I DON'T WANT TO MISSPEAK, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET ALL
OF THE BACKGROUND.

I BELIEVE IT HAS TO DO WITH THE HISPANIC VOTERS, THOUGH,
WAS THE REASON THAT WE WERE INITIALLY, BUT I DID NOT HAVE
TIME TO GO BACK AND PULL THAT.

I'LL FOLLOW UP AND GET THAT INFORMATION TO YOU.

BUT BASICALLY THIS -- THIS TELLS YOU ABOUT THE COVERAGES,
AND IN A NUTSHELL, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REQUIRES FOR
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ANY CHANGE AFFECTING VOTING, AND THAT
IS WHY WHEN WE HAD A CHARTER AMENDMENT FOR THE IPA AND FOR
THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THOSE WERE NOT PRECLEARED BY
SUBSTANCE BECAUSE THOSE DON'T AFFECT VOTING.

I HAVE DONE IT AS A PERSONAL PRACTICE OVER THE YEARS TO

ALSO SUBMIT IT TO -- TO SUBMIT IT TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, NOT ONLY FOR THE SUBSTANCE BUT ALSO TO PRECLEAR THE DATE OF THE ELECTION.

WE HAVE ALWAYS HELD THE ELECTION AT A -- OTHERWISE CALLED GENERAL ELECTION, BUT I DO THAT ANYWAY, AND I'LL GET A LETTER BACK, AND THEY SAY THIS DOESN'T REQUIRE PRECLEARANCE, BUT I JUST DO THAT SO I HAVE THAT JUST IN CASE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. REDDICK.

>>FRANK REDDICK: I -- WHEN I WAS READING YOUR DOCUMENTS THAT YOU SUBMITTED TO US ABOUT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE PRECLEARANCE -- CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT IF I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS READING THAT, I SAW WHERE THERE WAS ONLY ABOUT THREE COUNTIES THAT --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I THINK THERE'S FOUR IN HILLSBOROUGH.

>>FRANK REDDICK: -- THAT HAS TO GO THROUGH -- FOUR COUNTIES HAVE TO GO THROUGH --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: FOUR IN HILLSBOROUGH.

>>FRANK REDDICK: -- THE PRECLEARANCE?

WHY IS IT JUST THOSE THREE OR FOUR?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT'S THE INFORMATION THAT I NEED TO GET BECAUSE THERE'S A LINK THAT GOES BACK TO THE FEDERAL REGISTER BACK THEN, AND I NEED TO PULL THAT UP.

I'VE DONE THAT BEFORE.

I JUST DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GET THAT, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE

THAT I HAVE THAT FOR THE NEXT BOARD MEETING.

>>GERALD WHITE: WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION.

>>FRANK REDDICK: WHY IS THERE ONLY THREE OR FOUR COUNTIES THAT HAS TO GO THROUGH THE JUSTICE --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH, IT WAS --

>>GERALD WHITE: IT'S FIVE COUNTIES, AND IT'S FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ACT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

AND IT MIGHT BE THAT THERE -- ONCE WE HAVE A SPECIFIC PERCENTAGE OF HISPANIC THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE THINGS IN SPANISH.

I DON'T WANT TO MISSPEAK, SO I'LL GET THE ACTUAL INFORMATION FOR YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

MR. CHAIR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND THIS IS AN AREA THAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT RELATED TO INITIATIVES, MR. CATON, BECAUSE THAT'S MY CONCERN THAT SOMETHING CAN BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AND EXECUTED WITHOUT BEING CLEARED IN ADVANCE OF GOING TO THE VOTERS, WHICH WOULD COST THE TAXPAYERS MONEY IF SOMEBODY FILED A SUIT AND ALL OF THAT, WHEN SHE GET THAT ANSWERED, AND SO THAT'S WHY I WANT TO INSERT SOMETHING IN THE CHARTER THAT WILL REQUIRE AN INITIATIVE BEFORE IT GOES ON THE

BALLOT TO -- TO BE SENT TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, LIKE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD DOES AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THEY SEND THEIR ISSUES TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO BE REVIEWED BEFORE IT GOES ON THE BALLOT, AND YOU CAN CLARIFY THAT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES, I CAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON REAL QUICK.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OH, I'M SORRY.

>>DAVID CATON: WELL, I'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN NUMEROUS REFERENDUMS, AS YOU'LL PROBABLY REMEMBER, AND THE PRECLEARANCE ORIGINATED ROUGHLY 45 YEARS AGO BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE A PROPER HISPANIC BALLOT.

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT'S CORRECT.

>>DAVID CATON: AND MY UNDERSTANDING IS REALLY PRECLEARANCE, BASICALLY YOU PRESENT A BALLOT, A HISPANIC BALLOT AND AN ENGLISH BALLOT, AND THAT'S PRECLEARANCE.

>>GERALD WHITE: NO.

>>DAVID CATON: THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, IS IT NOT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, THEY ACTUALLY -- WHAT THEY WILL DO IS LOOK AT --

>>DAVID CATON: IT'S NOT THE ISSUE ITSELF IS WHAT I'M GETTING AT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO.

IF, FOR INSTANCE, A COUNTY MAYOR, THEY WOULD LOOK AT THE SUBSTANCE OF THAT TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY RETROGRESSIVE

EFFECT ON THE MINORITIES IF WE MAKE THAT CHANGE, AND THEY WILL LOOK AT THE CHANGE AND THAT'S WHAT THEY PRECLEAR, THE ACTUAL SUBSTANCE, BUT TO ANSWER SOMETHING THAT GERALD SAID, WHAT HAPPENED WITH THIS MAYOR PETITION IS OUR BOARD ASKED -
- WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS.

THE CHAIR -- WE DRAFTED A LETTER FOR THE CHAIR'S SIGNATURE SAYING, PLEASE, FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, LOOK AT THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE BEFORE IT GOES ON THE BALLOT, BEFORE PEOPLE SPEND THEIR TIME ON IT IN CASE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT, AND THEY -- IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM, THEY WILL NOT LOOK AT A CITIZEN INITIATIVE PRECLEARANCE UNTIL IT IS VOTED ON BY THE VOTERS.

THEY WILL LOOK AT CHARTER REVIEW BOARDS, AND THEY HAVE, THEY WILL LOOK AT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' SUGGESTED CHARTER CHANGES --

>>DAVID CATON: DID YOU SAY UNTIL IT'S VOTED ON BY THE VOTERS OR --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT.

>>DAVID CATON: -- UNTIL IT'S -- TILL ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED THE PETITION TO PLACE IT ON THE BALLOT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: ONCE IT IS PLACED ON THE BALLOT, BUT THEY WON'T LOOK AT THE PRECLEARANCE OF THE SUBSTANCE UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION.

IF IT PASSES, THEY'LL LOOK AT THE PRECLEARANCE REQUEST AND THE SUBSTANCE, AND THAT IS THE POSITION THAT THEY TOOK.

AND I DON'T --

>>GERALD WHITE: AND SOMETHING IMPORTANT RELATED TO THAT IS THAT WAS A PREVIOUS PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND SO THIS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY CONDUCT HIMSELF IN A DIFFERENT WAY, I'M NOT SURE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT MAY BE.

I WOULD ALWAYS TAKE THE POSITION THAT ANYTHING OBVIOUSLY THAT THIS BOARD COME UP WITH WE SEND IT.

WE CAN PUT THAT IN THE CHARTER WITH CITIZEN INITIATIVES, BUT THAT DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY IS GOING TO ACCEPT IT JUST BECAUSE OUR CHARTER SAYS THAT IT HAS TO BE PRECLEARED FIRST.

IF THEY REFUSE TO LOOK AT IT AND PRECLEAR IT, THEN WE WOULD KIND OF BE IF A BIND BECAUSE OUR CHARTER WOULD NOT LET IT GO FORWARD, BUT WE CAN'T CONTROL THE FEDERAL AGENCY.

YOU SEE WHERE I'M GOING, IF THEY REFUSE TO --

>>GERALD WHITE: RIGHT.

A GOOD POINT TO THIS --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: PUTTING SOMETHING IN A CHARTER WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THE CONCERNS LIKE THE -- THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THEY UNANIMOUSLY SENT THE LETTER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSING CONCERNS ON BEHALF OF ALL THE CITIZENS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND SO PUTTING SOMETHING IN THE CHARTER THAT ASKS AND REQUIRES, IF POSSIBLE, A

CHECK --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM POTENTIALLY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON.

>>DAVID CATON: WAS NOT THE COUNTY MAYOR BALLOT LANGUAGE PRESENTED FOR PRECLEARANCE AT THE LAST -- BECAUSE IT -- THE -- THE TIMING WAS OF SUCH THAT IT COULDN'T -- YOU KNOW, THEY MAY HAVE GOTTEN THE SIGNATURES, BUT IF THEY DIDN'T GET THE PRECLEARANCE -- WAS IT NOT SUBMITTED?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE BALLOT LANGUAGE WAS NOT PRECLEARED?

>>DAVID CATON: IT WAS NOT PRESUBMITTED?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO.

THERE'S NO MECHANISM TO PRECLEAR BALLOT LANGUAGE.

>>DAVID CATON: OKAY.

SO --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE SUPERVISOR'S JOB WITH THE INITIATIVE PETITION IS TO MAKE SURE IT'S GOT ALL THE RIGHT ELEMENTS ON IT BUT NOT TO MAKE A LEGAL ASSESSMENT OF THE VALIDITY OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE, VIS-A-VIS, CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS AND ALL OF THOSE THINGS.

>>DAVID CATON: OKAY.

NOW I'M CONFUSED BECAUSE YOU SAID YOU HAD TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE VOTERS VOTED ON IT, BUT THERE'S A TIME --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT --

>>DAVID CATON: -- IN ADVANCE THERE'S A PRE --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
PRECLEAR THE SUBSTANCE TO SEE IF THE ACTUAL -- IF WE HAVE
A MAYOR, IF IT HURTS THE MINORITIES.

>>DAVID CATON: THAT'S PRIOR TO THE ELECTION?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: BUT THEY SAID THEY WOULD NOT LOOK AT
IT PRIOR TO THE ELECTION.

IF THE VOTERS VOTED IT IN, THEN THEY WOULD LOOK AT IT.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS NOTHING --

>>DAVID CATON: THAT'S REALLY BIZARRE.

SO YOU HAVE A PRECLEARANCE DATE HURDLE YOU'VE GOT TO MEET,
BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LOOK AT IT UNTIL AFTER THE
ELECTION?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, IT WON'T -- IT JUST WON'T BE
EFFECTIVE.

THE BALLOT LANGUAGE IS COMPLETELY SEPARATE.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T LOOK AT BALLOT LANGUAGE.

THAT'S -- THEY JUST LOOK AT WHETHER OR NOT --

>>DAVID CATON: BUT YOU'RE STILL SUBMITTING THE ISSUE TO --

YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT THE ISSUE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION, SO BY 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE
GENERAL ELECTION, I MEAN, IT HAS TO ACTUALLY --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THEY HAVE 60 DAYS TO PRECLEAR, BUT
THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT AND PRECLEAR A CITIZEN INITIATIVE
PROPOSAL UNTIL IT'S VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY THE VOTERS.

IF IT IS, THEN THEY LOOK AT IT.

>>DAVID CATON: THEN WHY IS THERE DATES -- I JUST -- I
DON'T --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: LOOK, THAT IS WHY I SAID -- BECAUSE I
KNOW ABOUT THE JUSTICE -- I DON'T FILE COMPLAINTS WITH
JUSTICE.

I KNOW HOW THEY OPERATE.

THAT IS WHY I SAID IT IS IMPORTANT IF WE HAVE ONE OF THESE
HEARTBURNING THINGS WE WANT ON THE BALLOT, DO IT THIS YEAR,
LET THEM DO PRECLEARANCE, AND IF WE DON'T GET IT, WE CAN
GET IT AND CLEAN IT UP AND PUT IT ON 2012.

SO I'M JUST SAYING TO APPROACH THE JUSTICE -- IF YOU REALLY
WANT TO GET SOMETHING THROUGH JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WE REALLY
NEED TO TEST IT OUT THIS FALL, THIS NOVEMBER.

THEY'RE GOING TO LOOK AT IT AFTER THE ELECTION IF IT
PASSES, AND THEN IF YOU HAVE TO, WE CAN CLEAN IT UP BEFORE
WE LEAVE FOR 2012.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MS. REBACK.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I JUST THINK THAT -- I THINK THAT
THERE'S A CONFUSION BETWEEN THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION'S
PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE AND THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE PROPOSED
BALLOT MEASURE AS TO HOW THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OPERATES.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS IN THE PAST -- LET ME COUCH
THAT -- ALWAYS ACCEPTED PRECLEARANCE IN ADVANCE OF -- OF IT

BEING PLACED ON THE BALLOT, ANYTHING PROPOSED FROM THIS BOARD AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

>> OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WHERE THEY GET HUNG UP ON IS A CITIZEN INITIATIVE.

WHEN I SPOKE TO THE ATTORNEY WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, I MADE THE ARGUMENT THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE.

I MEAN, ONCE THAT BALLOT PETITION HAS SIGNATURES AND IT'S PLACED ON THE BALLOT, NOBODY CAN CHANGE IT.

THAT WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT SAYS NOT FINAL.

I DID NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR ARGUMENT OR THEIR LOGIC, BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE ISSUE ABOUT WHETHER THEY'LL PRECLEAR BEFORE OR AFTER THE ELECTION IS JUST CITIZEN INITIATIVES, IT'S NOT A PROPOSED CHANGE FROM THIS BOARD. IT HASN'T HISTORICALLY BEEN IN THE LAST 18 YEARS.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS PRECLEARED THIS BOARD'S PROPOSALS.

>>DAVID CATON: EFFECTIVELY WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING AS A CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WITH REGARD TO WHAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES PRECLEARANCE?

I MEAN, THEY'RE GOING TO DO WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

VIS-A-VIS CITIZEN INITIATIVES, WE CAN PUT IT IN OUR CHARTER.

THEY MAY CHANGE THEIR MIND.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE -- YOU KNOW, I WOULD LIKE -- I WOULD TRY IT AGAIN WITH THE -- IF THIS OTHER COUNTY MAYOR THING -- I MEAN, I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE PRECLEARED, AND THE LETTER THAT THE CHAIR WROTE OUTLINED ALL THE REASONS FOR THAT.

A LOT OF THEM BROUGHT UP BY -- WITH -- YOU KNOW, WITH -- GERALD WHITE, YOU KNOW, SAID -- AND THERE WERE A LOT OF GOOD REASONS, BUT THEY JUST SAID WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT THINK IT WAS FINAL.

YOU CAN'T -- FOR INSTANCE, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ISN'T GOING TO WASTE -- IS NOT GOING TO USE THEIR TIME IF WE SAY WE ARE THINKING ABOUT DOING THIS, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT HAS TO BE -- THE PROPOSAL HAS TO BE FINAL BEFORE THEY WILL RENDER AN OPINION ON IT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT IT HAS RETROGRADE EFFECT, AND FOR SOME REASON THEY TAKE THE POSITION THAT A CITIZEN INITIATIVE -- EVEN THOUGH THE LANGUAGE THAT'S ON THE BALLOT CAN'T BE CHANGED, YOU KNOW, ONCE IT'S SIGNED AND THE PEOPLE SIGN IT, THAT'S THE POSITION THAT THEY TOOK, AND -- AND I DIDN'T FOLLOW THAT, BUT IT'S ONLY -- I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'S ONLY THE CITIZEN INITIATIVES, AND THAT'S A GOOD POINT, NOT BOARD-INITIATED CHANGES OR CHANGES INITIATED BY THIS BOARD.

AT LEAST IN THE PAST IT'S NEVER BEEN AN ISSUE WITH YOU-ALL.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MRS. REBACK.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I DON'T KNOW -- MAYBE YOU CAN'T ANSWER THIS OR DON'T WANT TO ANSWER THIS, BUT WAS THERE ANY

DISCUSSION ABOUT GOING TO COURT AND ASKING FOR MAYBE SOME MANDAMUS OR, YOU KNOW, TO GET THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO RESPOND TO PRECLEAR OR NOT PRECLEAR?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I -- I WOULD GO BACK TO THE TIME FRAME BECAUSE THERE WAS LITIGATION TO GET IT TAKEN OFF THE BALLOT BECAUSE OF THE BALLOT LANGUAGE, WHICH IS A SEPARATE ISSUE.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: RIGHT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SO THE BOARD WAS NEVER IN A POSITION OF FORCING THE ISSUE BECAUSE THIS OTHER THING WAS GOING ON, AND THAT PLAYED OUT, AND ULTIMATELY IT DIDN'T GO ON THE BALLOT, SO --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, IS IT FAIR TO SAY GIVEN THE DIFFERENCE IN THE PROCESS BETWEEN THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE AND OUR POTENTIAL AS THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD -- A POTENTIAL BALLOT MEASURE PROPOUNDED BY THIS BOARD -- I MEAN, THEY'RE JUST ON TWO DIFFERENT TRACKS, AND WE DO WHAT WE DO AND THEY DO WHAT THEY DO --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: -- AND JUSTICE DOES WHAT IT DOES, AND -
-

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: YOU KNOW, I --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I MEAN, I HAD A LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH A PERSON, AND THEN WE FOLLOWED IT UP WITH A LETTER

THAT OUTLINED THE REASONS, AND -- YOU KNOW, THAT MAY CHANGE FROM -- FROM ADMINISTRATION TO ADMINISTRATION.

THEY USED TO -- IN THE PAST, WHEN I MENTIONED THAT I PRECLEARED NOT ONLY THE SUBSTANCE OR I REQUEST IT AND THE DATE, NOW THEY SAY THAT WE DON'T -- IF IT'S HELD AT A REGULAR ELECTION, I DON'T EVEN NEED TO PRECLEAR IT.

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO -- I'M GOING TO GET THE LETTER THAT SAYS THAT IN MY FILE AND NOT SAY, YOU KNOW, I TALKED TO JOE AND THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: CAN I JUST FOLLOW UP ON THAT QUESTION -
- ON THIS POINT?

OTHER THAN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PRECLEARANCE, I SUPPOSE A CITIZEN INITIATIVE CAN SAY WHATEVER IT -- IT SAYS PROVIDED THAT THEY GET THE REQUISITE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES AND WHAT HAVE YOU, BUT BECAUSE THIS BOARD ONLY MEETS ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, OTHER THINGS CONCERN ME BESIDES THE LACK OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PRECLEARANCE ON MINORITY ISSUES ABOUT A CITIZEN INITIATIVE FOR A COUNTY MAYOR, LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY IT JUST OPERATES PROSPECTIVELY OR THE BALLOT IS PROSPECTIVE AND NOT -- IT DOESN'T PROVIDE ANY MECHANISM, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT GETTING RID OF AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR IF YOU NEEDED TO GET RID OF IT.

THIS BOARD DOESN'T MEET FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS.

THE BALLOT MEASURE GOES FORWARD, THE CITIZENS VOTE ON IT, ASSUME IT PASSES.

WE HAVE AN ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR OR -- AND WE -- THE CHARTER
MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE A PROVISION TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO BY OTHER MEANS DEVELOP A -- A
PROCESS BY WHICH THAT OFFICIAL COULD BE REMOVED.

I ASSUMED IT WOULD HAVE TO BE THE WHOLE RECALL --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CORRECT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: -- THE NORMAL RECALL OF --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COULD NOT --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: RIGHT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- REMOVE AN ELECTED OFFICIAL.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: RIGHT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: BUT IT WOULD BE UP TO THE BOARD.

IF THERE WERE -- ONE OF THE POINTS THAT WAS MADE THE LAST
TIME IS THAT THE PROPOSED MAYOR LANGUAGE, THERE'S PROBABLY
30 OTHER REFERENCES TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND WE
WOULDN'T HAVE ONE ANYMORE, SO I WOULD SUSPECT THAT IT WOULD
BE -- YOU KNOW, THE BOARD CAN PROPOSE A CHANGE.

YOU KNOW, THOSE ARE ISSUES THAT -- THAT WE MAY HAVE TO --
AND THAT'S VIS-A-VIS THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, LET ME ASK ANOTHER QUESTION, THEN,
RELATED TO PRECLEARANCE.

NOW, THE VETO MEASURE PASSED.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: UH-HUH.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

THE -- ONCE IT PASSED, WHAT HAPPENED TO IT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT'S WITHIN THE CHARTER, BUT THERE'S NO MAYOR, SO IT'S -- IT'S A PROVISION THAT GIVES POWERS TO AN OFFICE THAT HAS NOT BEEN CREATED.

>>GERALD WHITE: UH-HUH.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SO UNTIL AND UNLESS THAT IS EITHER DEALT WITH OR THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR IS CREATED, IT'S JUST SOMETHING IN THERE THAT HAS --

>>GERALD WHITE: LET ME FINISH THIS POINT.

OKAY.

WELL -- AND THAT'S ANOTHER ISSUE.

I KNOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CLEARANCE BECAUSE THAT HADN'T BEEN CLEARED EITHER, AND SO THAT'S AN ISSUE I WANT ADDRESSED BECAUSE I HAVE HEARD IN PUBLIC MEETINGS THAT THE VETO MEASURE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND IF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ATTORNEY HAS A LEGAL OPINION ON THE VETO MEASURE, I WOULD LIKE IT PRESENTED TO THIS BOARD.

AND IF THIS BOARD NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION TO SEND A LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO, YOU KNOW -- WHAT DOES HE DO, SAY WHETHER OR NOT IT'S CONSTITUTIONAL OR NOT OR WHATEVER OR --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT --

>>GERALD WHITE: OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- WANT TO INTERPRET LOCAL CHARTERS.

THEY WILL INTERPRET STATE LAW.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON AND MR. ROBINSON.

>>GERALD WHITE: SO -- SO IF -- WELL, IF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAS AN OPINION ON THAT MEASURE, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WE HAVE NOT DONE ONE.

WE HAVE NOT BEEN REQUIRED -- REQUESTED TO DO ONE.

>>GERALD WHITE: NOTHING WAS PRESENTED BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, NOT ON THE VETO POWER.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: IT'S A NULLITY NOW.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT'S MY POINT.

IT'S OF NO FORCE AND EFFECT BECAUSE THERE IS NO MAYOR.

>>GERALD WHITE: I THOUGHT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY RENEE LEE HAD A LEGAL OPINION ON THE ISSUE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I COULD BE -- I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY, AND IF SHE SAID SOMETHING AT A BOARD MEETING, I'M NOT AWARE OF THAT.

>>GERALD WHITE: IF SHE HAS ONE, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I'LL CERTAINLY DO THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON.

>>DAVID CATON: HAS DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EVER DENIED AN ELECTION BECAUSE OF PRECLEARANCE?

HAVE THEY EVER -- HAVE THEY EVER INVALIDATED AN ELECTION

BECAUSE OF PRECLEARANCE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I'M SURE THAT THEY HAVE SOMEWHERE IN THE NATION.

THE ONLY THING IN HILLSBOROUGH IS THAT THEY HELD UP THE FIRST CHARTER BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PRECLEARED AND AFFECTED VOTING BUT IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAS NEVER SAID NO, THAT'S THE END OF IT, BUT I DON'T KNOW NATIONWIDE IN THE HISTORY OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IF THEY HAVE.

>>DAVID CATON: IN YOUR LEGAL OPINION AND CRYSTAL BALL, WOULD YOU -- WOULD YOU ANTICIPATE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NOT PRECLEARING A COUNTY MAYOR GIVEN THE FACT THERE ARE MANY COUNTY MAYORS ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I DON'T KNOW.

I THINK THEY WOULD LOOK AT THINGS SUCH AS -- WELL, THEY WOULD LOOK AT IF THERE'S ANY RETROGRESSIVE AFFECT, THEY WOULD LOOK AT THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOARD, IS IT STILL A 4-3, IS THERE STILL SEVEN MEMBERS?

ALL OF THOSE COME INTO THEIR ANALYSIS, SO JUST THE FACT THAT OTHER MAYORS HAVE BEEN OKAYED -- AND THAT'S THE WAY MOST MUNICIPAL CHARTERS HAVE IT -- IS NOT TO SAY THAT AUTOMATICALLY A MAYOR IS A GREAT -- YOU KNOW, IS NOT RETROGRESSIVE.

I THINK IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE ACTUAL JURISDICTION THAT THE PROPOSED MAYOR IS GOING TO AFFECT, TO LOOK INTO ALL THOSE FACTORS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YOU JUST MADE A STATEMENT NOW.

YOU SAID THAT THERE'S AN ISSUE THAT WAS PASSED THAT AMENDED
OUR CHARTER ABOUT A COUNTY MAYOR HAS VETO POWER?

DIDN'T I JUST HEAR YOU SAY THAT, THAT SOMETHING PASSED?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WHERE IS THAT IN THIS CHARTER AT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT'S -- WELL, THEY --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WHERE IS IT AT IN THIS WRITTEN CHARTER
THAT YOU-ALL GAVE US SAYING THAT THIS IS THE CHARTER?
IS IT IN THAT LITTLE BOOK?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO.

THEY HAVEN'T UPDATED THE BOOK.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

WHAT ABOUT THIS STUFF YOU GAVE US, IS IT IN THESE
DOCUMENTS?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, IT'S NOT IN THEM.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WOULD YOU PLEASE GET THAT FOR ME
BECAUSE THAT'S -- SEE, THIS IS WHAT I'M SAYING HERE.
WE NEED TO VET OUT ALL THIS INFORMATION.

I NEED TO HAVE A CHARTER THAT REFLECTS ALL AMENDMENTS,
OKAY, AND YOU JUST EXPLAINED THAT THAT AMENDMENT IS IN NO
DOCUMENTS WE HAVE; CORRECT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES, SIR.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SO IF YOU COULD JUST BRING IT TO ME.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT SECTION IT IS.

IS IT SECTION 9, 10?

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS, SO --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I'M NOT EVEN SURE WHERE --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THAT'S WHAT I'M GETTING AT.

PEOPLE BE LEAVING STUFF HANGING OUT.

THE CITIZENS NEED TO KNOW THAT THAT'S BEEN VOTED ON,
GENERALLY BECAUSE IF WE'VE ALREADY VOTED ON THAT, THAT
GIVES AN INDICATION THAT WE MIGHT VOTE ON SOMETHING ELSE
OUT THERE IN THE BIG COMMUNITY, SO I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE
CHARTER REFLECTED WITH ALL AMENDMENTS THAT HAVE LEGALLY
BEEN VOTED ON --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

THIS WOULD BE THE ONLY ONE.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

-- ON-LINE SO THAT THEY'LL KNOW THAT THAT PART OF IT IS
DONE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND WHY HASN'T IT NOT GONE TO THE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT TO BE LOOKED AT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: BECAUSE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WOULD
SAY IT'S OF NO FORCE AND EFFECT BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE A
MAYOR.

IT'S POWERS -- SEE WHAT I'M SAYING?

I MEAN, THE PROVISION GIVES POWERS TO AN OFFICE THAT
DOESN'T EXIST ON OUR CHARTER.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY THINK THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY SAY, PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE MINORITY CITIZENS AND SEND SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN VOTING ON IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, LET THEM KNOW SOMETHING IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAS HAPPENED?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES, SIR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MRS. REBACK.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: MARY HELEN, LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING. IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING FROM A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE THAT IF ANY PROVISION BY THIS BOARD OR A CITIZEN INITIATIVE WAS PLACED ON THE BALLOT TO CREATE THE POSITION OF COUNTY MAYOR AND IT PASSED NOW -- IN THE FUTURE -- AND IT PASSED AND -- AND -- PUTTING ASIDE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PRECLEARANCE OF IT THEREAFTER IF IT WAS A CITIZEN INITIATIVE, BUT IF THERE WAS A POSITION CREATED, IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS VETO POSITION THAT IS CURRENTLY, I AGREE, A NULLITY -- WOULD IT AUTOMATICALLY THEN HAVE -- COME IN AND HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW BECAUSE -- BECAUSE HYPOTHETICALLY LET'S SAY THAT PEOPLE WHO VOTED FOR THAT VETO PROVISION AT SUCH TIME AS THEY BELIEVED THAT THE CREATION OF THE COUNTY MAYOR OFFICE WOULD BE "X," IT WOULD HAVE A CERTAIN SET OF FEATURES THAT AT THAT TIME WAS IN THE EARLIER PROPOSED BALLOT LANGUAGE AND, THEREFORE, THEY VOTED YES OR NO, THEY

JUST VOTED BASED ON THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE CREATION OF THE POSITION WOULD BE THEN AND THAT DID NOT HAPPEN, AND NOW A COMPLETELY -- LET'S SAY COMPLETELY DIFFERENT OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR WAS CREATED BY A SUBSEQUENT ELECTION, SAY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PREVIOUS ONE WAS NONPARTISAN AND NOW THIS ONE IS PARTISAN, JUST AS ONE EXAMPLE, THAT MAY AFFECT THE VOTERS' INTENT WITH REGARD TO THE EARLIER PROVISION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON A DIFFERENT SET OF FACTORS ABOUT THE COUNTY MAYOR, SO IT SEEMS TO ME IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO KNOW IF IT'S -- IF THIS PROVISION THAT WAS ELECTED ON BUT IS TODAY A NULLITY WAS TO IMMEDIATELY COME INTO FORCE AND EFFECT IF AND WHEN THE OFFICE WAS CREATED, NO MATTER WHAT FEATURES OF THE OFFICE, THE CURRENT CREATION -- CREATED OFFICE WOULD HAVE OR NOT BECAUSE IF -- IF THE ANSWER IS YES, IT WOULD NO LONGER BE A NULLITY, IT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY TURN INTO AN EFFECTIVE PROVISION BASED SIMPLY ON THE -- ON THE CREATION OF THIS -- THIS OFFICE, THEN I THINK -- I MEAN, WE MAY HAVE TO ADDRESS THAT BECAUSE AS -- AS MR. WHITE AND MR. ROBINSON POINTED OUT, IT'S NOT EVEN IN THE CHARTER NOW, AND -- AND YET IT COULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME EFFECTIVE ON DAY ONE OF NEW COUNTY MAYOR TIME. AND SO, I MEAN, I THINK THAT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MIGHT NEED TO DO A REVIEW ON WHETHER OR NOT THAT WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME EFFECTIVE OR WHETHER --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OR WAS IT TIED TO THE FIRST --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: OR WAS IT -- RIGHT, WAS IT TOTALLY TIED TO THE FIRST BALLOT LANGUAGE IN THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE BECAUSE IF I'M A CITIZEN OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND I VOTED ON THAT PROVISION, I MAY HAVE WANTED TO VOTE DIFFERENTLY ON THAT PROVISION IF THERE'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF COUNTY MAYOR CREATED, AND I -- I FRANKLY THINK IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT THAT VETO PROVISION IS AUTOMATIC BASED ON WHERE WE'VE BEEN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. REDDICK.

>>FRANK REDDICK: IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AT OUR NEXT MEETING WE COULD HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY PRESENT TO MEET WITH US AND DISCUSS THIS?

COULD WE PUT ON THE AGENDA TO COME AND DISCUSS THIS ISSUE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ARE YOU MAKING A MOTION?

>>FRANK REDDICK: LET ME MOVE AND REQUEST THAT WE HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY PRESENT AT OUR NEXT MEETING IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE COULD -- I GUESS YOU COULD MOVE THAT WE INVITE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

>>FRANK REDDICK: WE INVITE -- OKAY, INVITE --

>>GERALD WHITE: SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YOU GOT A SECOND.

>>JOE AMON: SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DISCUSSION?

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YES.

I DON'T HAVE -- ARE WE JUMPING NOW ON OUR SCHEDULE OF PEOPLE WE DONE SCHEDULED BECAUSE I THINK SHE'S SCHEDULED, OR IS THIS JUST FOR THIS -- TO CLARIFY?

SEE, YOU KNOW, WE'VE GOT ONE WHERE WE'RE BRINGING PEOPLE TO PRESENT, BUT THIS IS JUST TO CLARIFY, RIGHT, MR. REDDICK, THIS ISSUE WE'RE DISCUSSING?

>>FRANK REDDICK: RIGHT.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE'RE SCHEDULING ANYBODY FOR OUR NEXT MONTH MEETING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, ON OUR AGENDA WE HAVE

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT, BUT I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR MOTION TO GET THE COUNTY ATTORNEY IN HERE TO -- TO VET OUT THIS ISSUE RIGHT HERE.

>>FRANK REDDICK: RIGHT.

THAT'S THE MOTION --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

>>FRANK REDDICK: -- TO HAVE HER COME AND VET THIS OUT AND GIVE US MORE CLARITY ON THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, NUMBER 9 ON OUR AGENDA HERE IS TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA, BUT WE HAVE A MOTION AND WE HAVE A SECOND.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION ON INVITING --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, I -- I -- YOU KNOW.

THANK YOU.

MARY HELEN IS THE LEGAL ADVISOR TO THIS BOARD, AND SHE DOES REPRESENT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND I JUST WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IS THERE SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE THAT YOU THINK CALLS FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO MAKE A REPRESENTATION TO THE BOARD ON THIS ISSUE OR -- AND I'M NOT -- I'M NOT SAYING -- I MEAN, MAYBE THERE IS, BUT -- BUT I'M JUST SAYING WE HAVE -- WE HAVE A -- A STANDING INVITATION TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COME, AND MAYBE WE WANT HER FOR THE NEXT TIME AND MAYBE WE'LL BE FULLY PREPARED TO ASK HER ALL THE ISSUES THAT WE WANT, OR IS IT JUST -- THIS IS A DISCUSSION.

>> RIGHT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I'M NOT OPPOSING, I REALLY WANT TO KNOW.

-- OR IS IT JUST THAT YOU FEEL SOMEHOW THAT SHE HAS SOME INSIGHT OR CAN SPEAK TO THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE THAT I JUST RAISED THAT MARY HELEN CAN'T?

>>FRANK REDDICK: AND THAT'S THE INTENT OF THE MOTION, AND NO DISRESPECT FOR YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT'S FINE.

>>FRANK REDDICK: IT'S JUST THAT A LOT OF THIS WAS BROUGHT UP AND A LOT OF IT HAD TO DO WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, KEPT REFERENCING THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, IF -- WHETHER SHE'S DONE

THIS OR WHETHER SHE SENT A LETTER OR WHETHER SHE HAD REVIEWED IT, SO IN ORDER TO GET THOSE QUESTIONS ANSWERED, THEN I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE HER HERE. NOW, IF YOU CAN MEET WITH HER, YOU CAN DISCUSS THAT WITH HER, AND YOU CAN GIVE A REPORT BACK, FINE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE.

WHATEVER THE PLEASURE OF THE BOARD IS.

>>FRANK REDDICK: I THINK OUR QUESTION WOULD BE POINTED TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND, I MEAN, I'M JUST ASKING THAT SHE COME AND CLARIFY THIS POSITION, HER POSITION ABOUT THE VETO ISSUE, AND THAT'S IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WELL, LET ME JUST SAY THIS, OKAY, BECAUSE I'M A REALIST.

FIRST OF ALL, THE WAY I LOOK AT THIS IS THAT I WANT TO -- I'M CONCERNED THAT WE HAVE AN ELECTED -- AMENDMENT THAT WAS ELECTED ON BY THE VOTERS, AND THE COUNTY ATTORNEY DID NOT FORWARD THAT TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

EVEN IF THEY TOLD US NO -- JUST LIKE YOU SUBMIT STUFF YOU SAY YOU KNOW THEY TOLD YOU YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT BUT YOU DO IT ANYWAY, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE, SO I GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT.

THE OTHER THING IS ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A COUNTY ATTORNEY ON APRIL 6th -- 8th WHEN WE MEET AGAIN?

WE MAY NOT HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, SO, YOU KNOW, WE CAN

MAKE THE MOTION, BUT MY GUT FEELING IS WE MAY NOT HAVE A COUNTY ATTORNEY, SO, YOU KNOW, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU TALK WITH HER NOW SO IF WE DON'T HAVE A COUNTY ATTORNEY THAT YOU WILL AT LEAST GET WHY THEY DIDN'T SEND THAT TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, WHY THIS DOESN'T APPEAR IN THIS CHARTER. THAT'S ALL.

I AGREE WITH YOUR MOTION, BUT WE NEED TO MOVE FAST.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I HOPE WE HAVE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- A COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND I HOPE IT'S RENEE LEE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THAT MOTION?

>>RALPH FISHER: I'M OPPOSED TO --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>RALPH FISHER: -- DOING THIS.

YOU KNOW, THIS IS WHAT I TOLD YOU-ALL AT THE FIRST MEETING WHEN WE CHOSE SOMEBODY FROM THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO BE OUR LAWYER.

I WAS THE ONLY ONE THAT VOTED AGAINST THAT.

>>GERALD WHITE: NO, YOU WERE NOT.

I VOTED AGAINST IT AS WELL.

>>RALPH FISHER: OKAY.

I APOLOGIZE, MR. WHITE.

BUT I -- THIS IS OUR ATTORNEY.

LET HER GO AND GET THE INFORMATION -- IN ALL RESPECT TO

YOU, MR. REDDICK, LET HER GO AND GET THE INFORMATION AND REPORT BACK TO US.

THIS LADY -- MS. LEE IS VERY BUSY.

RIGHT NOW SHE'S GOT A FULL PLATE.

THIS IS A SIDE BAR TO HER.

I ASK YOU-ALL NOT TO VOTE TO ASK THIS WOMAN TO INTERRUPT HER TIME TO COME DOWN.

I TRUST MS. FARRIS TO REPORT BACK TO US WHAT SHE SAYS, AND I ASK THAT WE DENY MR. REDDICK'S MOTION AND SIMPLY ASK MS. FARRIS TO REPORT BACK TO US.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I DISAGREE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT.

HOLD --

>>GERALD WHITE: I DISAGREE BECAUSE I --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- I THINK THIS IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT GOES TO SUBJECT MATTER THAT'S IN PLAY IN OUR COMMUNITY AT THIS VERY MOMENT, AND SO RENEE LEE DID SAY THAT SHE WOULD BE WILLING AND ABLE AND READY TO COME BEFORE US ANYTIME WE REQUESTED, AND SO SHE CAN STEP IN HERE FOR TEN MINUTES AND ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: WHEN THEY COME, WOULD THEY BRING US A COPY OF THIS NEW PETITION THAT'S BEING CIRCULATED.

I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT -- WHAT THAT SAYS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. CATON.

>>DAVID CATON: I APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING TO LEAVE.

WOULD YOU RE-READ THE MOTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, THE MOTION THAT MR.

ROBBINS --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: REDDICK.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- MR. REDDICK MADE WAS TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING AND TO EXPLAIN THE WHOLE PROCESS ON THE AMENDMENT AND HOW IT CAME ABOUT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: THE ORIGINAL AMENDMENT THAT PASSED LAST TIME WITH THE VETO PROVISIONS IN IT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: RELATED TO THE COUNTY CHARTER.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: -- THAT WAS I THOUGHT TIED TO THE COUNTY MAYOR PROVISION THAT DIDN'T -- DIDN'T MAKE IT ON THE BALLOT.

THE CURRENT POSITION IS THAT THAT PROVISION THAT DIDN'T PASS IS A NULLITY BECAUSE IT SPEAKS TO AN OFFICE THAT DOESN'T EXIST, SO WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF THE ROOM, WE WERE DISCUSSING WHETHER OR NOT IT'S THE POSITION OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY THAT SHOULD THERE BE A PROVISION ON THE BALLOT NEXT TIME THAT PASSES AND THE OFFICE NOW IS CREATED, DOES THIS PREVIOUSLY ELECTED AMENDMENT THEN HAVE THE FORCE OF --

OF A VALID CHARTER PROVISION AUTOMATICALLY SIMPLY BY THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE, OR DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TAKE THE POSITION THAT THAT WAS TIED TO THE ORIGINAL INEFFECTIVE BALLOT MEASURE THAT DID NOT EVEN APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

IT WASN'T DEFEATED, IT DIDN'T EVEN APPEAR ON THE BALLOT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: AND IF SO, DOES THAT MEAN -- DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU DECLARE IT FOREVER A NULLITY, OR -- AND IF NOT, IF IS PASSED AND IT'S NOT APPEARING IN THE CHARTER, AND I THINK MR. ROBINSON HAS A POINT THAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO BE NOTICED OF IT.

IF THERE'S ANY DOUBT THAT IT'S GOING TO COME INTO PLAY, YOU KNOW, IT SHOULD AT LEAST APPEAR.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND MY CONCERN, MR. CHAIR, IF IT'S -- IF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, RENEE LEE, FEELS AS THOUGH THIS ISSUE IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AS IT RELATES TO ALL EXISTING FORMS OF GOVERNMENT OR WHATEVER HER OPINION IS, I WANT TO KNOW IF SHE HAS AN OPINION AND, IF SO, WHAT ACTION THIS BOARD CAN TAKE SUCH AS SENDING A RESOLUTION TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO GIVE US A LEGAL OPINION ON IT, WHATEVER -- WHATEVER SHE MAY DEEM THIS BOARD CAN DO TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MR. CHAIRMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: INCLUDING WHAT MS. PLATT SAID ABOUT
THAT -- TO BRING THAT NEW PETITION --

>>JAN PLATT: THE NEW ONE THAT'S OUT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU, FRANK, WITH YOUR
MOTION?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IS THAT AN AMENDED MOTION?

>>FRANK REDDICK: [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ARE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THAT AMENDMENT?

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OBJECTIONS TO THAT AMENDMENT?

OKAY.

THE AMENDED MOTION STANDS.

OKAY.

SO BASICALLY WE HAVE A MOTION, AND I'M GOING TO LET

MR. REDDICK SAY IT.

WE HAVE A MOTION TO --

>>FRANK REDDICK: [INAUDIBLE]

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, IF I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY,

THERE'S A MOTION ON THE FLOOR TO INVITE RENEE LEE

PERSONALLY TO COME ADDRESS THIS ON THE OPINION OF THE

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ON THE FORCE AND EFFECT ON THE --

OF THE PREVIOUS BALLOT MEASURE WHICH PASSED RELATED TO A

COUNTY MAYOR TODAY WHEN WE DON'T HAVE A COUNTY MAYOR AND

PROSPECTIVELY IN THE FUTURE SHOULD ANY BALLOT MEASURE CREATING THE OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR PASS, AND IN ADDITION THAT AS A PREDICATE TO THAT DISCUSSION THAT YOU PROVIDE US WITH COPIES OF THE CURRENT PETITION THAT'S BEING CIRCULATED BY THE CITIZEN INITIATIVE FOR A COUNTY MAYOR, AND I WOULD - - AND I THINK YOU'LL ACCEPT ALSO THAT YOU PROVIDE US WITH COPY OF THE VETO LANGUAGE AMENDMENT THAT DID PASS.

>>FRANK REDDICK: RIGHT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

AND THAT MOTION WAS SECONDED.

NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, ALL IN FAVOR RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED RAISE THEIR RIGHT HAND.

OKAY.

MOTION PASSES WITH MR. CATON, MR. FISHER, AND MRS. REBACK VOTING AGAINST IT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: ONLY BECAUSE I THINK MS. FARRIS COULD HANDLE IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I DO THINK SHE CAN HANDLE IT TOO, BUT I DON'T THINK IT HURTS TO EXTEND THE INVITATION.

>>JAN PLATT: AND THE REASON I SUPPORTED IT IS BECAUSE I THINK RENEE LEE IS THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, AND SHE NEEDS TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION ON THE RECORD.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: AMEN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO -- OKAY.

>>JAN PLATT: SHE MIGHT LIKE TO DUCK IT, BUT SHE'S GOT TO

ANSWER IT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I AGREE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

THE NEXT THING I HAVE ON HERE IS THE BACKGROUND FOR THE
1983 CHARTER.

I FOUND SOME HISTORY OF THE CHARTER, AND BASICALLY BECAUSE
THE 4-3 PLAN WAS A CHANGE AFFECTING VOTING, THEY HAD NOT
GOTTEN PRECLEARANCE.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD IMPOSED AN OBJECTION TO IT AND
THEN LATER RESCINDED THAT OBJECTION, AND SO THE FIRST
ELECTIONS WERE HELD AND THEY TOOK OFFICE IN 1985.

SO THAT'S JUST FOR INFORMATION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE NEXT INFORMATION WAS A SUMMARY OF
THE RECENT REDISTRICTING.

I -- MY PARALEGAL HELPED ME PULL THIS AND DO THE SUMMARY.

>>GERALD WHITE: BEFORE YOU -- MR. CHAIR, I GOT TO MAKE
THIS POINT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: THIS IS SO IMPORTANT BECAUSE MR. ROBINSON
HAS REQUESTED THE VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBERS WHEN THIS
CHARTER WAS EXECUTED, AND CAN YOU JUST GET THE NUMBERS OF
CITIZENS THAT ACTUALLY VOTED ON THE CHARTER THAT WENT TO
THE POLLS?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IN 1983?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: IT WAS VERY SMALL, THE NUMBER.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: COULD WE HAVE THAT AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION TOO OR POPULATION OF REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE TIME.

I DON'T MEAN POPULATION BUT OF ELECTORS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I CAN GET -- I CAN GET THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT VOTED, THE REGISTERED ELECTORS THAT VOTED ON IT AND WHAT THE PERCENTAGE OF PASSAGE WAS AND WHATEVER INFORMATION THAT THEY HAVE.

AGAIN, THIS IS -- THIS IS A SYNOPSIS OF A -- A COURT CASE THAT'S JUST PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I'M GOING TO DO WHAT MR. GERALD WHITE DID.

I'M GOING TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE OUT OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ON IT WHICH GIVES A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT APPROACH THAN WHAT WE HAVE HERE, AND I DON'T HAVE COPIES FOR EVERYBODY, BUT IT'S CALLED "RULING LIMITS SCOPE OF VOTING ACT" FROM WALL STREET JOURNAL, MARCH 10th, 2009, ALMOST A YEAR TODAY, AND IT GIVES THE SAME WRITE-UP ABOUT THIS BUT A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT APPROACH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU'RE ENTERING THAT DOCUMENT INTO THE RECORD?

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I JUST WROTE MY NAME AND I SUBMITTED IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

WE'LL ENTER THAT DOCUMENT INTO THE RECORD.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IF YOU WOULD LIKE, I CAN GET THAT SCANNED AND ADD THAT --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YEAH, JUST PUT IT ON THERE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- TO THE INFORMATION. SURE.

I JUST NEED A COPY OF IT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YEAH, THERE IT IS.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I'M GOING TO GIVE IT TO THE CHAIR.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'LL GET IT TO YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I STARTED PULLING SOME INFORMATION ON GERRYMANDERING, AND AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THERE WAS JUST AN IMMENSE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION.

I JUST TOOK THIS JUST VERY LIMITED DEFINITION OF IT.

IF THE BOARD SO DESIRES, I CAN SUPPLEMENT THIS.

THIS WAS KIND OF GETTING TOWARDS THE END OF THE -- YOU KNOW, PEOPLE WERE WAITING ON -- I WAS TRYING TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION TOGETHER, SO IT'S, YOU KNOW, DELIBERATELY DRAWING LINES TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL EITHER ELECTION OR

INCUMBENTS IS BASICALLY WHAT IT IS, BUT AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, THERE'S MANY, MANY, MANY FEDERAL CASES THAT DEAL WITH THIS, WHAT IS, WHAT IS NOT, WHAT THE ELEMENTS ARE, SO I JUST -- I GIVE YOU THIS INFORMATION, AND I'M HAPPY TO GET --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THIS IS FINE ENOUGH FOR ME.

I JUST WANTED THE FELLOW BOARD MEMBERS TO AT LEAST KNOW WHAT THE WORD MEANT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

GOOD.

THEN THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM, WE HAVE SOME OF THE INFORMATION GATHERED.

I PUT IT ON HERE, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I HAD NOT INCLUDED IT, SO IF WE CAN FOLLOW UP WITH THAT -- THAT INFORMATION.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: AND THEN FINALLY WAS THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HOUSE SEATS, AND THAT INFORMATION IS JUST THERE.

YOU CAN SEE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

I APPRECIATE -- I HAVE A QUESTION HERE.

I APPRECIATE THAT.

SEE, WE DID GET THROUGH IT AND STILL HAVE SOME TIME.

OKAY.

I HAVE A QUESTION.

I HAD ASKED BEFORE ABOUT ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS ABOUT THIS BOARD.

CAN AN INDIVIDUAL CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEMBER REQUEST AN ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: PROBABLY.

I HATE --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: JUST LIKE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER -- EACH INDIVIDUAL --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WELL, THERE'S -- AND I LOOK -- ON THEIR WEB SITE THEY SAY EXACTLY WHO MUST BE A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR AN ATTORNEY REPRESENTING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL.

I WOULD PROBABLY GET -- I CAN GET THAT INFORMATION FROM --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: CAN YOU FIND OUT --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- SPECIFICALLY SO THERE'S --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: LET ME FINISH.

CAN YOU FIND OUT IF AN INDIVIDUAL CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEMBER, ANY ONE OF US 14, CAN REQUEST AN ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION WITHOUT HAVING TO GET A VOTE OF EVERYBODY UP HERE AND ALL THAT, AN INDIVIDUAL JUST LIKE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER CAN MAKE IT, A CITY COMMISSIONER CAN MAKE IT?

I WANT TO KNOW CAN AN INDIVIDUAL CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

MEMBER MAKE OR REQUEST AN ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

AND I WILL ASK THEM THAT QUESTION SO WE GET IT ON POINT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I GUESS THE CONCERN WOULD BE YOU WOULDND'T -- THAT WOULDND'T BE COMING FROM THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

IF YOU WERE ABLE TO DO THAT, THAT WOULD BE INDIVIDUALLY AS, YOU KNOW --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: NO, NO, AS AN INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER ON THIS BOARD, YOU GOT CERTAIN RIGHTS, AND ONE OF THE RIGHTS MAY BE THAT YOU CAN ASK FOR AN ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION, WHICH NO REGULAR CITIZEN CAN ASK BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT SITTING ON THIS TYPE OF BOARD, BECAUSE WE WERE APPOINTED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SO THAT QUESTION HAS NEVER BEEN ASKED, AND I ALWAYS ASK QUESTIONS THAT'S NEVER BEEN ASKED.

SO I WANT TO ASK CAN AN INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER SITTING HERE -- BECAUSE IF I WAS SITTING IN THE PUBLIC, I CAN'T DO IT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I WANT TO KNOW NOW THAT I'M SITTING ON THIS BOARD CAN I DO IT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I WILL FIND OUT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, MR. ROBINSON, I JUST WANT TO JUST

SAY RELATED TO THAT THAT THE HISTORY OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, THE WAY WE -- THE WAY THE PREVIOUS BOARD HAS CONDUCTED THEMSELVES AS THE MAJORITY VOTE HAVE BEEN EXECUTED, AND THEN THAT'S THE WAY WE'VE CONDUCTED THEMSELVES BY REQUESTING AN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION.

IT'S BEEN A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD'S VOTE ON WHATEVER THE ISSUE WAS AND HANDING IT OVER TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WELL, LET ME SAY THIS.

I'M NOT HERE TO DO WHAT YOU DID BEFORE, I'M HERE TO LOOK AT IT DIFFERENTLY.

FIVE YEARS DONE CHANGED, AND I ASK DIFFERENT KIND OF QUESTIONS BECAUSE I'VE GOT SOME RESEARCH I'VE ALREADY DONE, SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS IS THAT ISN'T EVEN IN OUR RULES THAT WE ADOPTED EARLY ON ABOUT HOW WE DEAL WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS.

THAT'S NOWHERE IN THOSE RULES WE ADOPTED, AND EVERYBODY HAD A CHANCE TO MAKE THOSE RULES WHAT WE'RE GOING TO USE, SO WE DIDN'T HAVE IT IN THE RULES THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO VOTE BY MAJORITY ON ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS BECAUSE I'M AN EXPERT IN RULES, REGULATIONS, AND WRITING STUFF, OKAY. SHOULD HAVE GONE TO LAW SCHOOL.

SO THE BOTTOM LINE IS I'M JUST ASKING BECAUSE THAT MAY BE SOMETHING THAT WILL BE CRUCIAL IN THE FUTURE AS WE'RE DELIBERATING.

OKAY?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WE'LL FIND OUT FOR YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MIGHT BE SOMETHING WE WANT TO CONSIDER
ADDING TO OUR RULES.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES, IN A HURRY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: BECAUSE IT AIN'T IN THERE NOW AND I
ALREADY ASKED THE QUESTION.

[LAUGHTER]

>>GERALD WHITE: AS A MATTER OF FACT, IF THAT'S NOT IN THE
RULES, THAT NEEDS TO BE IN THE RULES TO -- TO -- YOU KNOW,
TO REQUEST ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION.

THAT NEEDS TO BE IN THE RULES BECAUSE --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: BUT I DON'T THINK THE RULES CAN TRUMP
STATE STATUTE.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SO LIKE I'M SAYING, JUST CHECK.

>>GERALD WHITE: IF --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: IT MAY BE A NULLITY IF IT COMES BACK
AND YOU CAN'T.

>>GERALD WHITE: ONCE YOU DO A CHECK, I WOULD LIKE TO DO
WHATEVER WE NEED TO TO GET IT IN THE RULES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET'S SEE WHAT MARY COMES BACK WITH.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I WANT TO KNOW WHY PEOPLE ARE SCARED
FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS IS --

>>GERALD WHITE: NO ONE'S SCARED, JOE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NO ONE'S SCARED.

ACTUALLY, IN THE LAST CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WE DID REQUEST -

- I CAN'T REMEMBER THE EXACT NUMBER.

WE REQUESTED -- AND MR. WHITE IS CORRECT.

WE DID IT AS A BOARD, WE VOTED, AND --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THEN I'M GOING TO SAY DOES IT TAKE TEN
VOTES OR MAJORITY?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT WAS MAJORITY LAST TIME.

>>GERALD WHITE: MAJORITY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

SO THAT MEANS IT TAKES TEN VOTES?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NO, MAJORITY WOULD BE EIGHT, EIGHT
VOTES OUT OF 14.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WAIT A MINUTE.

THERE'S TWO KIND OF MAJORITIES, OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY IT WOULD BE THE MAJORITY
PRESENT, I BELIEVE.

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I'M FOLLOWING THE RULES.

THAT AIN'T IN THE RULES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT THAT, BUT I'M
PRETTY CERTAIN IT'S MAJORITY PRESENT IF WE HAVE A QUORUM,
SO IN THAT CASE YOU COULD HAVE A MAJORITY WITH FIVE --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: RIGHT.

YEP.

OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: I HAVE A QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- I BELIEVE, BUT I WOULD HAVE TO --
I'D HAVE TO VERIFY THAT MYSELF.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: RESOLUTIONS, CAN YOU EXPLAIN RESOLUTIONS.
WE ARE ABLE -- I KNOW WE SEND A RESOLUTION AS IT RELATES TO
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, BUT CAN WE SEND A RESOLUTION TO LIKE
THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IF WE HAVE AN OPINION
ABOUT SOMETHING?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: SURE, AND THAT'S BEEN DONE IN THE
PAST.

I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT THE ISSUE WAS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I BELIEVE -- AND I MAY BE INCORRECT.
I BELIEVE WE MAY HAVE DONE A RESOLUTION -- MAYBE IT WASN'T.
I WAS THINKING WE MAY HAVE DONE SOMETHING WITH THE
PERFORMANCE AUDITOR LAST TIME AROUND.

IT MAY HAVE JUST BEEN A REQUEST TO THE BOARD TO HIRE
ADDITIONAL STAFF.

I CAN'T RECALL HOW -- WHAT METHOD WE UNDERTOOK CONCERNING
THAT, BUT --

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH, I -- AND IT WAS RELATED TO THE
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PAT BEAN, AND THE -- THESE -- WELL,
TODAY, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE ISSUE TODAY AND THESE COUPLE

OF ISSUES THAT HAS SURFACED RELATED TO THE RAISE ISSUE THAT HAS PROVEN TO BE A VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER, AND THE SECOND ISSUE IS THIS E-MAIL ISSUE THAT MAY PROVE TO SEPARATION OF POWER, VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER, AND THAT'S WHY I ASKED ABOUT, WELL, WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING THE CHARTER, AND I THINK OUR LAST MEETING I ASKED ABOUT CODE OF ETHICS AND -- RELATED TO THE NATIONAL COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ASSOCIATION THAT AN ADMINISTRATOR IS SUPPOSED TO BE UPHOLDING, AND SO, YOU KNOW, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR HAS GOT 31-PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE HERE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND, YOU KNOW, WHO WOULD WANT TO TERMINATE -- FIRE AN ADMINISTRATOR, CANCEL HER CONTRACT WITH THAT KIND OF TENURE IN THE COUNTY?

THE CHARTER NEEDS TO BE ENFORCED, AND SO I'M JUST CONCERNED ABOUT THAT, THAT THIS PUBLIC ADMISSION OF VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER, AND THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD ONLY MEETS ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS.

WE'RE IN SESSION NOW, AND I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE A MOTION FOR RESOLUTION TO SEND TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REQUESTING THAT THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY STEP DOWN, RETIRE EARLY, YOU KNOW.

>>JAN PLATT: POINT OF ORDER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

>>JAN PLATT: I THINK WE'RE GOING BEYOND OUR GOAL AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET'S GET BACK TO THE AGENDA FOR NOW.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, THIS IS THE AGENDA.

CAN -- MY QUESTION IS, IF I WANTED TO MAKE A MOTION TO --
TO SEND TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OUR -- OUR
CONCERN AS A MAJORITY, CAN THAT BE DONE?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YOU COULD MAKE A MOTION, SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, WE COULD MAKE A MOTION.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

I WON'T DO THAT NOW.

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET'S GET BACK TO THE AGENDA.

WE'VE GOT A COUPLE ADDITIONAL ITEMS.

I KNOW WE'VE ALREADY BEEN MEETING FOR OVER AN HOUR AND A
HALF.

I'M HOPING WE CAN GET THROUGH THE ADDITIONAL ITEMS WITHOUT
HAVING ANY TYPE OF RECESS OR NOT RECESS, ANY TYPE OF BREAK.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND FOR THE RECORD, I WAS NOT OUT OF
ORDER; RIGHT?

I WAS NOT OUT OF ORDER.

THE CHAIR -- THE FORMER COMMISSIONER JAN PLATT REQUESTED A
POINT OF ORDER, AND FOR THE RECORD, I WAS NOT OUT OF ORDER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

LET'S CONTINUE.

MS. REBACK.

>>JAN PLATT: [INAUDIBLE]

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I'M SORRY.

COULD I ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THE AGENDA?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: LAST TIME WE VOTED TO EXTEND THESE INVITATIONS, BUT WE BROKE WITHOUT ANY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT'S GOING TO BE DONE, WHAT THE INVITATIONS ARE GOING TO SAY, WHETHER PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE REQUESTED TO SPEAK TO ANY PARTICULAR ISSUES OR NOT.

I MEAN, THE LIST -- NOT THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS BUT THE SUBSEQUENT LIST THAT WE VOTED ON, AND I DON'T SEE THAT ON THE AGENDA, AND I --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE DID NOT GET TO -- MY RECOLLECTION IS WE DID NOT GET TO THE ACTUAL SCHEDULING.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, WE HAD LEFT IT UP TO EDITH TO SCHEDULE, WHICH --

>> EDITH'S GONE.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: RIGHT.

SHE'S GONE, AND THAT'S NOT MY ISSUE.

MY ISSUE IS NOT WHEN WE INVITE THEM BUT HOW WE INVITE THEM. ARE WE ASKING THEM TO SPEAK TO ANY PARTICULAR ISSUES OR ARE THEY JUST GOING TO COME LIKE COMMISSIONER PLATT SAID AND

JUST SPEAK ABOUT WHAT'S ON THEIR MIND?

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO GO -- I DON'T WANT TO REVISIT WHAT I SAID EARLIER, BUT I DO THINK THAT WE NEED TO HAVE PEOPLE COME WITH SOME SORT OF STRUCTURE.

I MEAN, I'M NOT OPPOSED TO HEARING WHAT'S ON THEIR MIND, NOT AT ALL, BUT THERE MAY BE SOME THINGS THAT WE WANT TO DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TO PARTICULARLY, AND I DON'T SEE THAT ANYTHING ABOUT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INVITATION IS ON THE AGENDA.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

LET ME GET COMMISSIONER PLATT AND THEN MR. ROBINSON.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU KNOW, MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT WE'VE INVITED HAVE MUCH MORE INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAN ANY OF US SITTING AROUND THIS BOARD. THAT'S WHY I WOULD HESITATE TO TELL THEM WHAT TO SPEAK ABOUT AND LET THEM SPEAK, AND THEN WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO ASK THE QUESTIONS, YOU KNOW.

SOME OF YOU HAVE SOME ISSUES THAT YOU JUST ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS IN ON, AND FOCUS IN ON THEM WHEN THEY'RE THERE AND YOU'RE FREE TO QUESTION THEM, BUT I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR AND GET THEIR -- THEIR CONCEPT OF -- OF -- I MEAN, THEY LIVE COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

ALL OF US READ IT IN THE PAPER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YEAH.

YOU KNOW --

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT'S NOT TRUE.

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GERALD.

GERALD.

>>GERALD WHITE: WE ALL DON'T READ IT IN THE PAPER.

WE ARE ACTIVE CITIZENS IN OUR GOVERNMENT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE, MR. ROBINSON'S GOT THE FLOOR.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- AND TO MAKE THAT STATEMENT IS WRONG --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. ROBINSON'S GOT THE FLOOR.

>>GERALD WHITE: -- WRONG, COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I THINK ON THE AGENDA WE'RE AT CORRECTED CALENDAR, AND THEN AFTER CORRECTED CALENDAR WE TALK ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA AND THEN PUBLIC COMMENT. THAT'S WHAT'S LEFT TO FINISH TONIGHT; CORRECT?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: LET'S DO THE CORRECTED CALENDAR.

I THINK WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA, THAT'S WHEN MS. BETH -- NOT BETH, I'M SORRY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: REBACK.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I CAN'T SEE YOUR NAME, REBACK.

WE CAN DEAL WITH HER AT NUMBER 9, SO THE CORRECTED CALENDAR IS JUST LOOKING AT DATES OR SOMETHING, I THINK.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT'S JUST THE NOVEMBER --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: LET'S GET THAT OUT THE WAY.

LET'S GET TO 9, AND 9 IS WHERE WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS -- I AGREE WITH MS. PLATT.

LET'S BRING THEM IN AND LET THEM TALK, BUT -- AND THEN WE CAN ASK QUESTIONS, BUT I WANT TO GET RID OF THIS CORRECTED CALENDAR BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE SO WE KNOW THAT WE GOT OUR DATES STRAIGHT, AND THEN WE CAN MOVE TO NUMBER 9, AND I THINK NUMBER 9 WOULD VET OUT WHAT, WHEN, HOW, AND WHERE, AND THEN THAT LEAVES US WITH PUBLIC COMMENT, AND THEN WE'RE OUT OF HERE; CORRECT?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, YOU ARE CORRECT, MR. ROBINSON.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THE CORRECTED CALENDAR WAS --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, LET ME --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: I'M SORRY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- MENTION MR. AMON HAD A QUICK -- DID YOU HAVE A COMMENT?

>>JOE AMON: NO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

I'M SORRY.

MARY.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IT WAS JUST TO SHOW THE CORRECT TIME FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: NOVEMBER?

>> OH, NOVEMBER?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YEAH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NOVEMBER ON IT BEFORE I SAID 1:00 TO
6:00 P.M.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>JOE AMON: MR. CHAIRMAN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT SHOULD BE 1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.; RIGHT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RIGHT.

IT IS POSTED ON THE -- THE CORRECTION.

WE JUST WANTED TO BRING IT TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT WE HAD
CORRECTED THAT TIME, AND IT'S POSTED ON THE WEB SITE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

SO WE HAVE --

>>JOE AMON: YEAH, I DO HAVE A COMMENT.

THAT HAS HAPPENED NOW.

POSTING IT TO THE WEB SITE -- I THOUGHT WE HAD MADE A
DECISION THAT WE WERE GOING TO GET THIS STUFF E-MAILED TO
US.

THAT'S NOT THE CASE?

I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE WEB SITE TO PULL THE DATA DOWN?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: NO, IT HAS BEEN --

>>JOE AMON: IT HAS NOT BEEN E-MAILED TO ME.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

I'LL CHECK INTO IT BECAUSE EDITH --

>>JOE AMON: THERE'S A LOT OF STUFF TONIGHT THAT HASN'T
BEEN MAILED TO ME, NOR DO I HAVE MINUTES FROM THE LAST

MEETING.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WAS DISCUSSED LAST MEETING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING, I
TAKES --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- THE CLERK'S OFFICE TWO WEEKS TO GET
THE MINUTES.

IT TAKES THEM MORE THAN A WEEK, SO WE ARE NOT DOING THE
MINUTES YET.

BY OUR NEXT MEETING -- AND ONCE WE GET ON A TWO-WEEK CYCLE,
WHICH IS THE MAJORITY OF OUR MEETINGS FROM THIS POINT ON WE
HAVE AT LEAST A WEEK IN BETWEEN, SO WE SHOULD BE -- MY
UNDERSTANDING IS WE SHOULD BE GETTING THE MINUTES IN
ADVANCE --

>>JOE AMON: FINISH MY POINT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- FROM THIS POINT FORWARD.

>>JOE AMON: VERY SIMPLY IS I EXPECT TO SEE AN E-MAIL WITH
ALL THE DATA FROM THIS MEETING THAT INCLUDES EVERYTHING
THAT WE'RE DISCUSSING SO I GET A PACKAGE E-MAILED TO ME
BEFORE COMING TO THIS MEETING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A PACKAGE?

>>JOE AMON: I HAVE A PACKAGE, BUT IT'S NOT COMPLETE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YEAH --

>>JOE AMON: IT DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF STUFF WE'VE TALKED ABOUT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE INFORMATION MARY HELEN FARRIS PROVIDED, PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING --

>>JOE AMON: I GOT THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- ON NUMBER 7 SHE PROVIDED EXCEPT THE ONE ITEM SHE MENTIONED, THE FLORIDA RETIREMENT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: AND THEY SENT AN E-MAIL -- I HAD AN E-MAIL OUT I THINK IT WAS -- 28 OR 29 PAGES WAS THE TOTAL. IT WASN'T MS. EDITH THIS TIME, IT WAS ANOTHER -- ROSE OR IT WAS ANOTHER --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: MARIA JONES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MS. JONES.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YES, THAT'S WHO SENT IT OUT BECAUSE I LOOKED AND SAID THERE'S NO EDITH, IT'S MS. JONES, AND IT HAD LIKE 29- OR 38-ODD PAGES.

IT WAS A .PDF, CONTINUOUS .PDF FILE, AND IT HAD THE MAJORITY OF WHAT MARY HELEN HANDED OUT IN THIS WRITTEN PACKAGE.

>>JOE AMON: IT HAD THE MAJORITY BUT NOT ALL.

THAT'S MY POINT.

FOR INSTANCE, IT DID NOT HAVE THE APPROVAL OF THE CLERK'S OFFICIAL MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 22nd.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT WAS ON THE AGENDA.

WE DIDN'T GET THEM IN TIME.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: NO, THAT'S ON THE WEB SITE, THOUGH.

THEY GOT THEM ON THE WEB SITE.

>>JOE AMON: THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING.

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO GO TO THE WEB SITE TO GET THE DATA?

TELL ME WHAT THE GAME PLAN IS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THOSE WILL BE E-MAILED TO US.

I DO NOT BELIEVE -- MY UNDERSTANDING IS THE FEBRUARY 22nd
MEETING MINUTES --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THOSE ARE AVAILABLE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- WERE NOT THE ONES ON THE WEB SITE.

I BELIEVE --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: NO, THEY'RE ON THE WEB SITE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE 22nd ARE?

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: BECAUSE THE LAST MEETING WAS MARCH 1st.

THIS IS MARCH 8th.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU'RE CORRECT.

YOU'RE CORRECT.

LOSING TRACK OF TIME.

WE WILL -- I'LL CHECK WITH EDITH BECAUSE MY UNDERSTANDING
WAS THE SAME AS YOURS, MR. AMON, THAT WE WERE GOING TO GET
EVERYTHING E-MAILED TO US, SO I WILL CHECK WITH HER TO SEE
IF WE CAN GET THAT INCLUDED IN OUR PACKET.

>>JOE AMON: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: MR. CHAIR, COULD YOU -- WHEN YOU MEET WITH EDITH STEWART, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR BOARD, I'D LIKE TO KNOW -- I KNOW WE PASSED A COMMUNICATION PLAN, AND I WOULD LIKE TO -- LIKE MAYBE NOT EVERY MEETING BUT ONCE EVERY TWO OR THREE MEETINGS KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AS FAR AS COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC.

AS YOU LOOK INTO THE AUDIENCE NOW, YOU KNOW, I'M NOT SURE IS THE WORD GETTING OUT THAT WE'RE IN SESSION, YOU KNOW. ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON HTV AND INSERT IT INTO THE WATER BILLS OR WHATEVER? WE'VE DONE THAT IN THE PAST.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CITIZENS KNOW THAT THEIR CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IS MEETING AND THEIR IDEAS AND THOUGHTS ARE WELCOME VIA THE INTERNET, VIA PHONE CALL, BY COMING TO THE BOARD HERE IN THE MEETINGS, SO I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON TO MAKE SURE WE ARE PROPERLY ENGAGED WITH THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'LL FOLLOW UP WITH EDITH.

I KNOW SHE -- WE DID DISCUSS THIS A COUPLE MEETINGS AGO, AND SHE WENT OVER SOME OF THE ISSUES -- SOME OF THE WAYS THAT THEY CAN GET THE WORD OUT, BUT I'LL FOLLOW UP WITH HER AND SEE IF SHE CAN GIVE US AN UPDATE NEXT MEETING AS TO WHAT HAS OCCURRED AND WHAT IS PLANNED IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BECAUSE I AGREE WITH YOU, THE -- WE'VE GOT TO GET THE

INFORMATION OUT TO THE PUBLIC AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE JUST SO THEY'RE AWARE OF THE ISSUES, SO -- AND I DID WANT TO MENTION -- EVERYBODY MAY NOT BE AWARE.

EDITH IS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THIS WEEK, SO IT IS -- YOU KNOW, WITH A SHORT WEEK AND EVERYTHING, IT'S -- I'VE BEEN COMMUNICATING WITH HER.

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S BEEN IN WASHINGTON, SHE HAS BEEN E-MAILING ME BACK AND FORTH OVER THE WEEKEND, SO SHE'LL BE BACK THE NEXT -- THE NEXT MEETING.

>>GERALD WHITE: I WOULD LIKE ALSO TO BEGIN TO -- I SERVED ON THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND WE ACTUALLY TRACKED THE BOARD MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND SO, YOU KNOW, KIND OF KEEP AN UPDATE HOW THE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ATTENDING THE MEETING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND ACTUALLY, I THINK THAT'S A GOOD POINT.

I BELIEVE EDITH IS DOING THAT, BUT I'LL MAKE SURE.

I KNOW WE DID HAVE A SCHEDULE LAST TIME.

I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE PUBLIC AND FOR THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS WHO APPOINTED MEMBERS TO KNOW IF THEIR -- THE INDIVIDUAL THEY APPOINTED TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD'S ATTENDING.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE ALL THE

MEETINGS, BUT AT LEAST THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW THAT.

>> BUT DO WE HAVE AN ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THIS BOARD?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE A FORMAL ATTENDANCE POLICY.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING ABOUT A FORMAL ATTENDANCE POLICY; HOWEVER, LIKE I SAID, WE HAVE TRACKED THE ATTENDANCE BEFORE, AND I THINK -- I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT IF YOU AGREE TO SERVE HERE, YOU TRY TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COME.

I KNOW THERE'S GOING TO BE INSTANCES THAT YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER OR YOU MAY BE OUT OF TOWN, WORK OR WHATEVER, BUT WE NEED TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE A QUORUM.

IF WE DON'T HAVE A QUORUM, IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO BE -- WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN TAKE PUBLIC COMMENT.

COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A CONTACT PERSON SO THAT IF, SAY, THERE WAS AN ILLNESS IN THE FAMILY OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THAT WE COULD CALL IN AND SAY WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE THERE JUST SO THAT IT'S ON THE RECORD?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I WAS --

>>JAN PLATT: IS THERE A CALL-IN -- IS THERE A POINT PERSON?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IF YOU CAN GET THAT TO EDITH, I CAN -- AND I TOLD -- I WAS TALKING TO EDITH ABOUT THAT MYSELF.

IF YOU CAN GET WORD TO EDITH AND SHE CAN GET IT TO ME, I'LL

MAKE SURE IT'S READ INTO THE -- I MEAN, IF YOU HAVE AN EXCUSE OR REASON, I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S READ INTO THE RECORD, THE REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I KNOW THAT I CANNOT MAKE THE -- I'M SORRY.

I KNOW THAT I CANNOT ATTEND THE APRIL 12th MEETING BECAUSE OF A PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT, SO I'M JUST GOING TO PUT IT ON THE RECORD NOW.

I KNOW I WON'T BE HERE APRIL 12th.

I START A TRIAL THE NEXT MORNING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WELL, WITH THAT, WHY DON'T YOU GET STARTED TO THIS NEXT AGENDA ITEM SO WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE. YOU'RE THE ONES WHO'S PUSHING IT, SO IT'S YOUR TIME TO SET THE AGENDA, BUT YOU WON'T BE HERE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, LET ME GET MR. FISHER REAL QUICK.

>>RALPH FISHER: I WANT TO COME BACK TO ONE THING THAT MS. REBACK SAID THAT'S VERY CRITICAL AND WE ALL NEED TO BE AWARE OF THIS.

THESE LETTERS OF INVITATION THAT WE'RE SENDING OUT, I MENTIONED AT THE LAST MEETING AND I'M GOING TO MAKE A MOTION, WE REALLY NEED TO TELL THEM WHAT IT IS WE WANT FROM THEM.

I LIKE KIND OF THE OPEN-ENDED THING, WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME

AND SPEAK YOUR MIND, NUMBER ONE.

NUMBER TWO, WE'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE US, IF YOU HAVE ANY, SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLY AMENDING THE CHARTER.

AND THREE, BE PREPARED TO SPEAK FOR TEN MINUTES AND ACCEPT QUESTIONS FOR TEN MINUTES.

I MAKE A MOTION THAT THE LETTERS THAT MS. STEWART SENDS OUT CONTAIN THOSE THREE POINTS.

YOU CAN SPEAK ON WHATEVER YOU WISH --

>>GERALD WHITE: SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WHAT WERE THE THREE POINTS AGAIN?

>>RALPH FISHER: NUMBER ONE, THAT PEOPLE ARE ASKED PLEASE COME IN AND TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT, EDUCATE US, TELL US ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT, SPEAK YOUR MIND.

NUMBER TWO, IF YOU HAVE AN OPINION, GIVE US A SPECIFIC SUGGESTION ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED IN THE CHARTER IF YOU HAVE AN OPINION.

NUMBER THREE, BE PREPARED TO SPEAK FOR TEN MINUTES AND RECEIVE A MAXIMUM OF TEN MINUTES OF QUESTIONS.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THE DISCUSSION.

>>JAN PLATT: I'LL SECOND THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DISCUSSION.

WE HAVE A SECOND.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: GERALD SECONDED IT, BUT WANT TO SAY

THIS.

OKAY.

I LIKE -- SEE, LIKE I SAID, NOW, I DON'T WANT TO -- SEE,
I'M LOOKING DOWN THE ROAD AND I KNOW HOW THIS THING GO.
IF YOU JUST SAY WHEN THEY COME -- I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM
WITH WHAT YOU SAID EXCEPT FOR ONE THING.

>>RALPH FISHER: YES, SIR.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: IF THEY HAVE A RECOMMENDATION FOR THE
CHARTER -- I'M SAYING IF THEY HAVE A RECOMMENDATION TO
CHANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BECAUSE REMEMBER, WE CAN LOOK AT
ANY ISSUE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

>>RALPH FISHER: I AMEND THAT TO CHANGE THE CHARTER --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING?

>>RALPH FISHER: -- OR ANY ASPECT OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: EXACTLY.

I'M WITH YOU.

I'M WITH YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY OBJECTION TO THAT AMENDMENT?

>>RALPH FISHER: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

THESE POOR PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SHOW UP AND IT'S LIKE STAR
CHAMBER OR ARE THEY GOING TO BE IN --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I DON'T WANT TO LIMIT THEM TO JUST --

>>RALPH FISHER: AND POOR STEWART, I MEAN, WHAT IS SHE
GOING TO DO, SHE'S GOING TO PULL A LETTER FROM SOME ANOTHER

TIME.

LET'S GIVE HER SOME DIRECTION.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

ANY ISSUE DEALING WITH COUNTY GOVERNMENT, I'M WITH YOU IF
YOU'LL ACCEPT THAT FRIENDLY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OBJECTION TO THAT AMENDED MOTION?
OKAY.

SO THE AMENDED MOTION STANDS.

DISCUSSION?

FURTHER DISCUSSION?

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION -- LET ME TRY TO RESTATE THIS --
I'M GOING TO LET RALPH RESTATE IT FOR THE RECORD.

>> WE ALREADY VOTED ON IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, WE'VE GOT IT.
THE CLERK'S GOT IT.

>>RALPH FISHER: IF I HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING JIM'S NAME,
I'M GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH THAT TOO.

COME ON.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

THAT MOTION PASSES.

THANK YOU, MR. FISHER.

OKAY.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND I DON'T WANT THE INVITED GUESTS TO HOLD BACK.

I WANT THEM TO TELL US HOW THEY FEEL, WHETHER THEY SUPPORT SOMETHING OR OPPOSE SOMETHING, AND I'M GOING TO CONDUCT MYSELF ON THIS BOARD THE SAME WAY.

I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD BACK.

I'M GOING TO SAY WHETHER I SUPPORT SOMETHING, I OPPOSE SOMETHING, OR I WANT A CHANGE SOMEWHERE IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT BASED ON MY LONG-TIME EXPERIENCE AS AN ACTIVIST AND A CITIZEN IN THIS COMMUNITY, NOT JUST READING THE NEWSPAPER BUT INVOLVED CITIZEN IN THIS COMMUNITY, AS A CITIZEN, AND SO I'M NOT GOING TO QUESTION ANYBODY ELSE'S JUDGMENT, AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU RESTRAIN YOURSELF ON THIS BOARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU, MR. WHITE.

MR. AMON.

>>JOE AMON: ARE WE STILL ON NEXT MEETING AGENDA?

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I DON'T THINK WE STARTED YET.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE HAVEN'T STARTED YET.

WE HAD THE MOTION FROM MR. FISHER.

WE ALSO HAVE OUR AMENDED CALENDAR.

WE HAVEN'T FORMALLY APPROVED THIS AMENDED CALENDAR.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I MAKE A MOTION WE APPROVE THE AMENDED CALENDAR WITH THE EXCEPTION WE MADE TONIGHT ON THE MEETING

CHANGE ON --

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'VE GOT A SECOND.

IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDED CALENDAR THAT WE
HAVE HERE?

OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDED CALENDAR.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

>>JOE AMON: NOT OPPOSED.

I'M GOING TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING.

I HAVEN'T SEEN IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I DON'T BELIEVE YOU CAN --

>> YOU CAN'T ABSTAIN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU CAN ABSTAIN.

I CAN GIVE YOU A COPY RIGHT HERE TO LOOK AT.

>>JOE AMON: IF YOU WOULD THEN.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: TO CLARIFY AGAIN, THE ONLY CHANGE TO
THE AMENDED CALENDAR IS TO CLARIFY THAT NOVEMBER TIME
FRAME.

OTHERWISE IT'S THE SAME CALENDAR THAT YOU APPROVED BEFORE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT'S THE SAME CALENDAR, IT'S JUST THAT
ON NOVEMBER --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- WHATEVER, INSTEAD OF 1:00 TO 6:00
P.M., IT'S 1:00 TO 3:00 P.M.

THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN ABSTAIN IS IF YOU HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, I BELIEVE; IS THAT CORRECT?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: IF THERE IS OR APPEARS TO BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

>>JOE AMON: IT'S HARD TO VOTE ON SOMETHING IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE DOCUMENT.

THAT'S MY POINT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

SO ALL IN FAVOR TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CALENDAR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

THANK YOU.

OKAY.

NEXT ON -- SO THAT'S OUR CORRECTED CALENDAR.

WE'RE MOVING ON TO NEXT MEETING AGENDA.

GERALD.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: RELATED TO THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA, AS FAR AS INVITED GUESTS, DO YOU -- ARE YOU PLANNING ON LIKE GIVING US -- PLUG THEM IN AND GIVING US A LIST THROUGHOUT WHEN YOU EXPECT THEM TO BE COMING BEFORE THE BOARD?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE LAST MEETING WE KIND OF -- WE RAN OUT OF TIME.

MY THOUGHT IS -- THIS IS MY THOUGHT.

THE EDUCATORS, THE PROFESSORS, I THINK IT WOULD BE

BENEFICIAL TO HEAR FROM THEM FIRST.

IF ANYONE -- I MEAN, THAT IS MY PERSONAL OPINION.

MRS. REBACK, MR. FISHER RECOMMENDED SOMEBODY.

WE HAVE SOME OTHER PROFESSORS.

I PERSONALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO HEAR FROM THE EDUCATORS, THE PROFESSIONALS -- THE PROFESSORS, THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SOME KIND OF EXPERTISE IN THAT AREA.

>>GERALD WHITE: I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT.

I JUST WANT TO HEAR FROM -- I REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM THE MAYOR OF TAMPA, PAM IORIO, UP FRONT BECAUSE I REALLY THINK SHE HAS A LOT TO BRING, AND SO THAT'S WHY I WANT TO GET HER IN HERE EARLY.

I DON'T MIND HAVING THE EDUCATORS HERE FIRST, BUT MY STRONG CONCERN IS HEARING FROM THE MAYOR OF TAMPA, PAM IORIO, AND I WANT TO HEAR FROM HER EARLIER UP FRONT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. REDDICK.

>>FRANK REDDICK: MAY I SUGGEST THAT THIS BOARD GIVE THE CHAIRMAN THE LEVERAGE TO MEET WITH MS. STEWART AND COORDINATE THE SPEAKERS?

>>GERALD WHITE: I WANT THAT, BUT I WANT A LIST.

I WANT TO KNOW WHEN THEY PLUG THEM IN THERE.

>>FRANK REDDICK: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

THEY CAN BRING US A LIST BACK WITH ALL OF THOSE SPEAKERS THEY PLAN ON BRINGING AND WHEN THEY PLAN ON SCHEDULING THEM FOR THE MEETING, AND I THINK IF THE CHAIRMAN CAN MEET WITH

MS. STEWART AND COORDINATE THAT, THAT SAVES TIME AND EFFORT AND PRESENT US A COPY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, FRANK, BUT WE'RE NOT MEETING FOR A MONTH, AND WE NEED TO HAVE A -- IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOMEBODY SPEAKING ON THE 12th, WE NEED TO LET IT BE KNOWN NOW, AND RIGHT NOW ALL I HEAR IS THE -- I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT; HOWEVER, WE NEED TO SAY WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SPEAKERS ON THE 12th, BUT WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY BEFORE WE HAVE THE SPEAKERS, FOR MARY BETH -- MARY HELEN -- I GOT SO MANY MARY HELENS, MARY HELENS, MARY BETTS -- MARY HELEN TO FINISH UP SOME THINGS SHE WAS JUST GOING TO BRING, LIKE THE LITTLE BULLETS, CLEAR THAT OUT, THEN WE START WITH THE SPEAKER.

THAT SHOULD JUST BE -- YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

IF WE'RE MAKING AN AGENDA, SHE IS GOING TO BRING US SOMETHING BACK, LET US DO THAT RIGHT QUICK, AND THEN WE CAN LAUNCH INTO THESE SPEAKERS.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, WE KNOW WE GOT THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS COMING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE'VE GOT A MOTION TO INVITE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TOO, SO WE'LL HAVE THAT ON OUR AGENDA TOO. SO --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: BUT THAT'S NOT ONE -- BUT WE'RE INVITING HER NOT TO BRING UP IDEAS OF WHAT SHE LIKES ABOUT THE CHARTER, THAT IS FOR A SPECIFIC REASON, WHICH FALLS TO

WHAT I'M SAYING.

I'M TRYING TO GET THOSE BULLETS LIKE WE HAD HERE OUT THE WAY.

THEN WE CAN GO INTO THE FORMAL OF PEOPLE THAT ARE REALLY SPEAKING BASED ON THE MOTION THAT MR. FISHER SUGGESTED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MRS. REBACK.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: I HAVE A QUESTION.

IF I'M NOT HERE, CAN I GIVE SOME QUESTIONS TO A PROXY FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY ON THE ISSUE THAT SHE'S COMING TO SPEAK ABOUT?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IF -- IF YOU WANT, YOU COULD E-MAIL THEM TO EDITH, AND SHE COULD PROVIDE IT TO ME, AND, YOU KNOW -- DEPENDING ON TIME OR WHATEVER, YOU KNOW, I CAN LOOK AT THEM, BUT I'M NOT SURE -- IN TERMS OF PROXIES, I DON'T BELIEVE THE RULES ALLOW FOR A PROXY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, I DON'T MEAN LITERALLY A PROXY VOTE.

[INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO.

YOU CAN E-MAIL QUESTIONS TO EDITH, AND WE CAN MAKE EDITH GETS THEM OUT TO EVERYBODY, AND THAT WAY EVERYBODY SEES THEM AND THEN THAT WAY YOUR QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED TO ALL MEMBERS.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: BECAUSE IN YOUR ABSENCE, SOMEBODY JUST MIGHT JUST WANT TO ASK THOSE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: OKAY.

WELL, I THINK I WENT THROUGH MOST OF THEM TODAY WITH MARY HELEN, BUT -- I THINK SHE HAS A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF MY CONCERNS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, IF YOU CAN JUST E-MAIL THEM TO EDITH, SHE CAN GET THEM TO ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS, AND THAT WAY ONE OF THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS MAY WANT TO ASK YOUR QUESTION, SO -- INSTEAD OF -- YOU KNOW, I'M NOT GOING TO SAY I'M GOING TO ASK THEM, BUT SOMEBODY ELSE MIGHT FEEL THAT THEY WANT TO ASK THE QUESTION.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: LIKE I SAID, I THINK I PRETTY MUCH COVERED EVERYTHING I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT TONIGHT WITH MARY HELEN, BUT IN CASE I DID --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. AMON.

>>JOE AMON: LAST MEETING DID YOU COVER ALL THE PEOPLE YOU WANTED TO INVITE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WHAT WE DID, WE -- EACH -- WE WENT AROUND, AND EACH PEOPLE ADDED -- EACH OF THE BOARD MEMBERS ADDED ANY INDIVIDUALS THEY THOUGHT THEY'D WANT TO ADD TO THE LIST, AND WE HAVE A LIST OF SPEAKERS.

YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: CORRECTION.

IT WAS EITHER ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS THAT WE ADDED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YOU'RE -- YOU'RE RIGHT.

AND WE HAVE THIS LIST THAT WE'RE GOING TO WORK FROM, AND --
YOU KNOW, AND NOT TO SAY THAT WE CAN'T ADD FUTURE SPEAKERS,
YOU KNOW, FUTURE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS IN
THE FUTURE, BUT THIS IS JUST A LIST TO START WITH.

>>JOE AMON: OKAY.

DID YOU HAVE ANYONE FROM EITHER JACKSONVILLE OR MIAMI-DADE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I DON'T BELIEVE -- IT'S DIFFICULT
WITHOUT THE MINUTES SOMETIMES IN TERMS OF REFERRING BACK.
I GOT TO --

>> I DON'T THINK SO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I DON'T RECALL ANYONE FROM
JACKSONVILLE OR --

>>JOE AMON: I'D LIKE TO PUT IN -- I'D LIKE TO PUT IN THE
RECORD I'D LIKE TO INVITE THE MAYOR OF MIAMI-DADE, CARLOS
ALVAREZ, AND/OR CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION DENNIS MOSS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ARE YOU MAKING A MOTION TO INVITE
THEM?

>>JOE AMON: I'M BRINGING IT UP FOR DISCUSSION.
IF I NEED A MOTION, I WILL.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SECOND.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WHY?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THE MAYOR OF ORLANDO,

ORANGE COUNTY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SECOND.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WHY?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>JOE AMON: [INAUDIBLE] GOING TO BE OKAY?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ARE YOU WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT AMENDED MOTION?

>>JOE AMON: YES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: ALL RIGHT.

SO WE'RE --

>>JOE AMON: I'M NOT FINISHED YET.

I HAD ONE MORE.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>JOE AMON: OKAY.

THE OTHER ONE IS MAYOR JOHN PAYTON, WHO IS THE MAYOR OF JACKSONVILLE, AND THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT RICHARD CLARK, AND THE REASON I INVITED -- THE REASON I INVITED THOSE TWO CITY GUYS, THEY'RE CITY-COUNTY COMBINED GOVERNMENTS BUT THEY OPERATE TOTALLY DIFFERENTLY FROM THEIR -- WELL, ONE HAS A COUNTY COMMISSION AND THE OTHER ONE HAS A MAYOR AND A CITY COUNCIL.

ONE HAS A MAYOR AND A COUNTY COMMISSION.

KIND OF INTERESTING THE WAY THEY'RE SET UP, THEY'RE DIFFERENTLY SET UP.

ONE'S MORE LIKE WE ARE AND THE OTHER ONE'S NOT, AND THAT'S

THE REASON I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THAT.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO HEAR FROM THE PEOPLE FROM ORANGE COUNTY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO WE'VE GOT JACKSONVILLE, ORANGE COUNTY.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, HIS MOTION IS JUST MIAMI-DADE AND JACKSONVILLE; RIGHT?

>>JOE AMON: CORRECT.

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: AND COMMISSIONER PLATT --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: AMENDED IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, AMENDED IT --

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: -- AMENDED IT TO INCLUDE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- AND THAT WAS ACCEPTED.

WAS THERE ANY OBJECTION TO THAT AMENDED MOTION?

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: WELL, I'D LIKE TO KNOW -- I CAN'T OBJECT UNTIL I KNOW WHY WE WANT TO -- NEED TO HEAR FROM ORANGE COUNTY.

>>JAN PLATT: BECAUSE IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN THOSE TWO, COMPLETELY.

THE MAYOR SITS ON THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND DOES NOT HAVE A VOTE, AND THEN THEY HIRE AN ADMINISTRATOR, SO IT'S SORT OF A BIFURCATION, BUT IT WORKS.

IT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD WORK IN THIS COUNTY IF IT EVER DID IT, BUT THIS COUNTY WILL NEVER DO IT.

>>JOE AMON: GOOD POINT.

GOOD POINT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: DISCUSSION.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND I'M EXCITED THAT ORANGE COUNTY'S COMING AND DUVAL COUNTY IS COMING.

I HOPE THEY COME, ACCEPT OUR INVITATION, AND WHEN THEY COME, SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN LEFT OUT OF THIS EQUATION ABOUT THE COUNTY MAYOR AND THE COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA THAT HAS A COUNTY MAYOR IS THERE HAS NOT BEEN SOLICITED OR A LOT OF TALK ON HOW THE MINORITY CITIZENS IN THOSE COUNTIES FEEL ABOUT THEIR NEW STRUCTURE, SO WHEN THEY COME, IF THEY COULD BRING SOME THOUGHT ON THAT, IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW THE HISPANICS AND THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CITIZENS FEEL IN THOSE COUNTIES THAT HAS A COUNTY-ELECTED MAYOR, HOW THEY FEEL IT'S GOING, WHETHER THEY'RE SUPPORTIVE OF IT, THINGS OF THAT NATURE.

>>RALPH FISHER: YOU CAN ASK THEM QUESTIONS WHEN THEY SHOW UP.

>>GERALD WHITE: YEAH, BUT GIVE THEM A HEADS-UP THAT'S A CONCERN THAT I WANT THEM TO ANSWER.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME ASK A QUICK QUESTION.

WERE THERE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THAT AMENDED MOTION TO INCLUDE THE ORANGE COUNTY?

>>JOE AMON: NO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IF NO OBJECTIONS, THAT AMENDMENT

STANDS.

OKAY.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THAT BEFORE WE VOTE?

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: CALL FOR THE QUESTION.

>>JOE AMON: CALL THE QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR OF INVITING THE MAYORS OF MIAMI -- CITY OF MIAMI, CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, AND ORANGE COUNTY, PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

OKAY.

>>RALPH FISHER: I MAKE A MOTION THAT -- MR. REDDICK MENTIONED SOMETHING, BUT I WANT TO MAKE IT IN THE FORM OF A MOTION, THAT MR. REDDICK'S RECOMMENDATION -- I'M MAKING A MOTION THAT YOU, MR. CHAIR, COORDINATE WITH MS. STEWART --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SECOND.

>>RALPH FISHER: -- THE APPEARANCE OF ALL THESE PEOPLE AND YOU SCHEDULE THEM AND YOU HANDLE IT, AND WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: AMEN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: HAVE WE GOT A SECOND?

>>ROCHELLE REBACK: SECOND.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I SECONDED IT ALREADY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY DISCUSSION?

ALL IN FAVOR RIGHT HAND.

SOUND GOOD.

I WILL GET WITH EDITH, AND WE'LL --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YEAH, BUT YOU GOT TO SAY ALL OPPOSED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WHAT?

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: YOU DIDN'T SAY ALL OPPOSED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OH, ALL OPPOSED.

I'M JUMPING AHEAD.

IT PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

THANK YOU.

I'LL GET WITH EDITH AND MAKE SURE -- GET WORKING ON THAT

BECAUSE I KNOW IT'S CRITICAL TO INVITE EARLY ON.

THE SOONER WE GET THE INVITATIONS OUT, THE MORE LIKELY

WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE CONFLICTS, ESPECIALLY WITH SOME OF

THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

OKAY.

WE PRETTY MUCH -- I THINK WE -- IS THERE ANY FURTHER

DISCUSSION ON THE NEXT MEETING AGENDA?

I THINK WE'VE GOTTEN THAT TAKEN CARE OF.

ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION BEFORE WE MOVE INTO PUBLIC COMMENT?

OKAY.

NEXT UP IS PUBLIC COMMENT.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES, I'M SORRY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: WHO'S GOING TO ATTEND THE NEIGHBORHOOD --
I WOULD LIKE THE CHAIR AND THE VICE CHAIR, IF POSSIBLE, TO
ATTEND THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE, AND THE LAST ONE WE JUST SET UP A
TABLE, BUT IF THE CHAIR OR THE VICE CHAIR COULD --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, I CAN ATTEND IT.

IF -- IF THE VICE CHAIR WANTS TO ATTEND IT --

>>GERALD WHITE: CAN YOU SEE WHETHER OR NOT -- I KNOW THEY
HAVE A LITTLE CEREMONY OR WHATEVER -- IF THEY ALLOW YOU TO
JUST STAND BEFORE THE CROWD FOR 30 SECONDS AND LET YOU
INTRODUCE YOURSELF OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'LL CHECK INTO THAT WITH EDITH.

MR. REDDICK WAS ASKING IN TERMS OF IT.

USUALLY IN THE PAST THEY'VE HAD IT AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

I'VE GONE, AND MR. WHITE, I KNOW WE'VE GONE A FEW TIMES,
AND IT'S A GREAT CONFERENCE.

>>GERALD WHITE: [INDISCERNIBLE CROSS TALK]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT'S A GREAT CONFERENCE.

I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT DATE.

DO YOU KNOW, MR. WHITE?

>>GERALD WHITE: I'M NOT SURE.

THAT'S WHY I'M --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'LL FIND OUT THE DATE, BUT I CAN GO.

>>FRANK REDDICK: [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

YEP.

I'LL MAKE SURE WE GET AN E-MAIL OUT TO EVERYBODY LETTING YOU KNOW WHEN THE DATE IS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND WHEN YOU GO, THESE LITTLE BOOKS -- IF YOU TOOK PLENTY OF THE BOOKS TO GIVE TO ALL THE COMMUNITY LEADERS, THE AGENDA, THINGS OF THAT NATURE, THEN THEY'LL KNOW EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THAT'S NOT THE COMPLETE CHARTER, GERALD.

>>GERALD WHITE: OH, I KNOW.

I'M SURE IT'S GOING TO BE UPDATED, THOUGH.

>>JAN PLATT: AND THE MEETING SCHEDULE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND THE MEETING SCHEDULE.

THOSE ARE ALL YOUR LEADERS THROUGHOUT HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY THAT YOU'LL BE GOING TO.

IT WOULD BE GREAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I KNOW FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN WE WENT THERE WAS -- I MEAN, A LOT OF PEOPLE STOPPED BY, THEY HAVE DIFFERENT TABLES SET UP, AND IT'S JUST -- IT'S A GREAT EVENT.

THEY HAVE CLASSES FOR DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS ON DIFFERENT TOPICS, SO I WILL GET WITH EDITH, I'LL COORDINATE ATTENDING, AND I WILL MAKE SURE WE GET THE DATE OUT TO EVERYBODY -- ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS SO EVERYBODY ELSE IS

AWARE OF THE DATE.

>>FRANK REDDICK: IS THERE A REGISTRATION FORMAT?

DO YOU HAVE TO REGISTER FOR IT?

>>GERALD WHITE: I'M NOT SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THERE'S A REGISTRATION, AND I BELIEVE
THERE'S A FEE.

I'LL CHECK WITH EDITH AND FIND OUT WHAT IS REQUIRED.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND ATTENDANCE, MR. CHAIRMAN.

I'M REALLY CONCERNED HERE IN OUR FOURTH MEETING WE'VE ONLY
HAD MAYBE TEN PUBLIC COMMENTS OR WHATEVER, SO I'M CONCERNED
THAT THE CITIZENS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY IS NOT AWARE THAT
THEIR CHARTER REVIEW BOARD IS IN SESSION, AND SO I WANT TO
MAKE SURE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I'LL FOLLOW UP WITH EDITH ON THAT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OR THEY MAY BE SEEING IT ON TV AND
SATISFIED THAT WE'RE DOING A GOOD JOB.

[LAUGHTER]

>>GERALD WHITE: I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND I'LL SEE IF EDITH CAN GIVE US AN
UPDATE IN THE NEXT MEETING TOO IN TERMS OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

PUBLIC -- OKAY.

NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, WE'RE GOING TO MOVE TO PUBLIC
COMMENT.

MR. COSENTINO.

>> GOOD EVENING.

NEIL COSENTINO, 708 SOUTH DAVIS BOULEVARD.

IN REGARD TO TRACKING CHARTER REVIEW BOARD PROGRESS -- AND I THINK IT WOULD HELP WHAT MR. WHITE SAID ABOUT GETTING MORE ACTIVITY FROM THE PUBLIC -- THE ISSUES SHOULD BE POSTED ON THE WEB SITE, BUT THEY'RE NOT, AND IF THEY WERE, A COUPLE THINGS -- DYNAMICS HAPPEN.

THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE, LIKE MYSELF, CAN LOOK AT THESE ISSUES AND DISCUSS THEM AMONGST THEMSELVES OR WITH THE PUBLIC, AND THE PUBLIC CAN GO TO THE WEB SITE AND THEY CAN EITHER MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS -- BECAUSE THE KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOESN'T REST HERE.

YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A MILLION PEOPLE OUT THERE, AND THEY HAVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE, WE'RE JUST NOT ASKING THEM TO COME FORWARD WITH IT.

BUT IN MY CASE AND IN OTHERS', WHAT WE'VE RECOMMENDED IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND, SO I THINK THAT SHOULD BE CORRECTED.

IN REGARD TO A HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY, WHICH MAY BE PASSED IN THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION OR I SHOULD SAY IN THE -- IN THE BALLOTING AT THE END OF THE YEAR, WE MIGHT TAKE A LOOK AT THAT AND SEE HOW IT WOULD AFFECT OR HOW OUR CHARTER WOULD AFFECT IT OR BE AFFECTED BY IT.

THE OTHER QUESTION IS DO WE WANT MORE DEMOCRACY IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND WHAT I MEAN BY THAT IS THAT CAN WE CONTROL OUR PETITIONING?

FOR EXAMPLE, I KNOW WE CAN'T CONTROL NECESSARILY ELECTIONS FOR CANDIDATES OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY, BUT, FOR EXAMPLE, IN PETITIONING ON THE BALLOT, WE MAKE EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS ON A CANDIDATE WHICH IS UNNECESSARY AND BASICALLY IS BLOCKING THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WHO COULD RUN.

WE HAVE MAYBE 12 CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR AND SENATE IF YOU LOOK AT THE LIST.

WHY CAN'T THERE BE THAT MANY FOR LOCAL OFFICES?

SO WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE ACTIVITY, AND THAT COULD BE DONE EASILY BY SAYING, FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU NEED 7,000 PETITIONS TO GET ON THE BALLOT TO BE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND YOU WIND UP WITH SEVEN -- OR YOU NEED 8,000, YOU WIND UP WITH 7,700 OR 999, YOU MISSED BY ONE, NOW YOU HAVE TO PAY A CHECK FOR THE WHOLE AMOUNT.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

THAT'S STONEWALLING DEMOCRACY, THAT'S NOT HELPING DEMOCRACY.

FINALLY, THERE'S THE ISSUE OF VETTING OR -- IT OCCURRED AT THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY WHERE -- WHERE PAM IORIO, OUR MAYOR, HAD TO SAY TO THE ATTORNEY OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AVIATION AUTHORITY TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING THAT'S BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS LEGAL.

I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.

JUST THINK ABOUT THAT.

WELL, IF I MAY --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU, MR. COSENTINO.

>> -- THE QUESTION IS, IS EVERYTHING BROUGHT BEFORE OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LEGAL?

BECAUSE INDEED YOU'LL FIND IN THE NEWSPAPERS IF YOU READ BEHIND WHAT WAS SAID IS THAT OUR BOARD OF COUNTY -- BOARD OF AIRPORT AUTHORITY WAS VOTING ON ISSUES THAT WERE ILLEGAL, AND THAT'S NOT GOOD GOVERNANCE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>> -- SO THAT SHOULD BE SOMEHOW DEALT WITH IN OUR CHARTER. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK YOU'RE DOING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT?

BEFORE WE ADJOURN, LET ME JUST MENTION WE HAVE -- THERE WAS A TEMPLATE FOR SOME BIO INFORMATION FOR THE WEB SITE.

I KNOW -- AS OF FRIDAY, I THINK COMMISSIONER PLATT AND MYSELF WERE THE ONLY TWO THAT EDITH SAID HAD RECEIVED THE INFORMATION SO FAR.

BASICALLY IT ASKS FOR PHOTO, PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION, AFFILIATIONS, JUST SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION SO THE PUBLIC GOING TO THE WEB SITE WILL KNOW WHO THOSE MEMBERS AND A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE INDIVIDUALS ON THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: AS AN ENGINEER, I HAVE TO HAVE A FORM.

I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT.

WHEN I WENT TO 2005, I SAW THE PICTURES IN THE WRITE-UP, SO NOW I GOT AN IDEA HOW THAT'S GOING TO END UP.

SO I LOOKED AT THE PICTURES FROM THE PREVIOUS CHARTER WITH YOU-ALL'S PICTURES AND BIO, SO I'M GOING TO USE THAT AS MY TEMPLATE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU WAS TRYING TO DO, BUT I SAW HOW YOU DID IT BEFORE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: AND EDITH HAD THAT -- COMMISSIONER PLATT'S AND MY INFORMATION ALREADY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

IT'S ALREADY ON THE SITE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SHE SAID SHE'S JUST WAITING FOR THE OTHER BOARD MEMBERS TO GET THE INFORMATION AND SHE'LL GET IT ON --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU GUYS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. REDDICK.

>>FRANK REDDICK: CAN WE GET A TIMELINE SO EDITH WON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT SEVEN MONTHS?

CAN WE PUT A TIMELINE ON OURSELF BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IF YOU GUYS -- I MEAN, I DON'T WANT TO DO A MOTION FOR THAT.

IF YOU GUYS COULD TRY TO GET THAT TO HER, THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, AND I THINK IT'S GOOD FOR THE PUBLIC.

>>DAVID CATON: I MOVE TO ADJOURN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. CATON.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

MEETING'S ADJOURNED.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.