

CAPTIONING
AUGUST 30, 2010
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD

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***that did not translate.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GOOD EVENING.

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST 30th CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING.

PLEASE RISE.

MR. JOE ROBINSON'S GOING TO LEAD US IN THE PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE.

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

THANK YOU, MR. ROBINSON.

NEXT UP WE HAVE PUBLIC COMMENT.

WE HAVE MR. NEIL COSENTINO FIRST UP.

PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF.

>> THANK YOU.

NEIL COSENTINO, 708 SOUTH DAVIS BOULEVARD, TAMPA.

ALSO I'LL LET YOU ALL KNOW THAT I AM RUNNING FOR COUNTY
COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 7, AS AN INDEPENDENT, NO PARTY
AFFILIATION.

I'M HERE TO REVISIT TWO ISSUES THAT I BROUGHT BEFORE THE
CHARTER COMMISSION, BUT FIRST, LET ME MENTION I HAVE A HAT
ON WHICH IS MY WAY OF SHOWING RESPECT FOR OUR MEN WHO WERE

LOST IN VIETNAM AND ALL ACROSS AFGHANISTAN AND SO FORTH -- AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ, AND THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THEM -- AND IT HAS TO DO WITH THIS CHARTER -- IS TO VOTE, AND THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THE DEAD, THE FALLEN, THE FIGHTERS, AND THE MISSING IN ACTION, SO WE CAN VOTE AND HAVE A VOTE THAT'S HEARD AROUND THE WORLD.

IF WE GET OUT 100% OF THE VOTE -- AND THE WAY TO GET OUT 100% OF THE VOTE OR CLOSE TO 100 IS TO DO A MAIL-IN VOTE. NOW, THERE ARE STATES THAT MAIL -- THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THEY VOTE IS BY MAIL, SO I'M GOING TO SAY IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE -- AND I THINK IT IS -- THAT OUR COUNTY BE THE FIRST TO MAIL BY VOTE -- OR VOTE BY MAIL, I SHOULD SAY. AND THAT SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE, AND I HOPE YOU WOULD ENTERTAIN THAT.

SECOND, I THINK IT WAS BROUGHT UP AND EVEN BY FORMER COMMISSIONER JAN PLATT THAT WE HAVE A SITUATION HERE WHERE WE HAVE A \$5- -- \$4-BILLION COMPANY, AND WE HAVE THE EXECUTIVES PART-TIMERS, AND THAT WAS BROUGHT OUT EVEN MORE SO WITH COMMISSIONER NORMAN WHO WE ALL KNOW WAS REPORTED MAKES 90 -- OVER \$90,000 IN A FULL-TIME JOB AND THEN WORKS ANOTHER OVER \$90,000 IN WHATEVER JOB YOU WANT TO CALL IT. THAT'S WHY I THINK THE COMMISSIONER'S LOST A GREAT DEAL OF CREDIBILITY, AND IT CAN BE CORRECTED WITH THIS COMMISSION BY SORTING OUT THAT ISSUE.

AND THEN FINALLY WE HAVE AMENDMENT 4, AND IF AMENDMENT 4 ON

THE BALLOT DOES NOT PASS, WE LOSE CONTROL AGAIN ON THE --
COMMUNITIES LOSE CONTROL OF THEIR -- OF HOW THEY WANT TO
SEE THEIR COMMUNITIES GROW.

WE HOPE IT'LL PASS, BUT IF IT DOESN'T, THIS CHARTER
COMMISSION CAN INDEED ADDRESS THAT ISSUE BY -- BY
AUTHORIZING COMMUNITIES TO HAVE THEIR OWN CHARTER.

OUR STATE HAS CHARTERED THIS COUNTY, AND THIS COUNTY CAN
CHARTER COMMUNITIES.

NOW, MY UNDERSTANDING IS THE COMMITTEE -- THIS COMMISSION
DID NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH THAT ISSUE.

WELL, I DON'T THINK -- I'LL JUST -- A FEW MORE MINUTES -- A
FEW MORE SECONDS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU NEED TO FINISH UP.

>> I DON'T THINK THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US NOT TO CHARTER
OUR OWN COMMUNITIES, GIVE -- EMPOWER THE COMMUNITIES FOR
WHAT THEY WANT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>> BUT IF THIS COMMISSION --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. COSENTINO, I NEED TO CUT YOU OFF.

>> I KNOW.

IF THIS COMMISSION DECIDES NOT TO DO IT, I THINK WE DESERVE
AN EXPLANATION WHY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

DO WE HAVE ANYONE ELSE HERE WHO WANTED TO SPEAK, PUBLIC

COMMENT?

MR. DAVIS.

MR. DAVIS, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF, AND YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

GREETINGS TO MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

I'M AL DAVIS, 3717 EAST WILDER AVENUE.

I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY DURING THE WEEKEND TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE CHARTER ITSELF.

NICE LITTLE DOCUMENT ABOUT 16 TO 17 PAGES, AND I WAS READING PARTICULARLY THE ROLE OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD AND HOW OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE CHARTER AMENDMENT COULD OCCUR, AND YOU KNOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, I REALLY COMMEND THIS BOARD FOR THIS SERVICE THAT THEY ARE PROVIDING TO THE COMMUNITY AT NO COMPENSATION.

BUT I THINK YOU DESERVE A WELL THANK SO FAR AS YOU HAVE GONE DOWN THE ROAD SO FAR.

I WAS TRYING TO RECOLLECT, MR. CHAIRMAN, HAS THIS BOARD DECIDED SOME PROPOSED CHANGES THEY CONTEMPLATE OFFERING?

I KNOW THERE'S BEEN SOME PROPOSALS, BUT I WASN'T SURE WHICH ONES HAS BEEN --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

I'LL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION REALLY QUICKLY.

>> OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE VETO PROVISION FOR THE MAYOR HAS

BEEN VOTED ON TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT, TO ELIMINATE THAT.

THAT'S BEEN PLACED ON THE BALLOT, AND THAT WAS THE MAYOR'S VETO.

AND THE OTHER ONE WAS THE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE -- THE MAPS, IF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAKES SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THOSE MAPS, WE HAVE VOTED TO PLACE ON THE BALLOT ADDING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THERE BE AN ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING.

>> VERY GOOD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO THOSE TWO ITEMS.

>> VERY GOOD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, SIR.

>> I WAS INTENDING TO BE AT THE LAST SESSION, BUT -- I MISSED IT, BUT I DID TURN ON THE TV, AND YOU-ALL DID WELL. I BEGAN TO SAY, WELL, MAYBE YOU-ALL ARE GETTING [INCOMPREHENSIBLE] TO EACH OTHER NOW SO TO THE EXTENT THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU COULD REALLY GET THE ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE YOU.

IF I HAVE ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY AT THE NEXT COMMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN, THEN I'LL ADD SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THAT I WOULD LIKE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU, MR. DAVIS.

NEXT UP MS. MARILYN SMITH.

YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES.

>> GOOD EVENING.

MARILYN SMITH, GRANDMOTHER-AT-LARGE, AND I'M AN OLD LADY WHO LIVES IN A SHOE.

HOW ABOUT THAT?

FOR REASONS I DON'T NEED TO TELL YOU ANYMORE THAN THAT.

YOU KNOW, THERE'S SOME PEOPLE THAT DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU KNOW THAT, BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAY AND WHAT I EXPOSE?

CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?

IN THIS COUNTRY?

WELL, IN THIS COUNTY WE GOT CORRUPTION, SO THERE YOU GO.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ACCOUNTABILITY.

DO YOU KNOW WHEN A COMMISSIONER COMES ONBOARD FINALLY GETS BOUGHT AND PUT UP THEY THEN HAVE A LITTLE -- I BELIEVE IT'S CALLED A SURETY BOND.

I THINK IT COSTS ABOUT \$350, AND IT ONLY COVERS ABOUT 2,000, THE FACE AMOUNT, AND YOU KNOW, TO SOME PEOPLE THAT'S JUST THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS, THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO THEM AT ALL SHOULD THEY VIOLATE THAT LITTLE SURETY BOND, AND THEY VIOLATE IT PLENTY, SO I THINK THAT OUGHT TO BE RAISED QUITE A BIT HIGHER TO 25,000, YOU KNOW.

IF YOU WANT TO PLAY IN THE BIG BOY'S GAME AND YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN BOUGHT OUT AND DONATED -- YOU KNOW, TO -- YOU

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO, SO LET'S RAISE IT.

I THINK IT SHOULD GO TO 25,000.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HERE, THESE DECISIONS THAT ARE BEING MADE.

I THINK IT SHOULD BE UP A LITTLE HIGHER.

AND THEN WE HAVE TERM LIMITS.

WE'RE BACK ON THAT.

YOU KNOW, PEOPLE SAY, OH, WELL, IF THEY RUN, TERM LIMITS.

NOT THE WAY THEY PLAY AROUND HERE, NOT THE WAY THEY HOPSCOTCH FROM PLACE TO PLACE AND END UP 19 YEARS ON A BOARD, 18 YEARS.

THAT'S RIDICULOUS, SO WE HAVE TO PROTECT OURSELVES.

EIGHT IS ENOUGH, OKAY.

FIGURE OUT A WAY TO DO IT.

RESIGN TO RUN.

I AM AMAZED THAT WE HAVE AIDES FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SITTING COMMISSIONERS, WHO ARE RUNNING FOR OFFICE.

HE DECIDED NOT TO CONTINUE TO RUN, BUT I REMEMBER WHEN THERE WAS AN EMPLOYEE -- AND THAT'S AN EMPLOYEE, AND UNDER THE CHARTER THEY SHOULDN'T EVEN BE INVOLVED IN ANY KIND OF POLITICS, AND BOY, THEY'RE INVOLVED UP TO THEIR HIPS.

SEE THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE.

THIS IS WRONG.

I MEAN, CHARTER IS TOTALLY DISREGARDED, AND REALLY, THE

BIGGEST DISREGARDING HAS BEEN DONE LATELY BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

HE DIDN'T CARE IF IT HAD FUNDING, HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING, HE JUST CARED ABOUT GETTING ENOUGH DONATIONS SO HE COULD GET WHAT HE WANTED, AND I THINK THAT IS ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING.

I'M TRYING TO GET RID OF HIM ANYWAY, BUT BEYOND THAT, WE DON'T HAVE VERY MANY HONEST PEOPLE ON OUR BOARD, WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT AND WHETHER YOU'RE WILLING TO ADMIT IT OR NOT.

THEY'RE NOT VERY HONEST AT ALL, AND THEY ARE PRETTY MUCH SWAYED BY WHO GIVES THEM WHAT KIND OF A DONATION, AND I -- I'LL -- I DON'T -- I'M NOT AFRAID TO SAY IT.

I DON'T CARE.

I'VE BEEN THREATENED BEFORE.

SO WHAT.

WHO CARES?

THE POINT IS WE HAVE A CRUMMY GOVERNMENT RIGHT NOW.

IT'S NOT A FORM OF GOVERNMENT, IT'S CRUMMY PEOPLE.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU, MRS. SMITH.

IS THERE ANY OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT?

OKAY.

WE'LL MOVE ON WITH OUR AGENDA.

I JUST WANTED TO MENTION I RECEIVED TWO NOTES, ONE FROM MR.

ARIEL QUINTELA -- THESE CAME THROUGH EDITH STEWART -- THAT HE WAS GOING TO BE UNABLE TO MAKE THE MEETING TONIGHT, HE IS ILL, AND THE OTHER ONE FROM MR. JOE AMON, HE ALSO IS UNABLE TO MAKE THE MEETING, SO I JUST WANTED TO ENTER THESE LETTERS INTO THE RECORD.

NEXT UP ON OUR AGENDA WE HAVE MR. RICHARD GARRITY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION, HERE TO SPEAK WITH -- BEFORE US.

WELCOME.

>>RICK GARRITY: GOOD EVENING, MEMBERS OF THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: GOOD EVENING.

>>RICK GARRITY: MY NAME IS RICK GARRITY.

I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION, AND I'VE ASKED EDITH IF SHE COULD HAND OUT SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR AGENCY, AND WE APPRECIATE THE INVITATION TO BE HERE TONIGHT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

AND WE ARE MENTIONED IN THE CHARTER ON PAGE 18 IN SECTION 9.10.

IT SAYS, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, THIS SHALL BE FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND ITS MUNICIPALITIES A SINGLE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION CREATED BY SUCH SPECIAL LAW OR LAWS WHICH NEED NOT BE APPROVED BY REFERENDUM.

AND I THINK THAT PRETTY ACCURATELY DESCRIBES WHO WE ARE,

AND FROM A STAFF PERSPECTIVE, THAT LANGUAGE IS PERFECTLY ADEQUATE, AND WE HAVE NO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY CHANGES, BUT I THOUGHT WHAT I MIGHT DO IS TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY IF THE TIME ALLOWS TO LET YOU KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EPC, WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, AND SO THAT YOU CAN PERHAPS GET A LITTLE BIT BETTER FLAVOR OF THE AGENCY.

AND SOME OF THE INFORMATION I'LL GO OVER IS ON THAT RACK CARD.

WE WERE FORMED IN 1967 BY A SPECIAL ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE, AND THAT FORMED THE EPC, AND I LEARNED ABOUT A YEAR AGO THAT TERRELL SESSUMS HAD -- WAS THE LEGISLATOR WHO ACTUALLY INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION TO FORM THE AGENCY, AND WHAT I LEARNED A YEAR AGO IS WHY HE DID IT.

HE HAD A BOAT DOWN IN HIS HOME IN HIS BACKYARD OR FRONT YARD DOWN AT DAVIS ISLAND AND OFTEN TRIED TO CLEAN IT, WASH IT FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER, AND AS HE RELAYED, BY THE TIME HE FINISHED GETTING FROM THE FRONT OF THE BOAT TO THE BACK OF THE BOAT, THE FRONT WAS ALREADY DIRTY AGAIN FROM SOOT IN THE AIR, AND THAT WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CONVINCED HIM THAT THERE NEEDED TO BE A LOCAL COUNTY-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY TO LOOK AFTER AIR ISSUES, IN THAT CASE AIR ISSUES, AND WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN THE COUNTY, SO AS A RESULT OF THAT, EPC WAS BORN IN 1967.

WE HAVE VARIOUS DIVISIONS, FUNCTIONS.

WE'RE ACTUALLY SEPARATE FROM THE COUNTY BUT RUN BY THE SAME COMMISSION, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF OUR BOARD IS ON YOUR AGENDA ALSO TONIGHT.

COMMISSIONER AL HIGGINBOTHAM IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION.

AND SOME PEOPLE ASK IF THAT'S A STRANGE SITUATION OR AWKWARD, BUT IT WORKS OUT PRETTY WELL.

WE HAVE -- THEY -- THE COMMISSIONERS SIT ONCE A MONTH, THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, AS THE BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION.

WE GO OVER ISSUES AFFECTING THE AGENCY, REPORTS ON VARIOUS ACTIVITIES TO THE BOARD.

THAT GROUP -- THAT BOARD HAS TO VOTE ON ANY RULES THAT ARE ENACTED BY THE AGENCY, SO WE BRING OUR STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEM, AND THEY TAKE FINAL ACTION ON -- ON ANY RULES THAT WE HAVE OR AUTHORIZING ANY LEGAL ACTIONS SUCH AS A LAWSUIT.

SO WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO NOW IS MAYBE JUST KIND OF GO THROUGH THE AGENCY AND LET YOU KNOW THE DIVISIONS THAT WE HAVE.

I'VE TOLD YOU WHO WE ARE GOVERNED BY, BY OUR COMMISSION, AND WE HAVE SEVERAL DIVISIONS.

WE HAVE A WATER DIVISION.

THE WATER DIVISION CONSISTS OF STAFF THAT DO PERMITTING COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT FOR WASTEWATER ISSUES.

THIS COULD BE ANYTHING FROM AN INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER SOURCE

TO A DOMESTIC WASTEWATER SOURCE.

MOST OF THIS PROGRAM IS CONDUCTED UNDER DELEGATION FROM THE STATE, FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

WE ALSO -- IN THIS WATER DIVISION WE HAVE AN EXTENSIVE BAY MONITORING PROGRAM.

WE MONITOR WATER QUALITY AND SEDIMENT QUALITY IN TAMPA BAY AND IN ALL OF THE TRIBUTARIES TO TAMPA BAY.

THAT INFORMATION IS PROBABLY THE LONGEST-RUNNING AND PROBABLY ONE OF THE BEST SETS OF DATA ON WATER QUALITY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

IT WAS STARTED SHORTLY AFTER THE AGENCY WAS BORN BY ROGER STEWART, THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY, AND CONTINUES TO THIS DATE AND IS -- SOME PEOPLE MAY SAY, WELL, WHY DO YOU -- WHAT'S THE USE OF THIS DATA, WHY DO YOU CONTINUOUSLY GATHER WATER QUALITY INFORMATION ON TAMPA BAY?

AND IT TURNS OUT IT IS USED FOR ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

IT'S USED TO MEASURE THE HEALTH OF THE BAY, IT'S USED BY THE TAMPA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM AND THE NITROGEN MANAGEMENT CONSORTIUM THAT WORKS WITH THE ESTUARY PROGRAM TO SUGGEST REGULATORY LIMITS TO FDEP AND EPA ON WHAT SHOULD BE THE LIMITS ON NUTRIENT DISCHARGES TO THE BAY.

IF THAT DATA WAS NOT THERE, THE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL GROUP WOULD NOT HAVE ANY SCIENTIFIC BASIS, BUT, IN FACT, THAT DATA IS THERE, AND THE

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE ESTUARY PROGRAM TO DEP AND EPA CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT, AND I THINK THE CONSORTIUM OF PUBLIC -- PUBLIC UTILITIES AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY THAT BELONG TO THAT GROUP HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD TO DEVELOP GOOD RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON WHAT THOSE LIMITATIONS SHOULD BE.

AND AS A RESULT OF THAT, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY -- THOSE -- THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LOCAL GROUP WILL BE ACCEPTED BY FDEP AS THE NUTRIENT LIMITS FOR TAMPA BAY.

SO THAT'S CERTAINLY AN IMPORTANT USE OF OUR DATA.

OUR DATA WAS USED AS A MEASURE OF WHETHER OR NOT TO PERMIT THE DESAL FACILITY.

TAMPA BAY WATER OWNED A DESALINATION PLANT.

EVERYBODY WAS WONDERING IF THE DESALINATION PLANT WOULD HAVE ANY NEGATIVE IMPACT TO THE BAY, AND OUR DATA WAS USED EXTENSIVELY IN THE MODELING OF WHAT THAT IMPACT WOULD BE, IF ANY, AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THE MODELING HAS COME OUT VERY, VERY CLOSE TO THE ACTUAL MEASUREMENTS THAT WE HAVE TAKEN SINCE THE DESALINATION PLANT HAS BEEN IN OPERATION.

WE ALSO HAVE A CHEMISTRY LABORATORY TO PROCESS THE INFORMATION FROM THE FIELD.

WE HAVE A WETLANDS DIVISION, AND WE ARE VERY CLOSE IN OUR WETLANDS DIVISION TO BEING THE FIRST AGENCY IN THE STATE FOR -- AN INDIVIDUAL FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF ACTIVITIES TO BE ABLE TO GO TO ONE DOOR, ONE PLACE AND GET PERMISSION FROM

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT, FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND IN THIS CASE A FOURTH GOVERNMENT, THE PORT AUTHORITY ALL FROM ONE AGENCY, AND RIGHT NOW WE ALREADY HAVE A DELEGATION AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT AUTHORITY, BUT VERY SOON, I THINK WITHIN ABOUT 90 DAYS, WE HOPE TO HAVE COMPLETED DELEGATION FOR SOME WETLAND ACTIVITIES FROM THE FDEP, AND WE'RE VERY PROUD OF THAT. WE HAVE AN AIR DIVISION, AND AGAIN, JUST SIMILAR TO THE WATER DIVISION, THEY DO PERMITTING COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

THEY'RE VERY -- THEY HAVE VERY EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES AND DO MOST OF THE AIR PERMITTING.

A LOT OF THAT IS, AGAIN, UNDER DELEGATION FROM THE STATE, AND THEY ALSO HAVE AN EXTENSIVE AIR MONITORING NETWORK SET UP ACROSS THE COUNTY MEASURING UNHEALTHY OR HEALTHY AIR DAYS, AS THE CASE MAY BE, AND YOU MAY SEE FROM TIME TO TIME AN UNHEALTHY ADVISORY, UNHEALTHY AIR ADVISORY FROM EPC, AND WE -- WE ARE ABLE TO FROM OUR OFFICE CONNECT WITH OUR AIR MONITORING STATIONS VIA TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONICALLY GET THAT INFORMATION THEN IMMEDIATELY OUT TO ANYBODY WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN IT, INCLUDING ALL OF THE NEWS MEDIA.

WE ALSO HAVE AN EXTENSIVE AIR MONITORING NETWORK FOR BIOLOGICAL AGENTS THAT COULD BE USED BY TERRORISM AGENTS, AND WE REPORT THAT INFORMATION DIRECTLY TO THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

IN OUR AIR DIVISION WE HAVE A NOISE RULE, AND YOU MAY SAY, WELL, WHY IS IT IN THE AIR DIVISION?

I GUESS IT'S THERE BECAUSE NOISE TRAVELS THROUGH THE AIR, AND THE NOISE -- ACTUALLY, THE -- NOISE IS ADDRESSED SPECIFICALLY IN OUR SPECIAL ACT AS SOMETHING EPC SHOULD ADDRESS, AND IT'S ACTUALLY ONE OF OUR BUSIEST ACTIVITIES. I THINK WE HAD 350 COMPLAINTS LAST YEAR ABOUT NOISE ISSUES, AND IT COULD BE ANYTHING FROM -- PROBABLY THE BIGGEST CASE WE HAD IN RECENT MEMORY WAS THE AMPHITHEATRE.

THAT HAS -- THAT HAS BEEN SETTLED WITH GREAT SUCCESS, AND WE'RE DOWN FROM 50 OR 60 COMPLAINTS PER -- PER INCIDENT TO MAYBE TWO, AND SO THAT WAS A BIG SUCCESS.

AM I CLOSE TO NEEDING TO WRAP UP HERE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YOU HAVE -- YOU HAVE MORE TIME.

>>RICK GARRITY: OKAY.

ALL RIGHT.

AND WE ALSO HAVE STAFF THAT GOES OUT ON A LOT OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT BARS OPERATING LOUD MUSIC EVENTS LATE AT NIGHT, SO STAFF IS ON CALL TO TRY TO RESPOND TO CITIZENS' ISSUES AT SOME OF THE WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING ALSO.

WE HAVE A WASTE DIVISION, AND WE REGULATE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, AND THE WASTE DIVISION ALSO IS OUR SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR GROUP.

WE INSPECT THOUSANDS OF SMALL BUSINESSES TO TRY TO SUGGEST TO THEM WAYS TO -- IF THEY DO PRODUCE A WASTE PRODUCT, TO

TRY TO ALTER THEIR PROCESSES TO PRODUCE SOMETHING THAT COULD BE LESS TOXIC AND PROBABLY END UP SAVING THEM LOTS OF MONEY IN DOING THAT.

UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE STATE WE OPERATED THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK, THAT'S THE PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK PROGRAM, WITH COMPLIANCE CHECKS FOR LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS AND ALSO REGULATE THE CLEANUP OF SITES ONCE THEY DO BECOME CONTAMINATED.

WE OPERATE THE BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM, AND IF YOU LOOK ON THE FRONT OF YOUR RACK CARD, DOWN AT THE BOTTOM THERE'S A PICTURE OF THE IKEA SITE.

THAT IKEA SITE WAS -- BEFORE IKEA WAS THERE WAS A PRETTY USELESS PIECE OF PROPERTY, AND AS A RESULT OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THAT SITE AND SPIRITING ALONG IN A VERY, VERY TIMELY MANNER THE CLEANUP OF THE SITE THROUGH THE BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM, THAT SITE NOW IS ABLE TO EMPLOY 350 INDIVIDUALS.

THE PROPERTY TAXES HAVE NEARLY QUADRUPLED, AND THE SITE IS BRINGING IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SALES TAX REVENUE.

WE OPERATE WITH A BUDGET THAT IS ABOUT 50% GENERAL FUND AND 50% CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND FEES.

AND I WOULD LIKE TO ALSO MENTION THAT WE'RE CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH A STERLING MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF THE AGENCY.

TRIED TO MIMIC A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT DOUG BELDEN HAS DONE AND LEARNING FROM WHAT HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPLEMENT

SUCCESSFULLY IN HIS AGENCY AND BRING SOME OF THOSE IDEAS OVER TO EPC.

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE ARE BOTH IN AIR AND WATER.

THE AIR SEEMS TO BE GETTING CLEANER, BUT THE STANDARDS ARE GETTING TIGHTER, SO EVEN THOUGH WE ARE DOING PRETTY WELL IN AIR ISSUES, THE FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR CLEAN AIR ARE NOT WHAT THEY WERE TEN OR 15 YEARS AGO.

THEY'VE BECOME MUCH, MUCH MORE STRINGENT.

SO WE'RE WORKING WITH THAT.

IT'S DEFINITELY A CHALLENGE FOR US TO TRY TO IMPLEMENT THOSE STANDARDS AND WORK WITH THE INDUSTRY TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THOSE STANDARDS.

AND THEN FINALLY WITH WATER QUALITY ISSUES, THIS -- THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED IMPAIRED WATERS THAT ARE DETERMINED BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IF A BODY OF WATER IS IMPAIRED OR DOES NOT MEET ITS STANDARDS, AND THAT IS ALSO A CHALLENGE BECAUSE TO -- TO BE ABLE TO COME INTO COMPLIANCE ONCE YOUR BODY OF WATER IS DETERMINED TO BE IMPAIRED CAN BE VERY, VERY COSTLY.

SO OUR DATA IS USED TO TRY TO MEASURE THE -- OUR ABILITY TO NOT ONLY KNOW WHETHER OUR BODY OF WATER IS IMPAIRED BUT HOW TO CLEAN IT UP, AND WE'RE WORKING WITH ALL OF THE LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND PRIVATE -- PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO -- ON WAYS TO DO THAT.

THAT'S KIND OF A NICKEL-AND-DIME OVERVIEW OF THE AGENCY.

I'LL BE HAPPY TO TRY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS OR GET INTO MORE SPECIFICS AS YOU PLEASE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. TOKLEY.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: DR. GARRITY, THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH FOR COMING --

>>RICK GARRITY: YES, SIR.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: -- AND SPENDING TIME TO INFORM US.

THE WORLD FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS OR MORE AND JUST RECENTLY HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE BP OIL SPILL.

HEAVEN FORBID, BUT WHAT ROLE WOULD YOUR ORGANIZATION PLAY IF TAMPA BAY WERE THE VICTIM OF SOME SUCH CATASTROPHE?

>>RICK GARRITY: WELL, WE WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE COAST GUARD AND WITH FDEP.

THE COAST GUARD AND THE STATE AGENCY DEP ARE THE PRIMARY AGENTS IN CHARGE.

THEY WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE INCIDENT COMMAND CENTER IN THE EVENT OF AN OIL SPILL, FOR INSTANCE, AND FOLLOWING THE BP OIL SPILL, WE HAVE BEEN IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH BOTH OF THOSE GROUPS, MEETING TO DETERMINE IF -- HEAVEN FORBID IF THE OIL DID HEAD IN THIS DIRECTION, WHAT WE SHOULD ALL DO.

THERE'S A PLAN OF ACTION ALREADY SET OUT, AND EVERYBODY KNOWS -- ALL THE DIFFERENT AGENCIES KNOW WHAT IT IS, WHERE

YOU WOULD PLACE BOOMS TO TRY TO PREVENT OIL GETTING INTO SENSITIVE AREAS.

THERE'S SOME AREAS THAT ARE VERY HARD TO PROTECT, AND THAT -- THOSE ARE -- LIKE FOR INSTANCE, YOU CAN'T PUT A BOOM ACROSS TAMPA BAY AND KEEP THE OIL FROM COMING INTO THE BAY.

THE CURRENT IS JUST TOO STRONG TO DO THAT, SO YOU HAVE TO GO INTO THE SENSITIVE AREAS LIKE AROUND COCKROACH BAY, AND THOSE ARE THE AREAS THAT YOU'D PLACE BOOMS TO TRY TO PROTECT THOSE AREAS TO KEEP OIL FROM GETTING IN THERE.

WE WERE HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE 1993 BOAT COLLISION INCIDENT IN TAMPA BAY WHERE THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT OIL SPILL, AND SIMILARLY FOR A HURRICANE INCIDENT, WE WORKED WITH -- ACTUALLY IN 2004 WE WORKED WITH HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT TRYING TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO HANDLE THE TONS AND TONS OF SOLID WASTE THAT ACCUMULATED FOLLOWING THAT HURRICANE AND HOW BEST TO DISPOSE OF THAT.

WE HELPED THEM SITE THE -- THE TEMPORARY SITES WHERE YOU WOULD PLACE YARD TRASH AND THEN THE BURNERS THAT YOU WOULD INSTALL TO TRY TO INCINERATE THAT YARD TRASH OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF IT, SO YES, THAT WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR US.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: THAT BRINGS -- IF I MIGHT ASK ONE MORE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: -- TO MIND A QUESTION ABOUT SOMETHING THAT I WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH, WHICH IS QUITE FASCINATING, AND THAT'S THE UNHEALTHY AND HEALTHY AIR DAYS.

I MUST ADMIT I'VE NEVER HEARD A WEATHER FORECASTER WARN US ABOUT HEALTHY OR UNHEALTHY AIR.

TO WHAT DEGREE ARE WE VICTIMS OF UNHEALTHY AIR, AND IS IT SOMETHING THAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO BE MADE AWARE OF AS REGULARLY AS WE'RE MADE AWARE OF THUNDERSTORMS, ET CETERA?

>>RICK GARRITY: YES, AND WE -- WE DO PUT OUT OUR INFORMATION TO THE VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER TYPES OF MEDIA.

I THINK IN THE TRIBUNE AND THE ST. PETE TIMES ON THE WEATHER FORECAST PAGE THERE IS -- IT MAY BE IN SMALL PRINT, SO I'LL HAVE TO CHECK ON THAT TO SEE HOW VISIBLE IT IS.

I THINK THERE'S AN INDICATION OF THE HEALTH OF THE AIR FOR THAT PARTICULAR DAY, AND IF YOU GO ON OUR WEB SITE AT EPCHC.ORG, YOU CAN ACTUALLY CLICK AND GET AN INSTANT READING OF THE HEALTH OF THE AIR LOCALLY AND EVEN ACROSS THE STATE ON MAPS.

IT'S VERY, VERY INTERESTING.

ON THE BACK OF THE RACK CARD YOU SEE THIS -- THE CHART AT THE BOTTOM DEPICTS THE NUMBER OF UNHEALTHY AIR DAYS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

GENERALLY THE TREND SEEMS TO BE GETTING A LITTLE BIT BETTER FROM -- I SEE 13 AS A HIGH IN THE LATE 1990s TO SIX AND

FIVE AND THREE MORE RECENTLY, BUT THIS YEAR WE'VE HAD A FEW MORE DAYS THAN THAT.

IT'S -- IT'S INFLUENCED SOMEWHAT BY POLLUTION, BUT IT'S ALSO INFLUENCED BY METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND EVENTS SUCH AS -- EVEN IF YOU RECALL A FEW YEARS BACK WHEN THEY HAD THE BIG FOREST FIRES LOCALLY HERE AND EVEN MANY YEARS BEFORE THAT IN MEXICO, THAT ALL GOES IN TO INFLUENCING READINGS THAT COULD CAUSE IT TO BE AN UNHEALTHY AIR DAY.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU KNOW, I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE THAT THE CHANNEL -- THE SHIPPING CHANNEL IS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, THAT CHANNEL THAT GOES UNDER THE SKYWAY IS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND IT GOES ALL THE WAY OUT TO THE GULF, AND SO WITH THIS OIL SPILL, ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING IN A DIFFERENT MANNER TO MONITOR THAT CHANNEL AND THE WATER THAT'S COMING IN AND OUT AS TO WHETHER THERE'S ANY IMPACT ON OIL?

AND THEN ON ANOTHER ISSUE, I NOTICED THIS WEEKEND THAT I THINK THEY ONLY CAUGHT 35 SCALLOPS IN THE GREAT SCALLOP SEARCH, AND LAST YEAR THEY HAD 600.

HOW ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THAT OIL SPILL TO THE BAY BECAUSE, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND YOU ARE -- ARE THE EYES AND EARS FOR WHAT'S

GOING TO COME IN TO THAT BAY BECAUSE OF THE COUNTY'S OWNERSHIP -- WELL, THE FACT THAT IT'S ALL IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>RICK GARRITY: WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT, THE CHANNEL DOES GO ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE BRIDGE, AND HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ACTUALLY GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE SUNSHINE SKYWAY BRIDGE. I THINK OUR WATER QUALITY MONITORING EFFORT THAT WE HAVE GOING ON NOW IS -- IS -- REMAINS EXCELLENT.

WE HAVE TOUGH BUDGET TIMES, AND -- AS YOU ALL KNOW IN THE COUNTY, BUT ONE OF OUR PRIORITIES I'VE TRIED TO MAINTAIN AT EPC IS MAINTAINING THE WATER QUALITY NETWORK IN THE BAY BECAUSE I THINK IT IS THAT IMPORTANT AND JUST FOR REASONS LIKE -- LIKE YOU'RE SAYING.

I THINK OUR MONITORING EFFORT NOW IS SUFFICIENT TO BE USED TO -- FOR ANY PURPOSES LIKE BACKGROUND DATA, TO HAVE THAT AVAILABLE IN THE EVENT THERE WAS OIL INTRUSION INTO THE BAY.

IN FACT, I MADE THOSE COMMENTS TO THE NAVY SECRETARY MABUS WHEN HE WAS IN TOWN RECENTLY THAT THEY NEED TO LOOK AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION ON HAVING BACKGROUND DATA AVAILABLE.

>>JAN PLATT: ARE YOU PARTNERING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA AND THEIR SCIENTISTS?

IT SEEMS LIKE THEY HAVE A LOT OF MARINE SCIENTISTS THESE DAYS WHO ARE DEALING WITH THAT OIL.

>>RICK GARRITY: YES, COMMISSIONER.

WE PARTNER WITH EVERYBODY THAT WE CAN, INCLUDING CERTAINLY THE UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS, AND FRANKLY, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED AT THE SCALLOP.

I SAW THAT IN THE NEWSPAPER TOO.

IT WAS STARTING FROM 600 TO 35, AND JAY LEVERONE, WHO IS THE SCIENCE ADVISOR FOR THE SARASOTA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM, REMARKED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED, THAT HE DOES NOT ATTRIBUTE IT TO WATER -- TO WATER QUALITY, HE ATTRIBUTES IT PERHAPS TO SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE SCALLOP THAT MAYBE WE DON'T UNDERSTAND YET.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, IT MAY WELL BE RAIN.

HAVING SCALLOPED ALL MY LIFE, WHEN THERE'S LOTS OF RAIN SCALLOPS GO AWAY, SO IT MAY BE BECAUSE WE'VE HAD SO MUCH RAIN, SO YOU MIGHT FACTOR THAT IN.

>>RICK GARRITY: WE HAVE A DICHOTOMY.

WE WANT MORE RAIN BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT A DROUGHT SITUATION, WE WANT PLENTY OF WATER TO DRINK, BUT --

>>JAN PLATT: CAN'T WIN.

>>RICK GARRITY: -- IT'S ALSO THE FACTS OF LIVING HERE THAT IF YOU DO GET A LOT OF HEAVY RAIN, THAT WILL FLUSH POLLUTANTS INTO THE BAY, SO THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. FISHER.

>>RALPH FISHER: DR. GARRITY, THANK YOU FOR COMING BEFORE US TODAY.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET OF YOUR ORGANIZATION, SIR?

>>RICK GARRITY: IT IS ABOUT 14 -- \$14 MILLION PER -- ANNUALLY.

>>RALPH FISHER: AND HOW -- YOU SAID THE STATE DELEGATES A LOT OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT TO YOUR AGENCY?

>>RICK GARRITY: YES.

>>RALPH FISHER: DO THEY GIVE YOU ANY MONEY FOR THAT?

>>RICK GARRITY: WE GET THE APPLICATION FEES THAT THE STATE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IF THEY HAD PROCESSED.

>>RALPH FISHER: DOES IT COMPLETELY OFFSET THE COSTS OF THAT DELEGATION?

>>RICK GARRITY: WELL, WE -- WE WERE -- ACTUALLY, WE HAD OUR OWN PERMITTING PROGRAMS IN EXISTENCE PRIOR TO THE DELEGATION.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EPC HAD ITS OWN PERMITTING PROGRAMS, SO THERE WAS NO INCREASE IN STAFF TO ACTUALLY ENACT THE DELEGATION.

>>RALPH FISHER: SO IF, FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR AGENCY DIDN'T EXIST, COULD IT BE THAT THE STATE WOULD THEN COVER THOSE FUNCTIONS AND THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR LOCAL MONEY TO BE PAYING FOR THOSE FUNCTIONS?

>>RICK GARRITY: THEY MAY COVER SOME OF THE FUNCTIONS, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE -- THE FUNCTIONS WOULD NOT BE COVERED ANYWHERE NEAR AS COMPLETELY AS THEY CAN BE COVERED BY A LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR IN AS SPEEDY A TIME AS WE ARE ABLE TO

CONDUCT BUSINESS.

>>RALPH FISHER: ARE THERE COUNTIES THAT DON'T HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION?

>>RICK GARRITY: YES, THERE ARE.

>>RALPH FISHER: IN FLORIDA?

>>RICK GARRITY: MOST OF THE LARGE COUNTIES DO HAVE AGENCIES OR DEPARTMENTS SIMILAR TO OURS, AND IN FACT, I BELIEVE THIS IS THE ONLY PROGRAM THAT IS ORGANIZED IN EXACTLY THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT WE ARE, BUT MOST LARGE COUNTIES DO HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENTS.

>>RALPH FISHER: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: DR. GARRITY, THANK YOU FOR COMING.

I GUESS I'M GOING TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE CITIZEN THAT SPOKE AT OUR LAST CHARTER BOARD MEETING AND REQUESTED THAT THIS BOARD -- THIS CHARTER BOARD LOOK INTO EXPANDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION, AND SOME OF THE THOUGHTS WAS HAVE ADDITIONAL CITIZENS SIT ON THE BOARD OR HAVE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES OR THE MAYORS FROM THE MUNICIPALITIES SIT AS A PART OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION, AND EARLIER IN YOUR TALK YOU MENTIONED SECTION 9.10 THAT OUTLINED YOUR ROLE IN THIS COUNTY WITHIN THE CHARTER, AND YOU SAY YOU DIDN'T RECOMMEND ANY CHANGES.

CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME REASONS WHY THIS BOARD -- IF WE WERE TO ADVOCATE SENDING A RESOLUTION TO THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION REQUESTING A CHANGE IN THE SPECIAL ACT, CAN YOU GIVE US SOME REASONS WHY WE SHOULD NOT SEND A LETTER TO THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DELEGATION REQUESTING, SAY, THE MAYORS OF TAMPA, PLANT CITY, OR TEMPLE TERRACE SIT AS A PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY?

>>RICK GARRITY: OKAY.

I NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR.

I'M GIVING YOU A REPORT TONIGHT FROM THE STAFF PERSPECTIVE, AS I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY, AND MY REMARKS ARE IN THAT -- IN THAT VEIN AS A STAFF REPORT.

THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD, I CAN TELL YOU THAT -- THAT I FEEL LIKE WE HAVE A WELL-FUNCTIONING AGENCY AND THE WHEELS ARE GREASED AND WE DO A GOOD JOB, AND I REAL DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ABOUT THE COMPOSITION OF -- OR CHANGES TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD.

IT IS MORE OF A POLITICAL ISSUE, I THINK.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

MY SECOND QUESTION, YOUR TALK, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU MENTION THE WORD "TAMPA" IN YOUR TALK, AND OVER THE YEARS IT HASN'T BEEN VERY LOUD, BUT THERE HAS BEEN SOME WHISPER OF THE AGENCY NOT REACHING DEEP INSIDE THE CITY, SPECIFICALLY TAMPA, THE INNER CITY, THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITIES.

THERE'S BEEN SOME RUMBLES, NOT LOUD.

THE PEOPLE, IN SOME INSTANCES IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO, YOU'RE NOT REACHING THEM.

WHEN YOU MENTION THE ENVIRONMENTAL -- IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, THEY DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR EXISTENCE.

WHY IS THAT?

IS THERE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, AND IF IT ISN'T, WHY NOT; AND IF IT IS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO REACH THE INNER CITY TO LET THE CITIZENS KNOW THAT YOU ARE AN ADVOCATE ON THEIR BEHALF AS IT RELATE TO THE ENVIRONMENT -- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

>>RICK GARRITY: WELL, MR. WHITE, THAT'S A GREAT QUESTION. THE -- FIRST OF ALL, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION, THE WAY WE ARE SET UP, WE ARE A COUNTYWIDE AGENCY, AND BECAUSE WE ARE A SEPARATE AGENCY, WE DON'T OPERATE UNDER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BECAUSE WE'RE SEPARATE, WE HAVE JURISDICTION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, INCLUDING ALL OF THE MUNICIPALITIES, SO ACTUALLY WE DO -- OUR AUTHORITY ENCOMPASSES THE ENTIRE CITY OF TAMPA, TEMPLE TERRACE, AND PLANT CITY, SO WE DO BUSINESS IN -- WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF TAMPA.

I WOULD TAKE WHAT YOU SAY MAYBE AS SOMETHING FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT FOR HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB AT WHAT WE DO IF WE'RE NOT COMMUNICATING TO ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF TAMPA.

I CAN GIVE YOU ONE INSTANCE OF A SPA MANUFACTURING PLANT THAT WANTED TO LOCATE WITHIN THE CITY OF TAMPA IN AN AREA OF THE -- I THINK THAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING, AND THERE WAS GREAT CITIZEN OPPOSITION TO THAT, AND STAFF AND MYSELF PERSONALLY WENT TO MANY PUBLIC FORUMS TO MEET WITH THE CITIZENS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF AIR EMISSIONS FROM THAT SPA PLANT, AND WE SET UP A SPECIAL MONITORING PROGRAM, AIR MONITORING PROGRAM, EVEN WITH A VEHICLE WITH A -- WITH A SPECIAL AIR QUALITY MEASURING DEVICE MOUNTED ON THE ROOF OF THE VEHICLE GOING UP AND DOWN THE STREETS TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT -- AND WE DID EVENTUALLY ISSUE THE PERMIT, BUT WE WANTED TO BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT NOT ONLY HAD WE DONE THE RIGHT THING IN ISSUING THE PERMIT BUT THAT WE FOLLOWED UP ON IT AFTER THE FACILITY WENT INTO OPERATION TO KNOW THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY DELETERIOUS IMPACTS.

AS FAR AS COMMUNICATING WITH CITIZENRY IN GENERAL, CITIZENS OF COLOR IN GENERAL, IF WE HAVE NOT BEEN -- IF THERE'S A LITTLE BIT OF A MURMUR THERE, I'M GLAD YOU MENTIONED THAT. THAT'S SOMETHING IN MY CAPACITY I WOULD LIKE TO CONCENTRATE ON.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

I APPRECIATE THAT.

MY FINAL THOUGHT, I NEED TO ASK THIS BECAUSE I DID REVIEW YOUR BUDGET AND I NOTICED THAT -- I DON'T KNOW IF THE

ADMINISTRATOR OR -- RECOMMENDED YOU-ALL WORK IT OUT AND
CREATE YOUR BUDGET, BUT I NOTICED THAT THERE'S A LOT OF
COST SAVINGS AND A LOT OF REDUCTIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL -
- YOUR BUDGET, AND SO WITH THESE -- WITH THESE REDUCTIONS
IN PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMS THAT YOU'RE GOING TO -- USED TO
PERFORM, HOW ARE THESE CUTS GOING TO AFFECT THE ENFORCEMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY?

>>RICK GARRITY: ANOTHER GOOD QUESTION.

WE HAVE -- OVER THE LAST THREE OR SO YEARS, WE HAVE REDUCED
OUR STAFF BY ABOUT 25%.

WE'VE GONE FROM ABOUT 175 TO ABOUT 133 OR SO FOLKS.

WE HAVE TRIED TO DO THAT, AND IT'S -- I'M NOT GOING TO KID
YOU AT ALL.

IT'S BEEN TOUGH.

IT'S BEEN REALLY VERY DIFFICULT, AND THROUGHOUT THIS
PROCESS WE HAVE TRIED TO MAIN -- TO DO IT IN A WAY WHERE
WE'RE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY.

I'VE CUT THREE DIVISION DIRECTOR-LEVEL POSITIONS; IN OTHER
WORDS, CUT RIGHT AT THE TOP, AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT I
THINK MIKE MERRILL IS SUGGESTING OR HAS DONE RECENTLY IN
THE COUNTY.

WE DID THAT AT EPC TWO YEARS AGO.

WE ALSO HAVE CUT OUR ADMINISTRATIVE BACK-OFFICE STAFF BY
ABOUT A THIRD, AND THAT'S THE FOLKS RUNNING THE BUDGET, THE
I.T. SECTION, THE PERSONNEL SECTION, HAVE CUT THEM TO THE

BONES WHERE I GO TO WORK EVERY DAY AND I JUST -- THESE FOLKS THAT ARE DOING THIS WORK ARE JUST -- CAN -- THEY'RE KEEPING UP WITH IT, BUT IT'S LIKE KEEPING YOUR NOSE ABOVE WATER.

WE'RE TRYING TO FIND EVERY -- BUT WE -- MR. WHITE, WE UNDERSTAND THE TERRIBLE ECONOMIC SITUATION THAT EXISTS, AND WE UNDERSTAND IF THE MONEY'S NOT THERE -- IF THE MONEY'S NOT COMING IN THE DOOR IN THE GENERAL FUND THAT YOU NEED TO TRY TO FIND SMARTER WAYS OF DOING THINGS.

WE'VE INSTITUTED A PROGRAM WHERE WE OUTFIT FIVE OF OUR VEHICLES IN THE SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR SECTION WITH COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS AND -- THAT ARE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY BACK TO THE OFFICE.

THOSE INDIVIDUALS ONLY COME INTO THE OFFICE ONE DAY A WEEK, AND THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTIVITY SIGNIFICANTLY BY DOING THAT.

WE'RE DOING CROSS-MEDIA TRAINING OF PERSONNEL SO THAT -- WE WANT TO GET TO A POSITION WHERE IF YOU AN AIR PERSON OUT TO EXAMINE SOMETHING AND THERE'S SOME WASTE ISSUE THAT MAYBE THEY CAN HANDLE THAT ALSO, SO CROSS-TRAINING IS ANOTHER THING THAT WE'RE DOING, BUT YOU CAN'T DO EXACTLY THE SAME THING WITH 132 PEOPLE THAT YOU WERE DOING WITH 175.

THAT'S JUST -- THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, BUT WE'RE TRYING HARD AND WE'RE -- WE'RE HOPING THAT THE STERLING MANAGEMENT REVIEW PROCESS WE'RE GOING THROUGH WILL BE OF

GREAT BENEFIT IN HELPING US FIND WAYS TO STREAMLINE AND DO THINGS SMARTER AND BETTER.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I'LL JUST CLOSE WITH THIS, MR. CHAIR.

I KNOW I -- BUT I WOULD JUST HOPE THAT THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION, WHICH HAPPENS TO BE OUR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WILL, YOU KNOW, KEEP THE CITIZENS INFORMED ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT. AND IS THERE AN ANNUAL REPORT?

YOU KNOW, WHERE IS THIS -- IF I WANTED TO LOOK AT THIS VERY MOMENT AND SEE WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, WHERE WOULD I FIND IT?

>>RICK GARRITY: WE ARE -- AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING I AM GOING TO DO A STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE COMMISSIONERS, AND YOU CAN SEE IT -- YOU CAN SEE MY -- THE LAST ONE I DID LAST SEPTEMBER ON OUR WEB SITE AT EPCHC.ORG. WE ARE -- IN THE EFFORT TO STREAMLINE AND SAVE MONEY, WE HAVE STOPPED PRINTING A FANCY BROCHURE OF THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

WE USED TO PRODUCE A PRETTY NICE ONE, BUT THAT WAS COSTLY TO DO THAT.

WE'RE MOVING AWAY FROM PAPER AND MORE IN TO ELECTRONICS, CONDENSING INFORMATION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN TEN PAGES INTO RACK CARDS LIKE THIS TO TRY TO SUCCINCTLY BRING HOME TO PEOPLE THE INFORMATION THAT THEY NEED, BUT THE COMPLETE

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT ANYBODY CAN SEE ON OUR WEB SITE WITH THE ACTUAL VIDEO OF ME PRESENTING IT WITH THE POWERPOINT SLIDES ON THERE ALSO.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ACTUALLY, WE HAVE TIME FOR ONE MORE QUESTION.

COMMISSIONER HIGGINBOTHAM HAS BEEN WAITING PATIENTLY, AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE MOVE ON TO HIM.

MR. ROBINSON HAS A QUESTION, AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE ON WITH OUR AGENDA.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MR. GARRITY, APPRECIATE YOU COMING HERE.

HAVING SAT ON SWFWMD BASIN BOARD, I KNOW THINGS GET POLITICAL.

ONE OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT THAT LADY THAT GERALD'S TALKING ABOUT SAID THAT THERE'S A PROBLEM BECAUSE YOU GET YOUR MONEY FUNDED TO YOU BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION, THROUGH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, SO YOU PRETTY MUCH DON'T HAVE NO AUTONOMY.

YOU'VE GOT TO BEAT TO THE DRUM OF THE PEOPLE THAT'S GIVING YOU MONEY, AND ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAS BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT AND THE TAKING OF WETLANDS AND SO FORTH.

DO YOU FEEL THAT THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE TO GET YOUR FUNDING FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSION, BEING THAT THE COUNTY

COMMISSION IS THE EPC -- THAT THAT MIGHT BE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

I MEAN, HERE YOU ARE THE EPC, YOU WORK FOR THE COUNTY COMMISSION, WHO IS ALSO THE EPC, WHO ALSO GIVES YOU YOUR FUNDING.

HOW CAN YOU BE, YOU KNOW, INDEPENDENT WHEN THEY'RE SITTING THERE PULLING YOUR PURSE STRINGS AND SAYING, WE'RE GOING TO FUND YOUR BUDGET?

AND I RECALL A FEW YEARS YOU WERE ABOUT READY TO LOSE THE WHOLE THING, SO I MEAN, HOW ARE YOU DEALING WITH THAT?

IS THAT -- DO YOU FEEL THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE ANY CHANGES? THE ONE LADY CAME HERE AND SPOKE HIGHLY THAT YOU GUYS SHOULD BE SELF -- GET YOUR FUNDING FROM AD VALOREM TAXES OR SOMETHING, THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BE TIED ANY KIND OF WAY TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION, WHO IS THE EPC.

>>RICK GARRITY: THAT'S AN INTERESTING THOUGHT.

WE HAVE NOT HAD THAT DISCUSSION WITH OUR -- WITH OUR BOARD ON THE POSSIBILITY OF GOING IN THAT DIRECTION, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT WE HAVE -- OUR BUDGET IS HALF FUNDED THROUGH CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND FEES, AND THE OTHER HALF IS THROUGH THE COUNTYWIDE GENERAL FUND, AND I THINK WE KEEP OUR REGULATORY WORK -- I DON'T THINK, I KNOW WE KEEP OUR REGULATORY WORK SEPARATE FROM OUR BUDGET WORK, AND WE'RE -- WE'RE ABLE TO WORK PRETTY CLOSELY WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, WITH MIKE MERRILL, AND ALSO WITH ERIC

JOHNSON, THE BUDGET DIRECTOR, TO -- TO BALANCE THE BUDGET. I'VE TOLD ERIC THAT IT'S MY JOB -- IF WE HAVE TO MAKE CUTS, IT'S MY JOB, AS DIRECTOR OF EPC, OF WHERE THOSE CUTS WOULD BE MADE IN THE AGENCY, AND HE UNDERSTANDS THAT AND AS DOES MR. MERRILL.

THE -- I THINK THINGS ARE WORKING PRETTY WELL, AND WE -- AS I SAY, WE GET HALF THE FUNDING THROUGH CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND FEES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: LET ME SAY WHY BECAUSE REMEMBER CONE RANCH, YOU KNOW, AND THEY WANTED TO DEVELOP THAT, AND ONE OF THE ISSUES WAS IS THAT THE EPC WAS NOT NECESSARILY BEING A STEWARD, THEY WERE YIELDING TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS POSSIBLY FOR DEVELOPERS, AND WE ALWAYS HEAR -- RIGHT NOW IT'S PROBABLY NOT IN DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMY, BUT EVENTUALLY IT'S GOING TO COME BACK AN ISSUE AGAIN, SO I'M JUST CONCERNED THAT SINCE YOU GOT THE EPC BEING THE COUNTY COMMISSION THAT WHEN THESE DEVELOPERS START CRANKING BACK UP AGAIN THAT YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO SORT OF BE NEUTERED.

PROBABLY I THINK YOUR REDUCTION IN YOUR BUDGET IS A REFLECTION OF THAT BECAUSE AT ONE TIME THEY WANTED TO GET RID OF YOU GUYS ALTOGETHER, BUT IF YOU DON'T FEEL IT'S A PROBLEM, I GUESS WE'RE NOT GOING TO ADDRESS IT, BUT I JUST KNOW THAT THE LADY HAD BROUGHT THAT UP, AND I JUST WANTED TO HEAR IF YOU HAD ANY INPUT TO IT BESIDES YOU AND MIKE

MERRILL GET ALONG ON A BUDGET.

I'M MORE INTERESTED IN THE POLITICS OF DEVELOPERS COMING TO ASK FOR DEVELOPMENT ZONING, LAND USE CHANGE, AND THEN YOU GUY HAVES TO DO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, AND HOW DO YOU GUYS KEEP THAT -- YOU KNOW, KEEP THE ETHICS STRAIGHT?

>>RICK GARRITY: WELL, THAT'S OUR JOB TO CALL 'EM AS WE SEE 'EM AS FAR AS REGULATORY DECISIONS, AND I HAVE TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS AND THE STAFF HAS TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS EVERY DAY ON PERMITS ISSUANCES OR DENIALS, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT THAT'S -- BUDGET IS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN WE MAKE THOSE REGULATORY DECISIONS.

BY THE WAY, A COUPLE YEARS AGO THE ISSUE -- YOU MENTIONED WE ALMOST LOST THE WHOLE BALL OF WAX, BUT THAT WAS SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING THE WETLANDS PROGRAM, AND THE WETLANDS PROGRAM IS ALIVE AND WELL AND DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB TODAY.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: ONE FINAL THING I WANT TO SAY ON A LOCAL LEVEL, ON A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, I HAD THIS EXPERIENCE TO WORK FOR A CLIENT, AND ONE OF THE THINGS I FOUND OUT THAT THE EPA DOESN'T -- EPC DOESN'T REGULATE IS FIRE PITS, YOU KNOW, BARBECUE PLACES, COMMERCIAL BARBECUE. THIS SMOKE WAS PROLIFERATING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, PEOPLE ARE COMPLAINING, AND WHEN I CALLED OVER TO THE OFFICE, THERE'S JUST NOTHING REALLY YOU GUYS DO TO REGULATE THAT. I WISH YOU GUYS WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT COMING UP WITH SOME

TYPE OF WAY TO REGULATE FIRE PITS, WHICH ARE BASICALLY CALLED BARBECUE PITS.

YOU KNOW, ALL THAT SMOKE'S COMING OUT, BECAUSE THERE'S NO LAW REQUIRING TO PUT A SCRUBBER ON, THERE'S NO LAW REQUIRING TO HAVE THAT CLEANED UP, AND I JUST WISH YOU GUYS WOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THAT BECAUSE I HAD A CLIENT THAT HAD AN ISSUE DEALING WITH PROLIFERATION OF SMOKE FROM FIRE PITS, AND YOU GUYS CAN'T REGULATE IT.

IT'S NOT REGULATED BY THE CITY.

IT'S JUST ONE OF THOSE THINGS I GUESS YOU CAN JUST DO IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY HAD.

>>RICK GARRITY: ACTUALLY, MR. ROBINSON, WE DO REGULATE THEM, AND I CAN THINK OF A COUPLE OF CASES ON -- SPECIFICALLY WITH BARBECUE PITS WHERE WE HAD COMPLAINTS FROM NEIGHBORS AND WE WORKED WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND WITH THE RESTAURANT OWNERS TO PUT CONTROLS ON THE STACKS TO -- TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THAT'S NOT WHAT YOUR STAFF TOLD HIM. THE GUY -- THIS HAS BEEN LIKE TWO MONTHS AGO. THE CASE IN POINT WAS BIG JOHN'S ALABAMA BARBECUE TO BE EXACT, SO IF YOU GUYS ARE REGULATING IT, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD GO OVER THERE AND TAKE A LOOK AT IT BECAUSE I WAS TOLD THAT YOU DON'T.

THEY SENT ME A REGULATION SHOWING ME THE LAW THAT THEY DIDN'T AND THERE WAS NOTHING THEY COULD REALLY DO.

>>RICK GARRITY: OKAY.

WE'LL CERTAINLY DO THAT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU, DR. GARRITY.

>>RICK GARRITY: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: NEXT UP WE HAVE COMMISSIONER AL
HIGGINBOTHAM.

WELCOME.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: IT'S SUCH A BIG ROOM ON THIS SIDE.

[LAUGHTER]

YVETTE, HOW ARE YOU?

I NEVER SEE YOU FROM OVER HERE.

I WISH THE CAMERAS WOULD TURN OVER SO EVERYBODY COULD SEE
YVETTE.

EVERYBODY GETS A CAMERA SHOT DURING THE MEETINGS THAT WE
HAVE, AND THE PEOPLE WHO KEEP OUR THOUGHTS AND OUR POINTS
THAT ARE WELL INTENDED AND WELL MADE, IT'S THANKS TO THOSE
WHO GATHER OUR -- OUR THOUGHTS AND DISCUSSIONS AND PUT THEM
ON PAPER, BUT I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, FOR TAKING THE TIME TO DO THIS, TO BE
A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY AND THIS COUNTRY AND HAVING --
ASKING THE HARD QUESTIONS AND PUTTING PEOPLE ON THE SPOT
AND THEN REFINING IT TO WORDS AND PAPER SO WE CAN COME UP
WITH ADJUSTMENTS AS WE NEED TO WITH -- WITH GOVERNMENT,
WITH OUR CHARTER HERE.

I'VE SEEN THAT YOU'VE COVERED AND HAD DISCUSSIONS ON EVERYTHING FROM THE MAYOR'S VETO TO QUALIFICATIONS FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR TO ETHICS, LOBBYISTS, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND I BELIEVE -- AND I'LL ADDRESS THAT IN JUST A SECOND -- MR. WHITE, THAT WAS SOMETHING YOU BROUGHT UP, SOMETHING I BROUGHT UP IN THE 2009 BUDGET, AND I WAS SO PROUD TO HEAR YOU ADDRESS THAT HERE, AND TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY ON REAPPORTIONMENT, TO PUT AN EXTRA HEARING IN THAT PROCESS.

HOW -- IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THAT, AND SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORK, BUT I AM A DISTRICT COMMISSIONER.

I REPRESENT EAST HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND TO GIVE YOU KIND OF A ROUGH IDEA, IF YOU START DOWN AT MANATEE COUNTY AND YOU COME UP I-75 TO I-4 -- NOW, THE DISTRICT LINES KIND OF INTERMINGLE BACK AND FORTH.

YOU GO I-4 TO HIGHWAY 39 AND THEN NORTH UP TO PASCO COUNTY AND THEN OVER TO POLK COUNTY.

IT'S 534 SQUARE MILES, MORE THAN HALF -- GEOGRAPHICALLY HALF OF THE COUNTY, AND I'VE LEARNED THAT IT'S A BIG DISTRICT AND IT'S A BIG COUNTY.

DISTRICT 4 HAS EIGHT FIRE STATIONS -- EXCUSE ME -- EIGHT SHERIFF'S SUBSTATIONS.

WE'VE GOT 16 FIRE STATIONS, SIX LIBRARIES.

THIS IS JUST IN DISTRICT 4.

WE'VE GOT 61 PARKS.

28 BALL FIELDS ARE INCLUDED IN THOSE 61 PARKS.

THERE'S 67 SCHOOLS.

HART OUT IN THE BOONDOCKS, HART STOPS AT 770 LOCATIONS.

THERE'S SEVEN EXPRESS BUS ROUTES.

THERE ARE SIX LOCAL ROUTES.

4,799 PEOPLE USE HARTLINE IN MY DISTRICT EVERY DAY.

WE HAVE A SYSTEM THAT'S WORKING PRETTY DOGGONE GOOD WHEN WE

WANT TO TELL THE STORY ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT IN HILLSBOROUGH.

DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 2009 THERE WERE 2.4 MILLION BOOKS

CHECKED OUT IN MY DISTRICT?

A LOT OF PEOPLE GETTING A GOOD EDUCATION, WANTING TO EXPAND

THEIR EDUCATION, WHO ARE USING THE SERVICES THAT WE ARE

DELIVERING.

WE TALK ABOUT TAX AND THE BURDEN OF TAX.

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT THERE WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST PARK, THERE

WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST BOOK CHECKED OUT IF IT WASN'T FOR THE

WORK THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU ARE DOING HERE.

911 CALLS, IN 2009 IN MY DISTRICT THERE WERE 27,238 911

CALLS.

AMAZING.

IN MY OFFICE IN PARTICULAR -- WELL, LET ME TALK ABOUT PARKS

HERE A LITTLE BIT MORE.

OUR PARKS BUDGET IS \$53 MILLION.

DO YOU KNOW THAT LAST YEAR THERE WERE 7.4 MILLION PEOPLE

WHO USED A PARK IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY?

THAT'S MORE PEOPLE PUT TOGETHER THAN THAT WENT TO ALL THE SPORTS VENUES, ENTERTAINMENT VENUES HERE IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

WHAT A STORY WE HAVE TO TELL THAT WHEN WE GET SO WRAPPED UP IN THE HE SAID/SHE SAID, WHEN WE'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT, AND THAT'S OUR ECONOMY AND CREATING JOBS, THAT THERE'S STILL A LOT GOING ON AND IT'S YOU-ALL AND THIS YOUNG LADY RIGHT HERE WHO'S PUTTING IT ALL INTO WORDS THAT GETS IT OUT TO THE MEDIA WHERE IT CAN GET TO THE COMMUNITY IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, AND WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT HOW TO DO THAT BETTER.

BUT THERE'S A LOT RIGHT GOING ON HERE.

FIRST COMMUNITY CENTER SPRINGHEAD, DISTRICT 4.

THAT WAS BACK IN THE -- LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THE DATE HERE FOR US.

IT WAS BACK IN THE 1940s.

THE CITIZENS PUT TOGETHER THEIR TIME AND ENERGY AND THEIR MATERIALS AND SAID, COUNTY, GIVE US SOME LAND AND WE'LL BUILD A PARK.

STARTED IN SPRINGHEAD.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE 140 PADDLING MILES WITH MARKERS AND TRAILS THROUGH -- IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ALONE?

YOUR HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS, YOUR EQUESTRIAN TRAILS,

YOU'VE GOT -- IN PAVED PATHS YOU'VE GOT 41 MILES, IN

EQUESTRIAN TRAILS THERE'S 23 MILES OF TRAILS, HIKING TRAILS

60 MILES.

I DON'T THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN USING OUR HIKING TRAILS HERE IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS WITH THIS HEAT.

AND AGAIN THE PADDLING TRAILS, WHICH AMAZED ME, WAS 140, AND MS. PLATT, YOU HAD A LOT TO DO WITH PAVING THE WAY GETTING THESE TRAILS ESTABLISHED.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: IN MY OFFICE IN PARTICULAR I HAVE TWO AIDES.

WE STAY PRETTY DOGGONE BUSY, AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO CHECK THE PARKED CARS, YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE VERY OFTEN THE FIRST IN AND THE LAST OUT, BUT SINCE TAKING OFFICE, I'VE CAST 3,513 VOTES.

NOW, SOME PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT'S NOT VERY GOOD BECAUSE YOU'RE INVOLVED IN REGULATIONS AND TAXATION, BUT WE'VE KEPT RECORDS FROM THE BEGINNING.

THAT'S A LOT OF VOTES, 3,513.

AND AGENDAED MEETINGS, NOT A MEETING LIKE THIS BUT A MEETING WHERE I'M SITTING ON THE OTHER SIDE, SINCE TAKING OFFICE, 423.

IN CONSTITUENT CASES, THAT'S SOMEONE WHO'S CALLED OUR OFFICE FROM EVERYTHING FROM THE LADY WHO HAD A LIZARD IN THE LOT NEXT TO HER AND ANIMAL CONTROL, STATE WILDLIFE OFFICERS WOULDN'T COME GET IT, OR THE NEIGHBOR WHO'S UPSET

BECAUSE THE FENCE WAS PAINTED -- WELL, ONE WAS A PAINTED FENCE, ONE WAS TOO CLOSE TO MY LINE, WHAT ABOUT THE SETBACKS, OR THE PERSON WHO'S CALLED OUR OFFICE AND SAID THEIR PEACOCK'S YELPING OR THE LADY WHO'S WORRIED ABOUT THE POTHOLE, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, THAT'S WHAT THEY LOOKED TO GOVERNMENT FOR.

THAT WAS WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM, AND WE TAKE THOSE CASES EXTREMELY SERIOUSLY.

SINCE WE'VE BEEN IN OFFICE, 3,818 CASES.

DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD FROM JULY OF LAST YEAR THROUGH TODAY OUR OFFICE HAS HANDLED 715 CONSTITUENT CASES. THE SECOND PLACE OFFICE, 223 -- 233 CONSTITUENT CASES.

I'M NOT COMPLAINING, BUT PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED THAT GOVERNMENT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE JUST A REFERRAL SERVICE, THAT GOVERNMENT IS A SAFETY NET, AND WE LEARNED OH SO WELL DURING THE SINKHOLES THAT THERE WERE SOME HOLES IN THAT SAFETY NET THAT WERE A LITTLE WIDER THAN THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN, SO WORKING WITH SWFWMD AND WATER REGULATORS AND AG AND INDUSTRY, WHAT WE SAW THERE WAS PEOPLE WEREN'T POINTING A FINGER AT ONE ANOTHER, THEY WERE POINTING A FINGER IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

I WENT TO ALL THOSE MEETINGS, AND IT WAS UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN THAT GOVERNMENT SAFETY NET NEEDS TO BE TIGHTENED UP SOMEWHERE OR THERE'S A GAP LIKE WE TALKED ABOUT WITH DR. GARRITY THAT HAS TO BE

REFINED AND TUNED, LET'S DO IT.

LET'S POINT THE FINGER IN ONE DIRECTION RATHER THAN AT EACH OTHER.

TODAY -- AND THEN I'LL OPEN FOR QUESTIONS, BUT -- I WANT TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR POINT, BUT TODAY -- I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOUR I.T. -- UNDERSTAND I.T.

WE HAD 500,690 HACKERS OR MALICIOUS ATTACKS COME IN TO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY -- IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY -- OVER 500,000 MALICIOUS ATTACKS WITH VIRUSES, SOMEBODY TRYING TO BREAK IN AND DESTROY OUR SYSTEM, AND WE'RE JUST THE COUNTY.

IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS AT THE STATE LEVEL AND AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

AND THEN YOU HAVE A TAXPAYER WHO SAYS WHERE DOES ALL THIS MONEY GO?

IT GOES FOR THOSE PARKS, IT GOES TO HELP THE LADY WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THE LIZARD, AND I'M NOT BELITTILING THAT.

THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO HER.

IT GOES TO THE WOMAN WHO DOESN'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND MONEY AND HELP FOR HER UTILITY PAYMENTS OR HOW DO I GET AHOLD OF MEALS ON WHEELS?

THOSE ARE WHAT MAKE UP THE 3800 PEOPLE, AND IT GOES FAR BEYOND AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIT UP HERE AND CAST VOTES AND MAYBE GET YOUR NAME IN THE PAPER AND MAYBE NOT.

IT'S ABOUT THOSE -- THOSE PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES I DON'T KNOW,

BUT ELI AND DEANNA AND MYSELF HAVE HAD A PART OF THEIR LIFE, BUT IT'S UP TO YOU AND THIS CHARTER REVIEW TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT CONTINUES, THAT WE FIND WAYS TO REFINE AND SIMPLY MAKE IT BETTER.

MR. WHITE, YOU RAISED A QUESTION ON SOMETHING THAT I BROUGHT UP IN THE 2009 BUDGET --

>>GERALD WHITE: UH-HUH.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: -- WHEN I SAID -- AND I FOUND MYSELF DOING THIS AS A COMMISSIONER.

I FOUND MYSELF LOOKING FOR THE BACON, WHAT CAN I BRING BACK TO THE DISTRICT?

AND I SAID TO MY DISTRICT, I SAID BECAUSE TIMES ARE TIGHT, GOVERNMENT HAS GOT TO LOOK AT HOW WE DO THINGS BETTER, HOW DO WE -- IF WE'RE GOING TO REALLY TIGHTEN UP THE BELTS, WHERE DO WE DO IT?

SO I SAID I'M NOT GOING TO FLAG ITEMS THAT WILL INVOLVE A BUDGET INCREASE.

I FLAGGED 11 DEPARTMENTS LAST YEAR FOR CONSOLIDATION, ELIMINATION, OR FURTHER BUDGET REDUCTIONS.

DIDN'T WIN A LOT OF FRIENDS HERE, BUT PEOPLE STARTED LOOKING AT WHAT CAN WE DO.

ONE DEPARTMENT WAS DISSOLVED.

THE LEGISLATIVE GROUP'S NOT REAL HAPPY WITH ME.

WE CONSOLIDATED OUR SECURITY FORCE WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

PEOPLE WERE OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES TO TRANSFER THEIR --
EXCUSE ME.

THE QUALITY OF TRAINING AND SERVICES INCREASED, THE HOURS
OF SERVICE HAVE INCREASED, AND I HAD LUNCH WITH THE SHERIFF
TODAY, AND HE SAID THAT THE PROJECTED SAVINGS I BELIEVE ARE
IN THE AREA OF A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

>>GERALD WHITE: WOW.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: AND THAT'S AN EFFICIENCY.

JUST SAYING EVERYBODY CUT 5%, THAT'S NOT AN EFFICIENCY.

COME TO THE COMMISSION HERE AND SAY, MR. CHAIRMAN OR VICE
CHAIRMAN, WE'RE GOING TO ELIMINATE SEVEN POSITIONS.

WELL, HOW DO WE DO THE SAME SERVICE AND THE SAME PRODUCT
WITH LESS PEOPLE AND HOW DO WE DELIVER THAT SERVICE?

HOW DO WE GET TO THOSE 3800 PEOPLE THAT HAVE CALLED MY
OFFICE LOOKING FOR HELP?

BUT ONE OF THEM I DID ADDRESS WAS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ALONG WITH THE SECURITY SERVICE, CIVIL SERVICE BOARD, HUMAN
RESOURCES, HIPAA, AND MIKE MERRILL HAS INCORPORATED MANY OF
THESE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT I MADE DURING BUDGET IN 2009 IN
BRINGING THEM TOGETHER TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN ELIMINATE
SOME OF THE BACKROOM OPERATIONS THAT WE HAVE IN GOVERNMENT,
AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE POINT OF CONTACT, THE POINT
OF SERVICE OR SALE WHERE JUST MY LITTLE -- THREE LITTLE
PEOPLE, MYSELF AND MY TWO AIDES, ARE CONTACTING AND HELPING
THOSE 3800 BUT HOW DO WE INCREASE THAT EFFICIENCY?

AND SO THAT'S WHY WE LOOKED TO THE DEPARTMENTS THAT WE DID. PROCUREMENT SERVICES, FLEET MANAGEMENT, LAW LIBRARY, AND THEN THE DELEGATION OFFICE -- THE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION OFFICE, BUT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, IT MAKES SENSE -- AND I HOPE YOU'LL HAVE THE SHERIFF COME BACK BECAUSE I READ THE LETTER THAT HE SENT TO YOU AND I WAS COPIED ON BACK IN JUNE WHERE IT DEMONSTRATES THAT IT'S PROBABLY THE APPROPRIATE PLACE TO HAVE THE SHERIFF IN AUTHORITY DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

I'M CERTAINLY OPEN TO IT, AND IF IT MAKES SENSE AND IT -- AND IT HELPS DELIVER THE DOLLARS TO THOSE PEOPLE DURING A TIME OF EMERGENCY, THAT 3800 THAT WE DON'T KNOW THEIR NAMES OR FACES OR THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ASSIGNED A CASE NUMBER YET, LET'S FIND OUT HOW TO GET THE DOLLARS TO THEM.

WITH THAT, I'LL BE QUIET AND I'LL OPEN UP FOR QUESTIONS.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: QUESTIONS?

COMMISSIONER PLATT.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, I JUST WANT TO -- I JUST WANT TO -- IT'S NOT A QUESTION.

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR POSITIVE SPIN ON THINGS. I THINK THE FACTS THAT YOU GAVE TODAY WERE SO POSITIVE. SO MANY TIMES THE COUNTY IS MADE TO LOOK LIKE A VERY BLEAK SITUATION AND IT ISN'T, AND I THINK THE WAY YOU HAVE PRESENTED IT WAS FACTUAL, AND I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR IT.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: WELL, THANK YOU, AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT STORY TO TELL.

>>JAN PLATT: WE DO, AND YOU TOLD IT, AND I JUST WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU.

GOOD JOB.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: WELL, THANK YOU.

YES, SIR.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: WHENEVER I HEAR YOU SPEAK, THE WORD THAT COMES TO MY MIND -- AND THIS IS GOING TO MAKE YOU LAUGH -- IS "EVANGELICAL."

YOU ARE -- YOU BRING A BIT OF THE BIBLE WITH YOU.

PERHAPS THAT IS NOT A GOOD WORD IN THESE NONRELIGIOUS TIMES, BUT MY QUESTION TO YOU IS HOW DOES ONE GO ABOUT DOING MORE WITH LESS?

WHAT -- WHAT FRAME OF MIND DOES ONE HAVE TO POSSESS IN ORDER TO -- I HEARD THE IPC HEAD TALK ABOUT THE FACT THAT HE HAS BEEN PRESSED UPON TO DO VERY IMPORTANT THINGS WITH LESS THAN A THIRD OF WHAT HE HAD, SO BEING THAT YOU ALSO ARE PART OF THAT, HOW DO YOU LOOK AT DOING THAT AND HOW DO YOU SUCCEED AT IT?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: I THINK IT WOULD MERIT YOUR TIME TO BRING MARK OBER IN HERE.

HE TOO HAS FACED SIMILAR CUTS IN HIS BUDGET AND HIS STAFF, AND I ASKED HIM THAT QUESTION LAST -- WELL, WEEK BEFORE LAST, AND HE SAID, WE FOUND -- I SAID, MARK, WITH THE CUTS

YOU'VE HAD TO MAKE IN STAFF AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURES,
WHERE -- WHAT'S -- WHERE HAVE THE LOSSES BEEN AS FAR AS
DELIVERY OF SERVICES?

AND HE SAID, WE FOUND WAYS TO WORK MORE EFFICIENTLY, TO
MOTIVATE OUR PEOPLE, TO GET THE BEST TO RISE TO THE TOP,
AND THROUGH THE -- THE NEW DEVICES THAT WE HAVE CALLED
COMPUTERS, THROUGH THE INTERNET, THROUGH THE AUTOMATION.
IT IS DIFFICULT WHEN WE KNOW THAT A LOT OF OUR CUTS COULD
BE PEOPLE.

I MEAN, IT'S DEPRESSING.

I'VE NEVER BEEN A COMMISSIONER DURING A GOOD BUDGET TIME,
SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT -- I HAVE NO FOUNDATION FOR THE GOOD-
OLD DAYS.

THESE TO ME ARE THE GOOD DAYS BECAUSE WE MAKE THEM GOOD
DAYS, BUT AS FAR AS DOING MORE WITH LESS, WE LOOK AT HOW WE
TOOK THE -- THE SECURITY SERVICE THAT WE HAD AND WE SAID,
WHO'S REALLY IN THE BUSINESS OF THIS?

AND THAT'S THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

AND THE DEPARTMENT HEADS GOT TOGETHER, THEY OFFERED A PLAN
OF TRANSITION FOR THOSE WHO WANTED TO TRANSITION OVER, THEY
OFFERED TRAINING, AND THEN THERE WERE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS
AT THE TOP THAT WERE UNNECESSARY THAT WEREN'T GETTING TO
THE POINT OF CONTACT.

MY OFFICE -- WE CALL THEM -- THE 3800 IN MY OFFICE.

WE DIDN'T -- HOW DO WE GET MORE SERVICES?

AND SO WHAT WE FOUND -- AND WE HEAR POSITIVE REVIEWS.
THE SHERIFF TODAY SAID WE'RE FINDING MORE GUNS AND BAD
THINGS TRYING TO BE SNEAKED IN TO THE OFFICES, BUT IT'S --
IT'S -- I HATE USING THE WORD THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX, BUT
IT'S BEING WILLING TO USE THE TECHNOLOGY, BEING WILLING TO
FIND OUT WHO DOES IT A DIFFERENT AND A BETTER WAY.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: WELL, AS LONG AS WE DON'T CONSIDER
OURSELVES THE BOX, THEN I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THINKING
OUTSIDE OF THE BOX IS NOT A BAD IDEA, WOULD YOU AGREE?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: COMMISSIONER, THANK YOU FOR COMING, AND
THANK YOU FOR YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR VERY, VERY STRONG MIND.
I'M A STUDENT OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION, AND I WATCH THE
MEETINGS, ALL OF THE MEETINGS, ALL THE WORKSHOPS, AND
YOU'RE VERY BROAD.

YOU REACH OUT NOT JUST TO YOUR DISTRICT.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE AND HONOR YOUR SERVICE TO ALL OF THE
PEOPLE OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: THANK YOU.

>>GERALD WHITE: MY QUESTION IS WE HAVE A VACANCY IN THE
ADMINISTRATIVE POST.

WE HAVE AN INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR.

THE CHARTER IS SILENT ON THE LENGTH OF TIME THE SEAT -- THE

POST -- IT'S NOT VACANT BECAUSE WE HAVE AN INTERIM.

I'VE HEARD TODAY THE LONGEST THE POSITION HAS BEEN HELD BY AN INTERIM HAS BEEN A YEAR, AND THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT A NATIONAL SEARCH TO FILL THE VACANCY, AND THAT'S SILENT AS WELL IN THE CHARTER.

YOU TONIGHT HAVE TO ANSWER THIS NOW, BUT I LOOKED AT SOME OF THE OTHER AGENCIES IN THE COMMUNITY, AND I GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE AVIATION AUTHORITY WHEN THEY CONDUCTED A NATIONAL SEARCH FOR THE POST TO GET THE -- THE -- AND I'M NOT SAYING THE PERSON THAT'S IN THE POST NOW IS NOT THE BEST AND WILL BE THE BEST, BUT WHAT SHOULD THE CITIZENS EXPECT WHEN THE COMMISSION DECIDE TO CONTEMPLATE FILLING THE POST WITH A PERMANENT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: SOMETIMES SILENCE IS GOLDEN.

I'M NOT MAKING LIGHT OF THAT.

I THINK RIGHT NOW THERE IS A GOOD REPRIEVE.

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A SETTLING AND A CALMING, WHICH WE'VE BEEN IN THAT -- THAT -- WE'RE IN THAT RIGHT NOW.

YOU KNOW, PESSIMISTS MIGHT CALL IT THE EYE OF THE STORM, BUT MR. MERRILL HAS THAT FINANCIAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE THAT DURING THESE TOUGH TIMES WE NEED.

FARCE MOVING FORWARD, MY FEELING -- AND I'VE HAD THIS DISCUSSION WITH MIKE MERRILL AND MAY HAVE SAID IT IN THIS SETTING HERE ON YOUR SIDE, THAT I THINK THAT WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER BUDGET BEFORE WE ADDRESS IT.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO START TALKING ABOUT AN ADMINISTRATOR --
WHEN I READ THE QUALIFICATIONS, I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO BE THE
ADMINISTRATOR.

I THINK WE NEED TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THAT SEARCH IS, BUT
IT TROUBLES ME -- AND I SAW REFERENCE TO A NATIONAL SEARCH.
THAT'S WHAT'S -- THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S WRONG WITH
US IS THAT WE'VE GOT THAT TALENT AND THAT DEPTH HERE IN
THIS LITTLE 1,000 SQUARE MILES OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY TO
FIND THE RIGHT LEADER, AND AN ADMINISTRATOR -- AND I THINK
IN PART MY JOB -- AND MAYBE IN IS THE EVANGELICAL PART, BUT
I THINK MY JOB -- AND ESPECIALLY AN ADMINISTRATOR -- IS
THAT OF A STORYTELLER, TO TALK ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT AND
TALK -- EXTRACT THE GOOD SIDE, DON'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR WHY
WE'RE FAILING, BUT WE'VE GOT TO -- THE CITIZENS -- IF --
HOWEVER MANY WILL TAKE FROM WHAT WE'RE -- YOU KNOW, OUR
MEETING TONIGHT, LET THEM KNOW THAT PART OF MY QUEST WILL
BE FOR THAT -- THAT STORYTELLER, THAT PERSON WHO CAN GO OUT
AND NOT ONLY UNDERSTAND THE INTRICACIES OF THE BUREAUCRACY
AND BUDGET AND FINANCE AND HAVE SOME MAGIC TWINKLE UP HERE
TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE TO SEE WHERE OUR ECONOMY'S GOING BUT
TO BE ABLE TO PUT HILLSBOROUGH'S BEST FOOT FORWARD, AND
WHEN I SIT UP HERE IN THE COMING MONTHS AND IT'S TIME TO
START THAT SEARCH, THAT'S WHERE I'LL BE LOOKING TO FIND
THAT PERSON THAT WILL NOT ONLY HAVE THE TWINKLE HERE BUT
WILL SHOW IT IN HIS EYE.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: WHAT PEOPLE WANT IS SIMPLICITY, THE SIMPLICITY OF THE STORY, AND I BELIEVE THAT WE ALL -- WE ALL WOULD AGREE THAT THAT IS WHAT YOU BRING BECAUSE WHEN IT IS -- WHEN IT IS SIMPLISTIC, PEOPLE CAN UNDERSTAND IT, THEY CAN SEE IT, SO THANK YOU FOR THAT.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME LET MR. WHITE FINISH.

>>GERALD WHITE: I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE CHARTER BOARD WORK, BUT THERE'S BEEN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE ELECTED COUNTY MAYOR POST, THERE'S BEEN DISCUSSION ABOUT ENHANCING THE -- SOME OF THE POWERS UNDER THE CHAIR POST THAT EXISTS NOW WITH THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. DO YOU SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE SEVEN-MEMBER BOARD AND THE WAY THAT -- THE IN-HOUSE RULES, THE RULES THAT YOU-ALL MAKE, DO THEY NEED TO BE CHANGED, DO SOMETHING NEED TO BE INSERTED IN THE CHARTER TO GIVE THE POST SOME POWER? AND THE REASON I'M BEATING ON THIS, BECAUSE HERE WE ARE JUST A YEAR OR SO AWAY FROM A NATIONAL CONVENTION. WHEN THAT REPUBLICAN CONVENTION COME AND LEAVE THIS COMMUNITY, I DON'T BELIEVE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S GOING TO BE THE SAME. WHEN THAT HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE IS PUT DOWN, I DON'T BELIEVE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S GOING TO BE THE SAME. PEOPLE, NEW PEOPLE ARE GOING TO COME TO OUR COMMUNITY AND THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE, THEY'RE GOING TO HOMESTEAD,

THEY'RE GOING TO STAY HERE, AND SO SHOULD WE -- SHOULD WE START THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO BE OR DO WE WANT TO STAY WHAT WE ARE WHEN THESE GREAT CHANGES COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THESE GREAT WINS THAT WE'VE SECURED AS A COMMUNITY?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: I -- THERE'S GREAT INSIGHT IN YOUR QUESTION.

I THINK THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION SHOULD SERVE MORE THAN JUST ONE YEAR SO THAT THERE'S AN ESTABLISHMENT AND THEY CAN BE BETTER, CAN DEVELOP A DIRECTION AND A ROUTINE, THAT THERE'S A TERM MORE THAN JUST 12 MONTHS.

I THINK THAT IS A GREAT HELP.

IT HELPS WITH WHOEVER THAT PERSON IS THAT'LL SIT IN THE CENTER BEING THE STORYTELLER, BEING THE ONE THAT HELPS PROMOTE, HELPS DIRECT AND GUIDE HERE, HELPS GIVE A FEELING OF SENSE AND DIRECTION UPSTAIRS THROUGH THIS BUILDING, SO I THINK THERE'S MERIT TO THAT.

IF I UNDERSTOOD YOUR QUESTION, THE FIRST PART OF IT, HOW -- HOW SHOULD THE COMMISSION BE COMPOSED, I THINK THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT MORE SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS TO -- THAT TOPIC AND THE MAYOR ISSUE.

LET ME TALK ABOUT MAYOR FIRST AND REMOVING THE VETO POWER. IN MY FOUR YEARS THAT I'VE BEEN HERE, OF THE VOTES THAT WERE 4-3 THAT COULD BE VETOED BY THE MAYOR, THERE WERE ONLY 1.12% OF THOSE VOTES THAT WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A VETO.

THE REST OF THEM WERE A SUPERMAJORITY OR WERE UNANIMOUS,
AND IF YOU WOULD LIKE IT, I CAN GIVE YOU THE STATISTICS
BECAUSE -- I'M NOT JUST PULLING THAT ONE OUT FROM UNDER MY
TOUPE HERE.

SO YOU MADE A RIGHT DECISION, BUT IF -- IF WE'RE GOING TO
GO TOWARDS A COUNTY MAYOR, I'M NOT READY TO REVAMP
GOVERNMENT AND PUT ANOTHER LEVEL OF BUREAUCRACY IN UNTIL I
HAVE MORE DETAIL, BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO DO IT BECAUSE OF
VETO POWER, GIVE ME ANOTHER REASON OTHER THAN VETO BECAUSE
THAT'S REALLY A MOOT POINT.

ON SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT, IF ANYBODY SHOULD COMPLAIN ABOUT
IT, IT MIGHT BE ME BECAUSE I LOOK AT THE GEOGRAPHIC SIZE.
I LOOK AT THE CASEWORK AND THE NUMBER OF CALLS THAT WE HAVE
COMING IN.

I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER AND MORE -- MAYBE THE DIRECTION
WOULD BE TO ADDRESS SHOULD A COMMISSIONER BE CLASSIFIED
PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME?

AND I KNOW MS. PLATT'S BEEN HERE THROUGH SOME STORMY, DARK
TIMES, AND THERE WAS A REASON THAT STARTED, BUT THE CHARTER
IS MUMBLING.

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE SILENT, BUT THE CHARTER MUMBLES ABOUT
THE COMMISSIONER CAN HOLD ANOTHER JOB AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T
INTERFERE, AND SOMEONE MAY SAY, WELL, I'M A GREAT TIME
MANAGER.

WELL, I THINK YOU OUGHT TO HAVE 100% OF YOUR TIME RIGHT

HERE.

SO I THINK YOU CAN ADDRESS THAT WITH THE SAME NUMBER THAT YOU HAVE YOUR FOUR DISTRICT AND YOUR THREE COUNTYWIDE, AND YOU -- MAYBE ONE OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE THAT -- THAT PART OF THE CHARTER, SHOULD WE BE CLASSIFIED AS FULL-TIME? I KNOW I AM ALREADY.

DID I ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

I KNOW IT'S KIND OF A LONG ANSWER.

>>GERALD WHITE: OTHER THAN THE LEADERSHIP POST, THE EXISTING LEADERSHIP POST, THE -- YOU-ALL WRITE YOUR OWN RULES TO GIVE THE CHAIR THE POWER AS A MAJORITY YOU WANT THE CHAIR TO HAVE, AM I RIGHT ABOUT THAT? YOUR RULES.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: YES.

>>GERALD WHITE: ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THOSE RULES? THEY WERE PROBABLY IN PLACE BEFORE YOU BECAME A COMMISSIONER.

IF THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN CHANGE ABOUT THE RULES, THE WAY YOU-ALL WERE STRUCTURED, LIKE THE CHAIRMAN IS THE PERSON THAT CUTS THE RIBBON, THAT WELCOME DIGNITARIES TO THE COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU -- IS THERE SOMETHING THAT -- RELATED TO LEADERSHIP WOULD -- THAT YOU COULD SEE THAT NEED TO BE ADDED TO THE RULES?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: THAT IT WOULD BE A TWO-YEAR TERM INSTEAD OF A ONE-YEAR TERM SO THAT THERE'S SOME -- A

FEELING OF PERMANENCY THAT IS NOT JUST LOOKED AT AS, OH, MY GOODNESS, I'M RUNNING FOR REELECTION, CHAIRMAN MAY HELP ME WITH FUNDRAISING, I'LL ONLY BE CHAIRMAN FOR A YEAR AND THEN I'LL MOVE ON.

LET'S GET SOME PERMANENCY WITH IT.

THAT HAS ITS DOWNSIDE TOO BECAUSE WHAT IF WE HAVE A BAD CHAIRMAN?

THERE'S THE OTHER PROBLEM.

AND WE'RE IN -- IT'S KIND OF A THEORETICAL QUESTION, BUT IT'S SOMETHING FOR YOU-ALL TO DISCUSS AND TO DEBATE, BUT THAT MAY BE A WAY TO HELP THAT -- ADDRESS THAT ISSUE OF LEADERSHIP.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. ROBINSON.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: YES, SIR.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MR. HIGGINBOTHAM, I'VE BEEN KNOWING YOU A LONG, LONG TIME, WHEN WE WAS OVER ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND I SERVED WITH YOUR WIFE ON THE NORTHWEST HILLSBOROUGH BASIN BOARD, AND I REALLY DID APPRECIATE SERVING WITH HER AND WORKING WITH YOU ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

LET ME ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS HERE.

WE'RE CONSIDERING CHANGING THE CODE OF ETHICS, AND WE HAVE

IT TONIGHT TO DISCUSS, AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE'RE DISCUSSING IS THAT THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS USUALLY FOLLOW GENERAL LAW IF THERE'S ANY GENERAL LAW.

WHAT WE'RE FINDING OUT, THERE ISN'T ANY GENERAL LAW PER SE THAT HAS ANY TEETH IN IT, AND THE CHARTER SAYS MORE RESTRICTIVE ORDINANCE, AND THERE REALLY ISN'T A MORE RESTRICTIVE ORDINANCE.

AND WHAT WE'RE DOING IS WE'RE PROPOSING OR AT LEAST LOOKING AT LANGUAGE ON SECTION 9.03 TO -- THAT -- THAT -- A MORE RESTRICTIVE ORDINANCE APPLICABLE TO ALL EMPLOYEES, OFFICE HOLDERS OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT SHALL BE ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO PROVISIONS PRESCRIBED AND PENALTIES WITHIN THE LIMITS ALLOWED BY LAW.

WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT, MAKING A MORE RESTRICTIVE CODE OF ETHICS IN THE CHARTER THAN WHAT WE HAVE NOW?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: NO.

AND THE FIRST ORDINANCE THAT I PASSED WHEN I WAS COMMISSIONER WAS A GIFT BAN FROM LOBBYISTS, AND TO THIS DAY WHEN I GO AND SPEAK AT YOUR SERVICE CLUB IF YOU'RE A MEMBER OF KIWANIS OR ROTARY AND I'M THE GUEST SPEAKER, I PAY FOR MY OWN LUNCH.

I DREW A LINE AND SAID NO TO ALL OF IT, SO I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A MORE RESTRICTIVE CODE, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE,

YOU KNOW, THE LOBBYIST ISSUES BECAUSE IT'S HARD TO IDENTIFY, YOU KNOW, WHO'S LOBBYING AND WHO'S NOT LOBBYING, AND I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHEN THEY COME IN.

AND THERE'S A HELPFUL PROCESS AND SERVICE THAT LOBBYISTS CAN BRING AS FAR AS INFORMATION AND OPENING YOUR EYES TO A DIFFERENT AVENUE, BUT AS FAR AS TIGHTENING IT UP, BRING IT ON BECAUSE I'M READY FOR IT.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: I KNOW YOU IS.

OKAY.

ONE OTHER ONE FOLLOWING IT UP.

YOU SAID YOU HAD TWO AIDES NOW.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: UH-HUH.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: ONE OF THE OTHER ISSUES THAT WE'RE TAKING A LOOK AT TONIGHT, SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, IS WHETHER THE AIDES CAN -- UNDER THE SAME RIGHT TO RESIGN AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER, AND I THINK WE'RE TRYING TO LOOK AT MAKING THE AIDES HAVE THE SAME REQUIREMENT ON THEM AS THE COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR RESIGNING TO RUN FOR OFFICE. HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO THAT BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ISSUES, WE'VE HAD SPEAKERS COME UP, AND THEY JUST KEEP TELLING US, HEY, YOU KNOW, YOU NEED TO DEAL WITH THE AIDES, THE AIDES ARE SORT OF LIKE A PROTECTED SPECIES IN THE COUNTY COMMISSION, THEY DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW THE CHARTER PER SE, THEY DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW CIVIL SERVICE, THEY'RE SORT OF LIKE A SPECIAL ENTITY, AND SOME PEOPLE WANT US TO

SORT OF TIGHTEN THAT UP.

YOU GOT ANY FEELINGS OR WORDS ON THAT?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: I WONDER -- NO, I HAVEN'T PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO IT, JOE.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: AND I KNOW THAT THAT ISSUE IS DIRECTED AT ONE PARTICULAR PERSON, AND -- WHERE I DON'T LIKE A CANDIDATE WHO COMES IN AND RUNS FOR OFFICE ON ONE ISSUE, DO WE CHANGE SOMETHING BECAUSE OF ONE ISSUE?

SO THERE'S -- YOU KNOW, THERE'S A QUESTION I HAVE WITH THAT, BUT AS FAR AS RESIGN TO RUN, I KNOW THAT IN CIVIL SERVICE -- I BELIEVE THAT'S IN THE PROCESS WHERE YOU RESIGN TO RUN -- IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

MR. PRESEAU.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: HOW ARE YOU?

>>GREG PRESEAU: HOW ARE YOU DOING?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: GOOD.

>>GREG PRESEAU: GREAT.

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE RIGHT NOW?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: YEAH.

>>GREG PRESEAU: I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE

AND ALSO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ON THIS BOARD. I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOME COMPLIMENT BASED ON MR. GARRITY, JUST TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THEIR OFFICE IS DOING A FINE JOB. I'VE HAD A LOT OF DEALINGS WITH THEIR OFFICE IN A POSITIVE MANNER, ESPECIALLY JEFF SKLUT AND HIS OFFICE.

THEY'RE DOING A GREAT JOB, VERY PERSONABLE.

THEY WORK TO HELP, THEY DO NOT WORK -- THEY DON'T WORK TO LEGISLATE AND THEY DON'T WORK TO BE A FEE-BASED ORGANIZATION, SO -- AND I KNOW YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR OF THAT, SO I JUST WANT TO GIVE YOU SOME POSITIVE FEEDBACK.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: AND DR. GARRITY AND I, WE WERE THROUGH THE -- YOU KNOW, I CAME ON THE BOARD WHEN WE WENT AFTER WETLANDS, AND I SAY WE BECAUSE I SAT UP THERE.

I DIDN'T VOTE FOR IT, AND I THOUGHT THE VOTE WAS WRONG BECAUSE IT WAS BASED ON BUDGET, AND WE JUST PASSED A BUDGET AND SAID IT WAS OKAY.

AND THEN DR. GARRITY AND MYSELF AND ENVIRONMENTAL FOLKS AND INDUSTRY FOLKS SAT IN A LITTLE ROUND TABLE IN MY OFFICE AND WE STARTED THERE DRAWING AN OUTLINE FOR THE HYBRID DIVISION, AND IT'S WORKING.

IT ISN'T PERFECT, BUT IT'S WORKING.

AS FAR AS THESE GUYS MAKING DECISIONS ON CASES BASED ON THEIR BUDGET GETTING WHACKED, I DON'T -- I DON'T HAVE -- DR. GARRITY AND I WILL CROSS EACH OTHER ON ISSUES AND DISAGREE, BUT THAT HAS NOT BEEN AN ISSUE IN MY FOUR YEARS

HERE, SO -- AND I'M REAL MINDFUL, AND THEY DO A GREAT JOB.

>>GREG PRESEAU: THEY DO.

AND I ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR ATTITUDE OF OPTIMISM, SO -- I MEAN, IT'S A GREAT PLACE TO WORK FROM, YOU KNOW, AS OPPOSED TO THE OTHER SIDE.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: I WAS GOING TO SAY, WHAT'S THE OTHER CHOICE?

>>GREG PRESEAU: THERE YOU GO.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE, LET ME JUST MAKE SURE WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER BOARD MEMBERS WHO WANT TO ASK A QUESTION BEFORE I LET YOU SPEAK AGAIN.

ANY OTHER BOARD MEMBERS WHO HAVE A QUESTION?

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I JUST NEED TO ASK THIS ONE QUESTION. WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR COUNTY, IT CITES THE QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT IS CALLED FOR FOR A COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO BE CONSIDERED AS AN APPLICANT, BUT IT'S SILENT ON THE ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT?

IT DOESN'T CALL FOR ANY KIND OF ACADEMIC BACKGROUND OR -- IT JUST SAYS THAT THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE TO SIGN OFF ON IT.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: I THINK THAT HAS MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR THAN IT DOES THE LACK OF DETAIL ON THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.

IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO'S GOT REAL-WORLD PRACTICAL

EXPERIENCE, WHY -- AND THEY DON'T HAVE THE MASTER'S OR THE PARTICULAR COURSE OUTLINE IN COLLEGE OR PH.D., I'VE LET A -
- I'VE MET A LOT OF PEOPLE WITH DEGREES THAT I WOULDN'T WANT TO -- YOU KNOW, THEY WEREN'T CAPABLE, SO MAYBE, GERALD, THE THING TO DO IS ADDRESS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR VERSUS THE LACK OF AND BRING A BALANCE ON BOTH SIDES.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. SULLIVAN.

>>DAVID SULLIVAN: COMMISSIONER, THANK YOU.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: SURE.

>>DAVID SULLIVAN: IT'S REFRESHING.

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT DO NOT LIVE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE COUNTY, THIS IS REALLY THE WAY HE IS ALL THE TIME.

WE'VE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE SEVERAL LUNCHESES TOGETHER.

HE'S ALWAYS VERY MUCH UPBEAT AND IS VERY MUCH EVANGELICAL ABOUT HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND I APPRECIATE YOUR SERVICE.

ONE OF THE THINGS THAT -- AS YOU KNOW -- I'VE BEEN

CONCERNED ABOUT IS THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR GOVERNMENT IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AND MAKING US MORE USER-FRIENDLY AND MORE BUSINESS-FRIENDLY TO PROMOTE GROWTH IN THE COUNTY.

SPECIFICALLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD NEEDS TO TAKE UP THAT WOULD,

"A," HELP INCREASE THE EFFICIENCIES THROUGH THE CHARTER,
AND SECONDLY, TO HELP BALANCE THE POWER BETWEEN THE
LEGISLATIVE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: INSIST ON TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE
ENTIRE PROCESS.

AS FAR AS EFFICIENCIES AND HOW IT WOULD RELATE TO THE
CHARTER, I DON'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF SITTING ON YOUR SIDE
OF THE EQUATION RIGHT NOW TO SAY, WELL, WHERE IS IT IN
THERE THAT I CAN ADDRESS IT?

FROM MY SIDE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE WE CAN PUT IN THE CHARTER
HOW TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT, AND SO MANY TIMES WHEN WE DO
THAT, IT'LL CREATE A STUMBLE SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD THAT
WE'RE NOT ANTICIPATING, BUT ANYWHERE THAT YOU CAN -- YOU
CAN CREATE MORE TRANSPARENCY, REQUIRING MORE HEARINGS --
YOU KNOW, I DID THAT WITH OUR BUDGET DURING 2009 WHERE WE
WENT FROM ONE -- THREE OR FOUR WORKSHOPS TO EIGHT OR NINE.
AGAIN, I DIDN'T WIN A POPULARITY CONTEST ON THAT ONE, BUT --
-- AND WE -- AND I INSISTED THAT ONE OF OUR HEARINGS LEAVE
THE CAMPUS HERE.

WE HAD CLOSE TO 900 PEOPLE, WASN'T IT, THAT CAME TO THAT
PUBLIC HEARING.

MAYBE PART OF IT -- MAYBE ADDRESS, YOU KNOW, WHERE WE HOLD
PUBLIC HEARINGS, ESPECIALLY IN THE BUDGET BECAUSE I DON'T
KNOW -- I DON'T KNOW THAT THE CHARTER REQUIRES THAT WE HOLD
ONE OF THOSE HEARINGS OFF CAMPUS.

AND THEN YOU GET INTO A BUDGET QUESTION, CAN WE AFFORD TO DO IT?

WELL, IT'S YOUR MONEY.

MAYBE WE -- YOU KNOW, THAT SHOULD BE A PRIORITY.

AND I THINK IT'S ALWAYS -- YOU KNOW, THE OTHER -- OKAY.

IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS HERE, TALK ABOUT SUNSETTING, TALK ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE ORDINANCES THAT WE PASS, SHOULD THEY NOT COME UP FOR REVIEW ON A PERIODIC BASIS?

SO CONSIDER, YOU KNOW, THE ISSUE OF SUNSETTING.

AND DAVE, THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY TALK ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE LEDGER, THE DOLLARS AND CENTS, BUT IT EQUATES TO IT.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU COULD DO THAT YOURSELF IN THE ORDINANCE.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: JAN --

>>JAN PLATT: YOU WANT US TO IMPOSE IT ON YOU?

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: GO AWAY.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHEN YOU GET UP IN TO THE HEAT OF THE ISSUE AND THE ADRENALINE IS GOING -- AND THAT MAY BE GOING OVER -- TAKING PLACE OVER SEVERAL WEEKS -- YOU FORGET ABOUT IT, BUT MAYBE IF IT'S AN AUTOMATIC PART OF THE PROCESS THAT IT'S ALWAYS IN THERE -- AND I THINK THAT'S HOW THE LEGISLATURE IS NOW, EVERYTHING'S GOT AN AUTOMATIC REVIEW, AND I DON'T RECALL WHAT THEIR TIME FRAME IS, BUT I THINK THERE'S GREAT MERIT TO THE SUNSET.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: COMMISSIONER HIGGINBOTHAM, YOU MAKE

MENTION OF THE TERM "TRANSPARENCY."

I WOULD LIKE TO ADD ANOTHER TERM TO THAT.

THE TERM IS "HUMANITY."

I BELIEVE THAT THE DECISIONS OF THE COUNTY SHOULD FLOW OUT OF HUMANITY, HUMANITY SHOULD NOT BE A SIDE DISCUSSION.

YOU ALSO BRING UP THE QUESTION CAN WE AFFORD TO DO IT.

I WOULD SUGGEST ANOTHER QUESTION, CAN WE AFFORD NOT --

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: TO DO IT.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: -- TO DO IT AND THAT IT SHOULD BE AS WORTHY AND AS MOMENTOUS AS THE OTHER --

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: YOU'RE RIGHT.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: -- FOR YOUR REVIEW.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: CAN I CLOSE -- UNLESS THERE'S ANOTHER QUESTION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES.

>>AL HIGGINBOTHAM: IT REMINDS ME ABOUT THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE OLD HOPI INDIAN HAD GATHERED -- AND IT'S A TRUE STORY, BUT HE HAD GATHERED HIS TRIBE BECAUSE THEY WERE GETTING READY TO FACE SOME HARD TIMES, AND HE WAS SAYING TO THEM, KNOW YOUR GARDEN, MIND YOUR WATER, BE GOOD TO THE EARTH.

IT IS TIME NOW FOR US TO JUMP INTO THE RIVER.

THE RIVER IS RUNNING FAST AND STRONG, AND THERE WILL BE THOSE OF US WHO ARE AFRAID.

HOLD YOUR HEAD UP HIGH AND LOOK AROUND AND REJOICE FOR

THOSE WHO ARE WITH YOU.

THE TIME OF THE LONE WOLF IS OVER BECAUSE WE ARE THE ONES
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A FIVE-MINUTE RECESS, AND THEN WE'LL
COME BACK AND HAVE THE COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATE.

WE'LL READJOURN -- WE'LL RECONVENE AT 7:35.

QUICK.

>>JAMES TOKLEY: ALL RIGHT.

[RECESS TAKEN]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WELCOME BACK TO THE AUGUST 30th
CHARTER REVIEW BOARD MEETING.

WE'RE GOING TO MOVE ON WITH OUR AGENDA.

NEXT UP WE HAVE COUNTY ATTORNEY UPDATE.

WE HAVE MS. MINCEY AND MRS. FARRIS FROM THE COUNTY
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

GOOD EVENING, MS. MINCEY.

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: GOOD EVENING.

DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY, COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

WON'T BE BEFORE YOU LONG.

MY FIRST ISSUE BEFORE YOU HAS TO DO WITH SEPARATION OF
POWERS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND ETHICS.

YOU SHOULD HAVE IN THE FRONT OR AT YOUR DESK THERE JUST
SOME INFORMATION THAT WE POSTED TODAY.

WE UPDATED THE SEPARATION OF POWERS LANGUAGE BECAUSE WE FOUND SOME INFORMATION WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN FROM LEE COUNTY.

DO YOU-ALL HAVE THAT AT YOUR -- AT YOUR SEATS THERE?

IT SHOULD SAY "UPDATED" IN THE -- I THINK THE RIGHT-HAND CORNER, AND IT SHOULD BE ENTITLED "SEPARATION OF POWERS LANGUAGE IN OTHER CHARTERS."

JUST AS A MATTER OF BACKGROUND, DURING YOUR LAST BOARD MEETING YOU HAD ASKED FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO BRING BACK ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS AND OTHER KINDS OF CHARTER PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO SEPARATIONS OF POWERS FROM OTHER COUNTIES, PERTAINING TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

THIS WAS ALL HAVING TO DO WITH THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ROLE.

I BELIEVE MS. MARIELLA SMITH IN HER COMMENTS PROMPTED THE BOARD TO DISCUSSION THIS ISSUE, SO WE DID THAT.

IN ADDITION, YOU REQUESTED THAT WE DRAFT PROPOSED LANGUAGE STRENGTHENING THE CODE OF ETHICS PROVISION IN THE CHARTER, PROVIDING FOR SOME KIND OF ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE, AND WE'VE DONE THAT AS WELL.

YOU SHOULD HAVE IN YOUR FRONT A -- BASICALLY A VERY SMALL SAMPLE OF WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER BASED ON WHAT WE THOUGHT YOU-ALL WERE LOOKING TO HAVE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO RESPOND.

I DO WANT TO POINT OUT IN YOUR SEPARATION OF POWERS

LANGUAGE LEE COUNTY, THAT WHICH WE THOUGHT WAS INTERESTING ENOUGH TO BRING YOU THE UPDATE WE BELIEVE GOES TO -- IF YOU TURN TO THE SECOND PAGE OF THAT UPDATE UNDER LEE, IT'S A NONINTERFERENCE CLAUSE.

THAT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO US BECAUSE THAT WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE ONLY ONES THAT WE FOUND IN ALL OF THE 20 COUNTY CHARTERS HAVING TO DO WITH SOMETHING THAT YOU-ALL DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, NONINTERFERENCE.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY COMMUNICATE ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INQUIRY OR INFORMATION AND EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSES OF INQUIRY OR INFORMATION MAY NOT GIVE DIRECTION TO OR INTERFERE WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES OF EMPLOYEES OR WHAT HAVE YOU, AND NOTHING CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL PREVENT A COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM REFERRING A CITIZEN COMPLAINT OR REQUEST TO THE COUNTY MANAGER OR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY.

I BELIEVE YOU-ALL HAD DISCUSSED THAT IN TERMS OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR AND THE COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE ALONG THOSE LINES, SO WE WANTED TO BRING THAT INFORMATION TO YOUR FRONT JUST AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT'S ALREADY EXISTING OUT THERE.

AGAIN, IF YOU WILL TURN TO THE POLITICAL ACTIVITY INFORMATION THAT I'VE PROVIDED, IT SHOULD START WITH SARASOTA AND VOLUSIA.

THOSE WERE THE ONLY TWO COUNTY CHARTERS THAT PERTAINED OR THAT INCLUDED POLITICAL ACTIVITY INFORMATION.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM SARASOTA, I'VE UNDERLINED THE PROVISION

THAT TALKS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ENFORCEMENT.

THE LAST SENTENCE IT SAYS, A VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION WILL BE GROUNDS FOR REMOVAL OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FROM OFFICE.

THESE WERE THE ONLY TWO CHARTER COUNTIES THAT INCLUDED POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ADDITION TO HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND AGAIN, I BELIEVE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PROVISIONS THAT PERTAIN TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

THERE'S ALSO INFORMATION IN THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE THAT OUTLINES POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

AND I BELIEVE THE LAST THING THAT WE HAVE FOR YOU IS THE ETHICS PROVISIONS FROM OTHER CHARTER COUNTIES.

I AM SURE YOU PROBABLY HAVE THAT IN FRONT OF YOU AS WELL. I'LL JUST KIND OF GO THROUGH THOSE BRIEFLY.

BROWARD COUNTY, THEY HAVE A ETHICS COMMISSION WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO ESTABLISH A CODE OF ETHICS FOR THE BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSION.

THERE ARE 11 VOTING MEMBERS, AND THIS COMMISSION SERVES UNTIL A CODE OF ETHICS IS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR BY THE ELECTORS OF THE BROWARD COUNTY COMMISSION.

AGAIN, IT CITES THE CRITERIA FOR THEIR COMMISSION AND IT'S FOUND IN THEIR CHARTER.

CLAY COUNTY REQUIRES AN ORDINANCE WHICH IS ALONG THE LINES

OF WHAT YOU-ALL HAVE BEEN REQUESTING.

DUVAL COUNTY REQUIRES ETHICS TRAINING FOR CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS.

TURN THE PAGE TO MIAMI-DADE, ALSO REQUIRING A COUNTY ORDINANCE AND SETTING FORTH VIOLATIONS.

PALM BEACH ADOPTS AN ETHICS -- I'M SORRY -- ETHICS -- THE ETHICS STATE LAW JUST AS WE DO AND SETS FORTH THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY DO WHATEVER'S NECESSARY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE.

VOLUSIA COUNTY, VERY SIMILAR TO OUR ETHICS CODE, JUST BASICALLY LAYS OUT VERY GENERAL LANGUAGE ABOUT ETHICS.

AND I BELIEVE WE SENT YOU AS WELL SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES AND POLICIES ALONG WITH A STATEMENT OF ETHICS THAT WE HAVE CURRENTLY IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

THIS STATEMENT OF ETHICS IS JUST THAT, IT'S JUST A STATEMENT, IT'S NOTHING THAT SOMEONE NEEDS TO SIGN OR WHAT HAVE YOU.

>>JAN PLATT: CAN I ASK YOU WHERE IS ALL THIS THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: I BELIEVE THAT OUR STAFFPERSON SENT --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: COMMISSIONER PLATT, THE CODE OF ETHICS IS IN THE PAPER CLIP IN THE PACKET.

>>JAN PLATT: IT'S IN ALL THIS STACK OF STUFF?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THE AGENDA -- RIGHT BEHIND THE AGENDA, THE CODE OF ETHICS, THE INFORMATION THAT MRS. MINCEY IS TALKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW, RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU WITH THE PAPER CLIP.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THERE IS A LOT OF PAPERWORK HERE.

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: YES, I'M SURE.

WE SENT YOU SOME INFORMATION AND WE HAVE SINCE UPDATED SOME OF THIS INFORMATION AND COMPLETED SOME OF THE WORK FOR YOU FOR TODAY.

WE WERE UNABLE TO GET IT OUT TO YOU BY E-MAIL BEFORE, YOU KNOW, WE FELT YOU-ALL WOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT AND HAVE YOUR QUESTIONS READY FOR US, SO -- WE BROUGHT THEM TO YOU TODAY, SO I APOLOGIZE FOR YOU GETTING THE INFORMATION LATE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, AND I'M SURE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE -- AFTER WE HAVE TIME TO REVIEW THIS AND EVERYTHING, WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO ADD --

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: ABSOLUTELY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- THIS BACK --

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: THIS IS --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- TO OUR AGENDA --

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- THE NEXT MEETING FOR --

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- OLD BUSINESS --

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: YES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: -- JUST TO GIVE US TIME TO REVIEW.

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: IT'S JUST FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES.

WE WERE JUST ASKED TO BRING FORTH ALL THIS INFORMATION AS COMPOSITES, AS SKETCHES, AND EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE AS A MODEL, SO THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: AND THE VERY LAST THING WOULD BE THE CODE OF ETHICS.

IT'S JUST A SMALL SAMPLE OF SOME LANGUAGE STRENGTHENING YOUR CODE OF ETHICS PROVISION.

AND I BELIEVE I AM FINISHED ON THAT NOTE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY QUESTIONS FOR MS. MINCEY?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

>>JAN PLATT: I WOULD ASK YOU THAT YOU SCHEDULE THIS ON THE AGENDA NEXT TIME SO WE HAVE A CHANCE TO READ OVER IT.

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: SURE.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, WE WILL.

WE WILL MAKE SURE WE DO THAT.

>>GERALD WHITE: I HAVE A REPORT ON THE REQUEST BY THIS BOARD TO TRY TO SECURE A SPOT FOR THE DISABILITY LANGUAGE. WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT?

>>DEBORA CROMARTIE-MINCEY: WE WERE NOT ABLE TO FIND TWO

PUBLIC HEARING SLOTS BEFORE THE BALLOT PRINTING DEADLINE, BUT IT'S AT YOUR DISCRETION WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THAT PUBLIC HEARING.

WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT BECAUSE THERE IS NO URGENCY ANYMORE AND WHATEVER PROPOSALS YOU'LL BE MAKING HENCEFORTH WOULD BE GOING TOWARDS THE NOVEMBER -- WELL, I'M SORRY, THE 2012 ELECTION THAT ONCE YOU'VE GATHERED ALL OF THE PROPOSALS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE GO FORTH, THAT WE MAY, YOU KNOW, PUT THEM ALL -- GROUP THEM ALL IN ONE PUBLIC HEARING, BUT IT'S AT YOUR DISCRETION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I THINK -- AS CHAIR, I'D LIKE TO SAY I THINK THAT IS A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE TO RUN THE ADS AND EVERYTHING FOR THE PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND NOT TO PUT THEM ALL OFF, BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS WE -- AS WE HEAR FROM MORE PEOPLE COMING BEFORE US AND EVERYTHING, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY RUSH FOR ANY OF THESE ITEMS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE ON THE BALLOT UNTIL 2012.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, MAY I SPEAK TO THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I JUST WANT TO PUT THE BOARD ON GUARD UNTIL WAITING TO THE END TO VOTE OUT ISSUES THAT YOU MAY WANT TO PLACE ON THE NEXT BALLOT CYCLE.

IF YOU WAIT TILL THE VERY END TO DO THAT AND YOU DISAGREE, YOU DON'T SECURE THE TEN VOTES AND YOU ADJOURN, YOUR ISSUE

DIES, AND SO YOU NEED TO BE MINDFUL OF THAT.

I THINK THAT HAPPENED IN THE 2000 CHARTER REVIEW, NOT THIS ONE, THE ONE BEFORE THAT, WHEN THEY HAD SEVERAL ISSUES GO TO PUBLIC HEARING AT THE LAST MEETING AND THEN THEY VOTED ON FOUR OR FIVE ISSUES AND COULDN'T AGREE.

THERE WERE NO MORE MEETINGS TO RECONCILE, AND SO THOSE ISSUES DIED.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THAT'S A GOOD POINT, MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: I WOULD ADVOCATE HOLDING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS -- I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING SO CONTROVERSIAL THAT IT COULDN'T BE A PART OF OUR REGULAR AGENDA, THE PUBLIC HEARING BE A PART OF OUR REGULAR AGENDA SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO WORK, IF AN ISSUE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING ON, HAVE THE PUBLIC HEARING DURING THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING.

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BEING SO STRONG THAT IT CAN'T JUST BE A PART OF OUR REGULAR MEETING AND WE CAN JUST CONTINUE TO -- AND THAT WAY YOU'LL KEEP THE PUBLIC ENGAGED, THEY'LL KNOW WE'LL HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING, THEY'LL KNOW WE'RE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES, WE'RE WORKING, NOT PUTTING OFF TO THE VERY END ON SOMETHING THAT WE COULD RISK FAILING BECAUSE WE WAITED UNTIL THE END.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I GUESS -- MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: LET ME REMIND YOU OF THE ESCAPE CLAUSE. YOU'RE RIGHT BUT YOU'RE NOT NECESSARILY RIGHT.

REMEMBER I BROUGHT THE ESCAPE CLAUSE IN.

IT'S CALLED THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE THAT'S LEFT.

IN OTHER WORDS, SAY WE CAN'T GET TEN, WE CAN ALWAYS VOTE TO MAKE A RESOLUTION GO TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION TO DO SOMETHING, SO WE GOT THAT LAST SHOT.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU-ALL DID THAT THE LAST TIME YOU-ALL RAN OUT OF TIME IS TAKE THE MAJORITY VOTE AND SENT IT TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION AND LET THEM DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I THINK THAT'S OUR LAST ESCAPE CLAUSE, SO EVEN IF WE CAN'T GET TEN VOTES, IF YOU GET A MAJORITY, WHICH USUALLY IF YOU GOT CLOSE TO TEN, YOU CAN, SIMPLE MAJORITY, YOU CAN SHOOT IT UP TO THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO GET ONE LAST ESCAPE CLAUSE ON IT, OKAY?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I JUST -- I DO AGREE WITH MR. WHITE IN TERMS OF WE DON'T WANT TO WAIT TILL, YOU KNOW, END OF JANUARY.

WE MAY WANT TO LOOK TOWARDS THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR JUST TO GIVE US A LITTLE BIT OF TIME AFTERWARDS, OR, YOU KNOW, THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN DISCUSS.

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME.

MY WHOLE THING IS IT'S A GOOD -- FINANCIALLY IT MAKES SENSE TO PUT TWO OR THREE -- YOU KNOW, IF WE HAVE A NUMBER OF ITEMS, IT MAKES SENSE TO PUT TWO OR THREE ITEMS BECAUSE IT IS EXPENSIVE FOR THE COUNTY TO RUN THESE ADS, AND TO RUN -- YOU KNOW, IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX

MORE ITEMS WE WANT TO PUT PUBLIC HEARINGS ON, IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE 12 PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THOSE, I JUST DON'T THINK THAT MAKES FINANCIAL SENSE.

I THINK IT'S BETTER TO GROUP THEM IN TWO OR THREES AND DISCUSS IT, BUT LIKE I SAID, I THINK MR. WHITE HAS A GOOD POINT, WE DON'T WANT TO WAIT UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY AND HAVE OUR PUBLIC HEARINGS AND THEN HAVE TO ADJOURN.

SO ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

MRS. FARRIS.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: GOOD EVENING, BOARD MEMBERS.

MARY HELEN FARRIS WITH THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

AND WE DID PROVIDE YOU WITH A LOT OF INFORMATION THAT CAME OUT OF THE LAST MEETING, SO I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE LAST TWO THINGS.

ONE, YOU SHOULD HAVE IN FRONT OF YOU THE TERM LIMIT PROPOSAL.

THERE WAS A LOT OF DIFFERENT VARIATIONS THAT WERE DISCUSSED.

WHAT I CAME BACK WITH -- AND CERTAINLY THIS WILL ENTAIL A LOT MORE DISCUSSION AT A FUTURE MEETING, BUT WHAT I GOT FROM THE MINUTES WAS THAT ONE OF THE BIG ISSUES WAS THE GOING FROM SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT TO AT-LARGE DISTRICT AND BACK, AND IF YOU LOOK AT THIS LANGUAGE, THE CURRENT CHARTER PROVISION HAS TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS.

ONE IS YOUR SINGLE-FAMILY -- SINGLE-MEMBER GROUP --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MS. FARRIS, LET ME INTERRUPT YOU FOR ONE MINUTE.

I DON'T THINK SOME OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS HAVE FOUND IT.

I'M GOING TO JUST SHOW THEM --

>>JAN PLATT: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: HALF A PAGE.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT --

>>JAN PLATT: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT'S SECTION 4.04 ON THE TOP AND IT'S ABOUT HALF A PAGE.

>>JAN PLATT: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO -- THANK YOU.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: WHAT I DID BASICALLY IS YOU CAN SEE HERE THE CURRENT CHARTER PROVISION TREATS SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS AS ONE GROUP AND AT-LARGE AS ANOTHER GROUP SO THAT YOU CAN GO FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.

WHAT I'VE DONE HERE WITH THIS LANGUAGE IS PUT THEM ALL BACK IN ONE GROUP SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE YOUR TWO-TERM LIMIT, IF YOU WILL, BUT IT ALSO ALLOWS, AS MR. WHITE HAD SUGGESTED, THE -- THE -- TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE TWO-YEAR TERM THAT COMES UP AND YOU'RE A SINGLE-MEMBER SO THAT THEY'RE NOT PENALIZED AND ONLY ALLOWED TO DO SIX, SO I BASICALLY JUST GROUPED THEM INTO ONE.

THERE'S CERTAINLY OTHER WAYS YOU COULD DO THIS, BUT I THINK THIS GOT TO WHERE THE DISCUSSION WAS AND AT LEAST TO GIVE

YOU A STARTING POINT, MAYBE AT A FUTURE MEETING, NEXT MEETING, WHENEVER YOU WANT TO BRING IT UP TO REALLY GET INTO IT AND DISCUSS HOW YOU WANT IT TO READ.

THE SECOND THING -- AND I'LL GIVE YOU A MOMENT TO FIND IT -
- IS THE RESIGN TO RUN CHART.

IT SAYS "TYPE OF EMPLOYEE," "APPLICABLE LAW."

AND I'LL WAIT UNTIL EVERYBODY HAS THAT.

THIS IS ACTUALLY A CHART THAT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR QUITE SOMETIME WHEN RESIGN TO RUN ISSUES COME UP BECAUSE I THINK AS YOU COULD TELL AT THE LAST MEETING, DIFFERENT EMPLOYEES AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF EMPLOYEES ARE TREATED DIFFERENTLY AND ARE SUBJECT TO DIFFERENT RULES, SO WHAT THIS CHART BASICALLY DOES IS OUTLINE THE FIRST ROW ACROSS ARE THOSE THAT ARE CIVIL SERVICE BUT NOT UNDER THE COUNTY COMMISSION OR SOME OF THE OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, SO ALL THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW IS CIVIL SERVICE.

THE NEXT BOX IS THOSE THAT ARE BOTH CIVIL SERVICE AND UNDER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND THAT'S BASICALLY THE BULK OF THE EMPLOYEES UNDER MIKE MERRILL AT THIS POINT, AND IT TELLS YOU WHAT THE LAW IS, YOU MUST RESIGN, WHEN YOU MUST RESIGN, AND WHEN YOU MUST TAKE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

THEN THE LAST ONE IS ONLY THOSE UNDER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL SERVICE.

THAT WOULD BE I THINK THE DIRECTORS, EDITH?

THE DIRECTORS, THE ACAs CERTAINLY, THAT TYPE OF EMPLOYEE.

THERE MAY BE OTHERS THAT ARE NOT SUBJECT TO SINGLE CERT, SO -- THEY JUST GO BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE, SO I KIND OF LAID THESE OUT.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION, I CAN GET YOU COPIES OF THE PROVISIONS THAT I'VE MENTIONED HERE.

IF YOU WANT, I CAN PROVIDE THAT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

MR. TOKLEY.

OH, MR. ROBINSON.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WHERE IS THE AIDES?

I'M LOOKING FOR THE COUNTY -- WHICH ONE OF THESE BOXES IS THE AIDES UNDER HERE?

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

THEY ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CIVIL SERVICE, THEY ARE NOT -- EITHER THAT OR UNDER THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND I DON'T DO OUR HR LABOR WORK, BUT I THINK THE COMMISSIONERS ARE THEIR OWN APPOINTING AUTHORITY.

I THINK THAT'S THE TERM THEY USE, SO -- SO THIS -- THIS -- THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO SHOW YOU WHAT'S OUT THERE, AND THERE IS NOTHING --

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: -- ON THE AIDES, SO THAT'S SOMETHING THAT YOU COULD TAKE.

AGAIN, IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE PROVISIONS IN THESE SO YOU

COULD SEE THE WORDING, I'D BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THAT FOR YOU IF YOU WANTED TO PUT SOMETHING IN THE CHARTER.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: SO BASICALLY THE AIDES ARE OUTSIDE THE BOX?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: THAT'S -- THAT'S RIGHT.

>>JAN PLATT: LITERALLY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: AND I BELIEVE THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TOOK A PUBLIC POSITION ON RESIGN TO RUN SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

I KNOW THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE COMMISSIONERS WAS ASKED TO LOOK AT THAT ISSUE ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSIONERS, AND THEY BROUGHT BACK A REPORT TO THE BOARD, AND THE BOARD TOOK A PUBLIC POSITION AND A VOTE ON THAT ISSUE, SO I BELIEVE WHAT'S IN PLACE TODAY IS A RESULT OF THE WILL OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR MS. FARRIS?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

I JUST WANTED TO MENTION THE CANVASSING BOARD.

I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOP BY THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS' OFFICE, AND CITIZENS ARE NOT REALLY FAMILIAR WITH THEIR CANVASSING BOARD THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING THE ELECTION.

CAN YOU JUST MENTION THE CANVASSING BOARD AND WHO MAKE UP THE CANVASSING BOARD FOR THIS ELECTION CYCLE AND THE ROLE THAT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PLAY WITH THE CANVASSING BOARD?

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: CERTAINLY.

THE CANVASSING BOARD BY STATUTE IS THREE PEOPLE, A COUNTY COURT JUDGE, BECAUSE EVERY COUNTY HAS ONE, AND THAT SHALL BE THE CHAIR, THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, AND THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS.

THERE ARE PROVISIONS IN THE STATUTE, AND THEY OVERSEE THE RETURNS, THEY LOOK AT SIGNATURES, ALL THE ABSENTEES.

THEY -- THAT IS A GROUP THAT CERTIFIES THE ELECTION AND OVERSEES THE PROCESS.

THERE'S PROVISIONS IN THE STATUTE THAT IF ANY OF THOSE ARE ON THE BALLOT OR ARE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION -- ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN A RACE OR A CANDIDATE OR ANYTHING TO BE, YOU KNOW, ON THAT BALLOT, THEN THEY CANNOT SERVE, SO THAT'S WHY THIS TIME IT'S JUDGE DOMINGUEZ, WHO STARTED IN 1990 -- I STARTED IN 1992, BUT WE'VE DONE THE SAME NUMBER OF ELECTIONS BECAUSE HE WASN'T ON THE BOARD DURING ONE OF THE ELECTIONS IS ON -- HE'S THE CHAIR.

DR. LENNARD AND MARGARET COURTNEY, WHO ALSO IS A CIRCUIT COURT -- A COUNTY COURT JUDGE IS THE MAKEUP OF THIS COUNTY CANVASSING BOARD.

I'VE SERVED WITH COMMISSIONER PLATT MY FIRST ONE IN '92,

AND THAT WAS A JAMES COE RACE.

I WON'T BORE YOU WITH THE DETAILS.

THAT WAS INTERESTING.

BUT I'VE BEEN -- EXCEPT FOR A SHORT HIATUS WITH -- WHEN BUDDY JOHNSON WAS IN OFFICE, HE HAD HIS IN-HOUSE COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICE WORK.

I STILL DID ALL THE ELECTION WORK.

OTHER THAN THAT, I STARTED WITH ROBIN KRIVANEK AND THEN, OF COURSE, WITH PAM IORIO AND NOW WITH DR. LENNARD.

>>JAN PLATT: I STARTED WITH JIM SEBESTA.

EVERYBODY PROBABLY FORGETS THAT HE WAS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

HE WAS THE SUPERVISOR.

>>GERALD WHITE: I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CANVASSING WORK.

DR. LENNARD, I KNOW I REQUESTED THAT HE COME BEFORE THE BOARD, AND I CAN SEE HE'S VERY BUSY RUNNING THE ELECTION PROCESS.

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE DR. LENNARD, THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FOR HAVING A SUCCESSFUL PRIMARY, AND MY DAUGHTER, WHO IS IN GERMANY, REQUESTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, AND SHE RECEIVED HER ABSENTEE BALLOT IN GERMANY AND SHE PUT HER BALLOT ON SKYPE -- DID I SAY IT RIGHT? -- ON SKYPE, AND I WAS ABLE TO SEE HER WHOLE -- HER ABSENTEE BALLOT ON THE MILITARY BASE, AND SHE WAS GOING TO

CAST IT AND SEND IT BACK TO THE UNITED STATES, SO
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY IS ALIVE AND WELL ALL OVER THE WORLD.
DR. LENNARD, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU, MS. FARRIS.

NEXT ON OUR AGENDA IS OLD BUSINESS.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT ALL THIS?
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A HEARING ON WHAT WE GOT TONIGHT?
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A HEARING ON --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: I WAS GOING TO ADD THESE ITEMS BACK TO
OLD BUSINESS BECAUSE WITH ALL THE INFORMATION WE'VE
RECEIVED TONIGHT, NO ONE'S HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY
REVIEW IT IN DETAIL, SO I WAS GOING TO PUT ALL OF THESE
ITEMS BACK -- I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST TO EDITH THAT WE PUT
THEM ALL BACK ON OLD BUSINESS.

THAT WAY WE'LL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW IT AND COME
BACK AT THE NEXT MEETING AND DISCUSS.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

AT THE NEXT MEETING?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YES, SIR.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: OKAY.

GOOD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

OKAY.

MOVING ON TO OLD BUSINESS?

ANY COMMENTS, ANY DISCUSSIONS?

OKAY.

NOTHING ON OLD BUSINESS.

ANY NEW BUSINESS?

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

I HAD A BRIEF CONVERSATION TODAY WITH THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, MIKE MERRILL, AND I ASKED HIM WOULD HE BE INTERESTED IN MAKING AN APPEARANCE BEFORE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD, AND HE WAS EXCITED AND HE SAID IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD, AND SO THAT'S MY FIRST ISSUE, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO REQUEST THAT WE AS A BOARD INVITE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY TO COME BEFORE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION?

>>GERALD WHITE: I'D LIKE TO MAKE THAT A MOTION.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ALL IN FAVOR OF INVITING THE INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR -
- WELL, LET'S -- DISCUSSION FIRST.

ANY DISCUSSION?

ALL IN FAVOR PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

THAT WAS EASY.

WE'LL MAKE SURE WE GET AN INVITATION OUT TO HIM.

>>GERALD WHITE: THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

ANY ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS?

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

AND FOR SOME REASON THESE PEOPLE JUST -- THEY ON THE SAME FLOOR FOR SOMETHING, BUT THE -- ERIC JOHNSON, THE BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, I WOULD LIKE FOR HIM TO COME AS WELL AND GIVE US A PRESENTATION ON HOW THE BUDGET PROCESS WORK AND HOW THEY GO ABOUT PUTTING TOGETHER THE BUDGET, JUST GIVE THIS BOARD A SMALL PRESENTATION ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUDGET DEPARTMENT OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, AND MR. CHAIRMAN, HE WROTE HIS MASTER THESIS -- HE TOLD ME THIS TODAY -- AS A RESULT OF HIS APPEARING TO THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WHEN THE CHARTER BOARD WAS RAISING ISSUES ABOUT TAX CAP, AND SO AS A RESULT, HE STARTED RESEARCH, AND IT ENDED UP HE ENDED UP GETTING A MASTER'S DEGREE WRITING HIS THESIS BASED ON CHARTER REVIEW BOARD WORK.

SO I SAID, WELL, AIN'T NO TELLING WHAT YOU'LL GET IF YOU COME TO THE NEXT CHARTER BOARD, SO I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ERIC JOHNSON TO --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

YOU CAN MAKE THE MOTION.

>>GERALD WHITE: I'D LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION TO INVITE ERIC JOHNSON, THE BUDGET ADMINISTRATOR OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, TO COME BEFORE THE CHARTER REVIEW BOARD.

>> SECOND.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

DO WE HAVE A SECOND?

SECOND.

ANY DISCUSSION BEFORE WE VOTE.

ALL IN FAVOR OF THAT MOTION PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

ANYONE OPPOSED?

OKAY.

THAT ALSO PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

ANY ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS AS WE MOVE ALONG?

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: JUST ONE OTHER ISSUE.

I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW -- ONE OF THE CITIZENS MENTIONED THIS, AND UNTIL I ACTUALLY LOOKED AT THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THE MEETING, I MISSED IT IN OUR TALK.

SHE TALKED ABOUT A CAP, A TAX -- I MEAN A FINANCIAL CAP FOR CAMPAIGNING WHEN YOU RUN FOR OFFICE, ONE OF THE CITIZENS DID WHEN THEY MADE A PRESENTATION, AND I WANTED TO KNOW ARE ANY OTHER COUNTIES THAT HAS A CHARTER HAS A LIMIT ON HOW MUCH CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS THAT YOU CAN MAKE?

ARE THEY ALL 500, ARE THEY 250 OR WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT.

>>JAN PLATT: STATE LAW.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: STATE LAW.

>>JAN PLATT: STATE LAW.

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: MRS. FARRIS.

>>GERALD WHITE: CAN THE COUNTY ATTORNEY RESPOND TO THAT?

AND IS IT POSSIBLE TO --

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: MOST OF THAT IS PREEMPTED UNDER THE ELECTION CODE.

I THINK SARASOTA TRIED IT AND MIGHT EVEN HAVE IT -- I COULD LOOK AT IT, BUT THERE'S OPINIONS THAT THAT IS -- THE ELECTION CODE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE STANDARD THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AND SO I BELIEVE IT IS PREEMPTED, BUT I CAN LOOK AND SEE BECAUSE I THINK THERE'S A -- THERE'S -- I THINK THERE'S SOME CASE LAW ON IT THAT I COULD SHARE WITH THE BOARD.

>>GERALD WHITE: I APPRECIATE IT.

>>MARY HELEN FARRIS: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

NO FURTHER NEW BUSINESS, I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A COMMENT BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO PUBLIC COMMENT -- TO OUR FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT.

DURING MR. GARRITY'S PRESENTATION HE MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT INVITING MARK OBER.

WE HAVE INVITED HIM.

WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A RESPONSE, AND I JUST WANTED TO

GO THROUGH THOSE INDIVIDUALS WE'RE WAITING FOR A RESPONSE FOR -- FROM, MAYOR AFFRONTI, MAYOR LOTT, MAYOR JOHN PEYTON FROM DUVAL COUNTY, JEROME RYANS, CHIEF JUDGE MANUEL MENENDEZ, KAY DOUGHTY FROM CAC, HAMILTON PRICE, MARK OBER, COMMISSIONER NORMAN, COMMISSIONER WHITE, COMMISSIONER HAGAN, AND BOB ROHRLACK.

SO I JUST WANTED TO MENTION THAT, AND HOPEFULLY WE CAN GET A RESPONSE BECAUSE WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM EVERYBODY THAT WE'VE INVITED, AND WE'RE ALSO STILL TRYING TO SCHEDULE MAYOR IORIO, MAYOR CROTTY FROM ORANGE COUNTY, KRISTIN CLARKE, AND MIKE MERRILL, SO I JUST WANTED TO MENTION THAT BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO OUR FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT, AND WE HAVE TWO INDIVIDUALS SIGNED UP.

MR. WHITE.

>>GERALD WHITE: YES.

AND I WANTED TO MENTION JEROME RYANS, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -- THE PRESIDENT OF THE TAMPA HOUSING AUTHORITY. I HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH HIM A LITTLE BIT, AND SO I THINK EDITH HAS COMMUNICATED WITH HIS OFFICE. HE'S INTERESTED.

I EXPRESSED MY DESIRE AGAIN FOR HIM TO COME, AND SO I'LL MAKE SURE TO -- FOLLOW UP, MAKE SURE WE GIVE HIM A CALL. BEFORE WE --

>>MITCHELL THROWER: HE WAS ONE OF THE ONES WE HAD AS NO RESPONSE.

>>GERALD WHITE: BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO PUBLIC COMMENT, HAVE WE HAD ANY CITIZENS HERE THAT -- FROM PLANT CITY?

WE MEET -- AND THE REASON I'M BRINGING THIS UP, WE MEET AT 6:00, YOU KNOW, AND PEOPLE GET OFF FROM WORK THAT LIVES IN PLANT CITY.

IT'S JUST SO DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DRIVE ALL THE WAY DOWNTOWN TAMPA.

CAN WE JUST GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT LIKE HAVE ONE MEETING OR A SATELLITE MEETING IN PLANT CITY OR SOMETHING SO WE CAN REACH THAT COMMUNITY?

I FEEL BAD THAT WE'VE BEEN MEETING THIS LONG AND HAVEN'T HEARD FROM ANYBODY FROM PLANT CITY OR --

>>JAN PLATT: IF YOU DO THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO SUN CITY, YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO TEMPLE TERRACE.

>> LUTZ.

>>JAN PLATT: YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO LUTZ.

THIS IS A BIG COUNTY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE DID DISCUSS SOME PROBLEMS WITH LOGISTICS, AND MRS. STEWART MAY -- I DON'T WANT TO PUT YOU ON THE SPOT, BUT I KNOW WE DISCUSSED IT AND THERE WAS SOME PROBLEMS WITH LOGISTICS AND LOCATIONS AND THE FINANCES AND EVERYTHING, AND I THINK COMMISSIONER PLATT HAS A -- SHE'S CORRECT.

IF WE -- YOU KNOW, THERE'S PLANT CITY, THERE'S WIMAUMA, THERE'S LUTZ.

I LIVE IN CARROLLWOOD AREA.

>>GERALD WHITE: THERE ARE ONLY THREE INCORPORATED CITIES.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE THREE INCORPORATED CITIES IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, CITY OF TAMPA, TEMPLE TERRACE, AND PLANT CITY.

THAT'S WHY I SAID PLANT CITY.

THEY ARE ONE OF THE INCORPORATED CITIES WITHIN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

I'M SORRY, GO AHEAD.

>>EDITH STEWART: THERE WOULD BE A COST.

>>GERALD WHITE: WELL, I'M NOT EVEN TALKING ABOUT A TELEVISED MEETING.

I MEAN --

>>EDITH STEWART: WELL, THIS IS PART OF THE BOARD'S POLICY. YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE BOARDS THAT WE ARE REQUIRED TO TELEVISE.

WE WOULD GO OUT THERE AND PROBABLY VIDEOTAPE IT, BUT THERE WOULD BE A COST.

THERE WOULD BE OVERTIME FOR THE EMPLOYEES.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: SO, I MEAN, IT'S SOMETHING AS A BOARD WE CAN DISCUSS AND WE CAN PUT IT ON OUR AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING TO DISCUSS JUST TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY -- I MEAN, BECAUSE I TEND TO AGREE, IT'S GOOD TO GET OUT TO THE COMMUNITY, BUT THEN THERE'S THE -- YOU KNOW, WE CAN'T JUST GO TO PLANT CITY, WE'VE GOT TEMPLE TERRACE, WE'VE GOT

WIMAUMA.

IT'S A BIG COUNTY, SO, YOU KNOW, WE JUST -- IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING -- WE CAN PUT IT ON THE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING TO DISCUSS.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

LET'S MOVE ON TO PUBLIC COMMENT.

WE HAVE TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO'VE SIGNED UP.

FIRST UP, MR. WILLIAM DENNIS.

WELCOME.

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>>MITCHELL THROWER: PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF, AND YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES.

>> OKAY.

WILLIAM DENNIS, 4217 LAKEWOOD DRIVE, SEFFNER, FLORIDA.

I COME FROM TIME TO TIME.

THIS IS A CHEAP FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR ME.

[LAUGHTER]

JUST JOKING.

YOU KNOW, IF I'M GOING TO KILL A LITTLE TIME, YOU KNOW, I GOT A PRETTY GOOD CROWD OF PEOPLE TO DO IT WITH, YOU KNOW, DECENT GUYS.

I WANTED TO MAKE A COMMENT WITH REGARD TO THE EPC.

I THOUGHT MR. ROBINSON MADE AN INTERESTING COMMENT WITH REGARD TO FUNDING, YOU KNOW, LOOKING FOR ANOTHER SOURCE,

YOU KNOW, FOR FUNDING.

\$13 MILLION, THAT'S AN INTERESTING BUDGET TO WORK WITH.

MR. WHITE MADE AN INTERESTING COMMENT WITH REGARD TO THE RUMBLINGS IN THE COMMUNITY.

ASIDE FROM LIVING IN SEFFNER, I'M A PROPERTY OWNER IN EAST TAMPA, AND WE'VE DONE A COUPLE OF PROJECTS LATELY WITH TIF FUNDS, AND INVARIABLY ALL OF THOSE PROJECTS HAVE RAN IN TO ABANDONED LANDFILLS, WHICH ADD COSTS TO THE PROJECT.

WE ALSO HAVE DISCOVERED THAT WE'RE HAVING A STRUCTURAL FAILURE WITH A COUNTY LIBRARY THAT'S LOCATED AT MARTIN LUTHER KING AND 26th STREET.

NEEDS TO BE REPLACED ALTOGETHER BECAUSE OF -- IT'S SITTING ON A LANDFILL.

I -- I DON'T THINK THAT WE'RE GETTING OUR -- YOU KNOW, WE MAY NOT BE GETTING OUR BANG FOR THE BUCK, YOU KNOW.

WE MIGHT BE SPENDING ENOUGH MONEY TO HAVE A GOOD EPC, BUT A LOT OF THAT INFORMATION OBVIOUSLY IS NOT GETTING SHARED, YOU KNOW, WITH SOME OF THE PROJECTS THAT ARE RUNNING INTO THIS LANDFILL ISSUE, YOU KNOW.

I THINK THERE WAS EVEN A COUPLE OF SUBDIVISIONS THAT WERE BUILT IN EAST TAMPA ON TOP OF LANDFILLS, YOU KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT INFORMATION DISSEMINATED IN THE COMMUNITY WHEN, YOU KNOW, COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT OCCURS, BUT WE NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB WITH THAT.

THAT'S ABOUT ALL I HAD TO SAY ABOUT THAT, AND THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.

HAVE A GOOD DAY.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: THANK YOU.

NEXT UP IS MR. AL DAVIS.

WELCOME AGAIN.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.

I'M STILL AL DAVIS FROM 3717 EAST WILDER.

WHAT WE NAME SOMETHING OR WHAT WE PUT ON A LABEL OR SOMETHING, THAT SOMETHING THEN BECOMES THAT IDENTITY.

SOMETIMES IT'S THE BEGINNING OF HOW THINGS ARE KNOWN AS TO HOW IT WAS ORIGINATED, ORIGINALLY LABELED OR NAMED.

SOME CALL IT A NOMENCLATURE.

YOU KNOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WAS THINKING IF -- I KNOW THIS ISSUE CONCERNING THE ELECTED EXECUTIVE AND SO FORTH AND ALL, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT, WHY NOT JUST CHANGE THE NAME -- NOT CHANGE IT BUT MODIFY THE NAME FROM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AND THAT IS A FULL-TIME RESPONSIBILITY.

THERE WON'T BE THESE PRESUMPTIONS OR -- BETWEEN THE CHAIR OF THE COUNTY COMMISSION AND THAT OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

THOSE DUTIES ARE EXPLAINED OR CLARIFIED IN THE COUNTY CHARTER.

THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER IS A FULL-TIMER.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEMBERS ARE PART-TIME. OF COURSE SOMETIMES THEY'D LIKE TO MAKE IT FULL-TIME, BUT IF YOU LET THE CHIEF OR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER DO THE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THIS COUNTY AND REALLY SEPARATE THE POWERS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE TO THE EXECUTIVE, I THINK THINGS WILL GO MUCH, MUCH SMOOTHER, AND I THINK THIS CHARTER REVIEW BOARD COULD CONVEY THAT MESSAGE IF NOT CHANGING THE CHARTER ITSELF BUT MAYBE THROUGH A RESOLUTION, YOU KNOW, TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION.

I DON'T KNOW DOES IT TAKE A CHARTER CHANGE TO CHANGE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER?

>>MITCHELL THROWER: IT'S IN THE COUNTY CHARTER, SO IT WOULD.

>> BUT THAT'S JUST THE DESIGNATION.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

>> IT WOULDN'T CHANGE THE FUNCTION OF -- I'LL TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN SOMETIME, MR. CHAIRMAN.

THANK YOU.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

>>JOSEPH ROBINSON: MOTION TO ADJOURN.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME MAKE ONE COMMENT JUST FOR THE RECORD.

MRS. LEYTHAM NOTIFIED MRS. STEWART BEFORE THE MEETING THAT SHE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF ILLNESS TOO.

JUST WANTED TO PUT THAT ON THE RECORD TOO.

WE'VE GOT A MOTION TO ADJOURN.

>>GERALD WHITE: BEFORE WE ADJOURN -- I NEED TO MAKE SURE I UNDERSTAND ONE POINT BEFORE WE ADJOURN.

THE DISABILITY RESOLUTION, DID WE VOTE TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THAT?

WE JUST HAVE NOT SET A DATE, IS THAT WHAT IT IS?

EXPLAIN WHERE WE ARE ON THAT ISSUE.

I NEED TO KNOW.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: LET ME MAKE SURE.

I BELIEVE WE HAD VOTED TO LOOK AT DATES AND TRY TO FIND DATES.

I BELIEVE WE HAD VOTED TO HAVE THE PUBLIC HEARING, BUT WE NEEDED TO FIND SOME DATES.

WE COULDN'T FIND THE DATES BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR THE 2010, SO WE STILL HAVE THAT OUT THERE.

WE STILL HAVE GOT TO HAVE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SCHEDULE THE PUBLIC HEARING.

WE JUST ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO IT FOR THE 2010 ELECTION.

>>GERALD WHITE: OKAY.

WELL, THEN, MR. CHAIR, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THAT DOCUMENT AS THOUGH IT WAS A RESOLUTION LIKE ALL THE OTHER RESOLUTIONS THAT WE HAVE VOTED TO TAKE TO PUBLIC HEARING. WE NEED TO HAVE THAT DOCUMENT IN THAT FORM.

>>JAN PLATT: WELL, YOU KNOW, THERE'S A MOTION TO ADJOURN -
-

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH, WE'VE GOT A MOTION --

>>JAN PLATT: -- BUT ASIDE FROM THAT, WE -- WE RECEIVED AN
E-MAIL THAT SAID THAT THERE WAS REALLY NO NEED TO CHANGE
THE LANGUAGE, AND I THINK THAT STAFF NEEDS TO JUST PUT THAT
ON AS OLD BUSINESS AS ANOTHER ITEM, AND YOU READ YOUR E-
MAILS AND YOU'LL FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IT.

>>GERALD WHITE: BUT WE ALREADY VOTED TO DO IT.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: YEAH.

I MEAN, IT'S JUST A -- IT'S A MINOR CHANGE.

WE DO HAVE A MOTION TO ADJOURN ON THE FLOOR, SO WE'RE GOING
TO HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH THAT.

>>GERALD WHITE: THAT'S FINE, BUT I JUST WANTED TO LET
COMMISSIONER PLATT KNOW WE VOTED TO DO THAT, AND SO AS A
RESULT OF OUR VOTE, WE EXPECT THE HARD PAPER PRODUCT AS A
RESULT OF OUR WORK, AND IT WASN'T DELIVERED TO US.

>>MITCHELL THROWER: WE WILL HAVE THAT, MR. WHITE.

WE WILL HAVE THAT.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

WE'VE GOT A SECOND.

ALL IN FAVOR PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND.

MEETING'S ADJOURNED.