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CITY OF JACKSONVILLE
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
MEETING

Proceedings held on Thursday, February 25,
2010, commencing at 9:05 a.m., City Hall, Council
Chambers, 1st Floor, Jacksonville, Florida, before
Diane M. Tropa, a Notary Public in and for the State
of Florida at Large.

PRESENT:

- WYMAN DUGGAN, Chair.
- MARY O'BRIEN, Vice Chair.
- ED AUSTIN, Commission Member.
- JIM CATLETT, Commission Member.
- WILLIAM CATLIN, Commission Member.
- ROBERT FLOWERS, SR., Commission Member.
- BEVERLY GARVIN, Commission Member.
- MECHELLE HERRINGTON, Commission Member.
- ALI KORMAN, Commission Member.
- JEANNE MILLER, Commission Member.
- GARY OLIVERAS, Commission Member.
- CURTIS THOMPSON, Commission Member.
- GEOFF YOUNGBLOOD, Commission Member.

ALSO PRESENT:

- STEVE ROHAN, Office of General Counsel.
- JEFF CLEMENTS, Research Division.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

February 25, 2010 9:05 a.m.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning.

It's my pleasure to call to order the February 25th, 2010, and last meeting of the Charter Revision Commission for 2009-2010.

We'll begin with our roll call with Commissioner Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Curtis Thompson.

MR. OLIVERAS: Gary Oliveras.

MS. KORMAN: Ali Korman.

MR. FLOWERS: Robert Flowers.

MS. O'BRIEN: Mary O'Brien.

THE CHAIRMAN: Wyman Duggan.

MR. AUSTIN: Ed Austin.

MR. CATLIN: Billy Catlin.

MS. GARVIN: Beverly Garvin.

MS. MILLER: Jeanne Miller.

MR. YOUNGBLOOD: Geoff Youngblood.

THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Deal is out of town and will obviously not be here today.

As a reminder, please turn your cell phones to silent or vibrate and we'll begin with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

1 (Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Mr. Clements, do you want to take us
4 through the materials we have before us?

5 MR. CLEMENTS: It's a fairly small package
6 today. You have your agenda; you have the
7 transcript of last week's meeting; you have the
8 draft final report which was circulated by
9 e-mail earlier this week; and you have an
10 article that was in this week's edition of
11 Folio.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clements.

13 Commissioners, I don't think this will be a
14 very long meeting, but I do have a few
15 late-breaking items that I would like to put
16 before you for discussion and vote.

17 It's not too late to get them in the
18 package. I don't have time to distribute them
19 to all of you, so I'll just go ahead and read
20 them to you.

21 "A resolution of the 2009-2010 Charter
22 Revision Commission thanking Steven E. Rohan for
23 his exceptional dedication, service, and
24 professionalism.

25 "Whereas, the Jacksonville Municipal Code

1 provides for appointment every ten years of a
2 Charter Revision Commission to make
3 recommendations to the Council and the members
4 of the Legislature representing Duval County
5 concerning those provisions in the Charter and
6 other special acts of the Legislature affecting
7 the Consolidated City of Jacksonville; and

8 "Whereas, to be undertaken effectively and
9 in a timely manner, a task of this magnitude
10 requires reliance upon the various talents of
11 dedicated and knowledgeable staff to assist the
12 Charter Revision Commission in fulfilling its
13 mission; and

14 "Whereas, Mr. Steve Rohan, an illustrious
15 graduate of the University of Florida and the
16 University of Florida School of Law currently
17 serves the City of Jacksonville in a dual
18 capacity as head of the Legislative Affairs
19 Department and managing deputy in the Office of
20 General Counsel where he is revered as its most
21 senior staff member in years of service, having
22 served with distinction since 1982; and

23 "Whereas, throughout his 28 years, five
24 mayors, eight General Counsels, and numerous
25 important duties and wide-ranging assignments,

1 Mr. Rohan has continually gained valuable
2 experience and enviable institutional knowledge
3 in the inner workings of our government; and
4 "Whereas, Mr. Rohan has drawn from his vast
5 and varied knowledge and experience in providing
6 invaluable legal Charter and institutional City
7 knowledge and guidance to the 2009-2010
8 Jacksonville Charter Revision Commission; and
9 "Whereas, the Commission and its final
10 report have materially benefited from
11 Mr. Rohan's outstanding work ethic and by his
12 concise knowledge and informational guidance
13 that enabled the Commission to make timely,
14 informed decisions on the Charter and the duties
15 assigned to the Commission; and
16 "Whereas, the Charter Revision Commission
17 desires to recognize Mr. Rohan by expressing its
18 sincere appreciation and thanks.
19 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
20 2009-2010 Charter Revision Commission, that the
21 Commission does hereby thank and express its
22 utmost gratitude to Mr. Steven E. Rohan for his
23 dedication, service, and professionalism in
24 providing legal and Charter guidance to the
25 Commission; that this resolution be included in

1 the supporting materials to the final report of
2 the 2009-2010 Charter Revision Commission as a
3 permanent record of Mr. Rohan's outstanding
4 service.

5 "This resolution shall become effective
6 upon signature by the Chairman."

7 Could I have a motion and second?

8 MS. MILLER: Move it.

9 MR. FLOWERS: Second.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: First, before we vote, let
11 me say I can't thank Mr. Rohan enough for all of
12 the support and guidance he has given us.

13 Really he has served in many ways as the 16th
14 commissioner, I think. The timeliness of his
15 advice has been outstanding; nights, weekends.

16 I called him one night after a City Council
17 meeting with a question. He said, "Well, I'm
18 out of the office. I said, "Oh, that's right.
19 I forgot. Just whenever you get back, get me a
20 memo." The next day, by 10 o'clock, I had a
21 memo. I found out later he was on a cruise.
22 The man is on a cruise ship preparing a memo for
23 me.

24 So, Mr. Rohan, as the Chair, thank you very
25 much for all of your advice and support, and I

1 have Commissioner Oliveras in the queue.

2 MR. OLIVERAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 I would just like to echo your sentiments
4 for Mr. Rohan. No question was too minor, every
5 answer was professional, appropriate and helped
6 me move through some of these difficult issues
7 as a commissioner, and I would just like to
8 thank you and thank Mr. Mullaney for loaning him
9 to us for this process because he's been an
10 invaluable part of that for us.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We have a motion
13 and second. All in favor say aye.

14 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: That motion carries.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. ROHAN: And, if I could, I'm just
18 indeed humbled by this. Thank you very, very
19 much. It's been my great pleasure to serve
20 you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. We have another item
22 of business.

23 "A resolution of the Commission thanking
24 Jeffrey R. Clements for his exceptional
25 dedication, service, and professionalism in

1 providing coordination, research history, and
2 public meetings knowledge and guidance to the
3 Commission.

4 "Whereas, the Jacksonville Municipal Code
5 provides for appointment every ten years of a
6 Charter Revision Commission to make
7 recommendations to the Council and the members
8 of the Legislature; and

9 "Whereas, to be undertaken effectively and
10 in a timely manner, a task of this magnitude
11 requires reliance upon the various talents of
12 dedicated and knowledgeable staff to assist the
13 Charter Revision Commission in fulfilling its
14 mission; and

15 "Whereas, the current Commission is
16 exceedingly grateful to Jeffrey R. "Jeff"
17 Clements, a faithful employee of the
18 Jacksonville City Council since 1989 and its
19 current Chief of Research, for the essential
20 role he has played in serving as the nerve
21 center of the Charter Revision Commission,
22 coordinating all aspects of its meetings and
23 ensuring adherence to even the most intricate
24 details of public meetings law and other related
25 records requirements; and

1 "Whereas, Mr. Clements, an undergraduate of
2 the University of Virginia, who earned his
3 master of public administration from the
4 University of South Carolina, has performed his
5 duties in a highly meritorious fashion through a
6 display of genuine public concern and a calm
7 demeanor accompanied by outstanding
8 organizational skills and an unceasing effort to
9 maintain only the highest standards and work
10 ethic, all of which have combined to make
11 Mr. Clements both instrumental and indispensable
12 in the current Charter review process; and

13 "Whereas, the Chair wishes to express his
14 special thanks and esteem to Mr. Clements for
15 sharing his advice, expertise, breadth of
16 knowledge, and problem-solving abilities; and

17 "Whereas, the Charter Revision Commission
18 desires to convey its sincere appreciation and
19 thanks to Mr. Clements by public acknowledgment
20 of his extraordinary service on behalf of not
21 only the Charter Revision Commission and its
22 members, but also the citizens of the
23 Consolidated City of Jacksonville.

24 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
25 Commission; number one, that the Commission does

1 hereby thank and express its utmost gratitude to
2 Jeffrey R. "Jeff" Clements for his dedication,
3 service, and professionalism in providing
4 guidance and support to the commission; number
5 two, that this resolution be included in the
6 supporting materials to the final report of the
7 2009-2010 Charter Revision Commission as a
8 permanent record of Mr. Clements outstanding
9 service."

10 Do I have a motion and second?

11 MR. CATLETT: Move it.

12 MS. O'BRIEN: Second.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

14 Mr. Clements did yeoman's service that most
15 of the time nobody saw, but I saw it because I
16 had to deal with him on a regular basis,
17 coordinating all of our meetings. He was a
18 part-time travel agent for our speakers; he was
19 a one-man moving company when our meetings had
20 to shift. One morning we had a double shift.
21 We were moved from here, across the hall, and
22 then upstairs, and it was all seamless. Nobody
23 knew all the scrambling that Mr. Clements had to
24 deal with that morning. It all went off fine.

25 And I want to thank Council Secretary Brown

1 for lending him to us. He's been an outstanding
2 and indispensable part of our operation, so --
3 anybody -- Commissioner Catlett.

4 MR. CATLETT: I just want to say I've
5 worked with staffs of government for the last
6 35 years, and nobody has ever done any better
7 research for a commission than this guy has
8 done. Those of you in the audience don't
9 realize it, but we've had an avalanche of
10 information. If we make mistakes, they're
11 honest mistakes, but they are not ill-informed
12 mistakes, and we have Jeff to thank for that.

13 Thank you, Jeff.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor say aye.

15 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: That motion passes.

17 (Applause.)

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clements.

19 MR. CLEMENTS: You're very welcome.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioners, one more.

21 "A resolution of the 2009-2010 Charter
22 Revision Commission thanking Diane M. Tropa for
23 her exceptional dedication, service, and
24 professionalism in providing court reporting
25 services to the Commission.

1 "Whereas, the Jacksonville Municipal Code
2 provides for appointment every ten years of the
3 Commission to make recommendations to the
4 Council and the members of the Legislature
5 concerning those provisions in the Charter and
6 other special acts of the Legislature affecting
7 the consolidated City of Jacksonville; and

8 "Whereas, to be undertaken effectively and
9 in a timely manner, a task of this magnitude
10 requires reliance upon the various talents of
11 dedicated staff to assist the Commission in
12 fulfilling its mission; and

13 "Whereas, the Charter Revision Commission
14 is exceedingly grateful to Diane M. Tropa for
15 the important role she has played in serving as
16 the court reporter to the Charter Revision
17 Commission, producing over 3,700 pages of
18 verbatim transcripts that have been invaluable
19 resources to the Commission in its deliberations
20 and in the preparation of its final report; and

21 "Whereas, during the Commission's
22 eight-month term, Ms. Tropa regularly and with
23 good cheer worked three or more hours without a
24 break during hearings, then worked through the
25 weekend to overcome the challenges presented by

1 various fast-talkers, low-talkers,
2 cross-talkers, and soliloquists to produce an
3 accurate transcript of the proceedings in three
4 business days for the benefit of the commission
5 and the general public, and by her efforts a
6 historical and public record of the Commission's
7 deliberations have been created that will assist
8 and enhance the work of future Charter Revision
9 Commissions and historians of the consolidated
10 City of Jacksonville; and

11 "Whereas, the Charter Revision Commission
12 desires to convey its sincere appreciation and
13 thanks to Ms. Tropa by public acknowledgment of
14 her extraordinary service to the commission.

15 "Now, therefore, be it resolved by the
16 2009-2010 Charter Revision Commission that the
17 commission does hereby thank and express its
18 utmost gratitude to Ms. Tropa for her
19 dedication, service, and professionalism in
20 providing guidance and support to the 2009-2010
21 Charter Revision Commission, and that this
22 resolution be included in the supporting
23 materials to the final report of the Commission
24 as a permanent record of Ms. Tropa's
25 outstanding service.

1 Do I have a motion?

2 MS. O'BRIEN: So moved.

3 MR. AUSTIN: Second.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

5 Commissioners, I want you to understand how
6 hard Ms. Tropa had to work, and I didn't fully
7 understand it till the very end when I was
8 asking her to expedite a transcript of last
9 week's meeting. She worked through the
10 weekend. Every week we would meet and she would
11 work through the weekend to get the transcript
12 ready for the next week's meeting. And, as I
13 said, that's 3,700 pages, plus whatever last
14 week and today were. And then on days when
15 we -- every other week she had Planning
16 Commission after we met, and that usually takes
17 three or four hours as well. Some days we went
18 long and that cut into the break between
19 Charter Revision and Planning Commission, and
20 she never complained, she always had good cheer.

21 I'll stop talking now because she has to
22 record everything I'm saying; I feel guilty.

23 All in favor say aye.

24 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: That motion carries.

1 (Applause.)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: That was the most fun I've
3 had in the whole eight months.

4 Okay. Commissioners, we are now privileged
5 to hear from Council President Clark.

6 PRESIDENT CLARK: I never get to get on
7 this side of the table. I don't have a light
8 for three minutes.

9 You know, everybody else got thanked. You
10 know, our staff up here, we just laud them every
11 chance we get, mostly browbeating, but some
12 lauding occasionally. But, you know, it's nice
13 that you guys get to see who we get to work with
14 every day. They really do a great job for us as
15 well.

16 Really I'm here to thank all of you. I
17 know this has been eight months. I'm sure it
18 could have been 12 or 16. I know that there's
19 much to digest, and I really do appreciate the
20 way you ignored a lot of the external pressures
21 and you just stuck to what you wanted to, and
22 you really followed a good process. You took
23 facts, you had the right people come and talk to
24 you. It's nice to see the debate that happens
25 on these issues, and I'm really looking forward

1 to the council digging in on your
2 recommendations and seeing something positive
3 come out of this.

4 I just want to thank you for your time and
5 your dedication. And, you know, in ten more
6 years hopefully you'll get to sit back and watch
7 other people come through this.

8 But, again, thank you so much for all that
9 you've done and hopefully we'll see many of you
10 in a lot of other areas helping our city. And
11 if ever you guys want to volunteer to do
12 something else, please call because there's
13 plenty of opportunities. I've got, like, five
14 more things for Ed, so --

15 Again, thanks, and we look forward to
16 seeing you. And we're going to have, hopefully,
17 a more formal presentation at our next council
18 meeting. You know, if you're so inclined, we'd
19 love to have you come down and let us formally
20 thank you as a body for -- let the city as a
21 whole know what you've done and just give our
22 accolades to you yet again.

23 So, Mr. Chairman, thanks for your time, and
24 I guess this is it.

25 Thanks.

1 (Applause.)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Council
3 President Clark.

4 Okay. Commissioners, I'd like to move into
5 the consideration of the final report, the
6 language of the final report. I have gotten
7 some feedback from some of you, but not all of
8 you, and I want to have everybody -- give
9 everybody a chance to provide their comments and
10 feedback.

11 I will, at her request, read the following
12 from Commissioner Deal, who, as I said, is out
13 of town:

14 "Dear Chairman Duggan and fellow members of
15 the Charter Revision Commission, I have truly
16 enjoyed working with each of you in reviewing
17 the city's Charter to identify ways by which we
18 can improve upon the strong foundation of our
19 consolidated government. This process has made
20 me even more aware of how blessed we are as a
21 city and as individuals to be part of this
22 community.

23 "I support the work this commission has
24 done through the final version of our report. I
25 look forward to presenting these recommendations

1 to the City Council for further action.

2 "Best regards, Jessica Deal."

3 Any other commissioners want to comment?

4 Commissioner Korman.

5 MS. KORMAN: I don't know if this is the
6 appropriate time, but I have to tell you -- and
7 tell me -- cut me off if I -- if it's not, but I
8 read this thing last night forward, backwards,
9 and I just have to say -- and it was legalese
10 for us nonlawyers, but it was legalese where we
11 could understand it. And it was so
12 well-thought-out and so well-done, that,
13 Chairman, I cannot thank you enough for writing
14 for us and explaining our thoughts, I think,
15 perfectly, so thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: My pleasure, Commissioner.

17 Thank you.

18 Commissioner Oliveras.

19 MR. OLIVERAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 Echoing Commissioner Korman's sentiments --
21 I sent my comments to the commissioner via
22 e-mail, but I want to state them publicly as
23 well.

24 This report is outstanding. It is very
25 well-crafted, very detailed, gives the

1 background, it's easy for anybody -- a citizen,
2 appointed official, elected official, anybody in
3 this community who wants to take a look at this
4 document cannot read this without having a
5 thorough understanding of this process, so I
6 commend you for this report. It's excellent,
7 and I'm -- I will support it wholeheartedly.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner
9 Oliveras.

10 Any other comments?

11 Commissioner Miller.

12 MS. MILLER: Through the Chair, and at the
13 risk of repeating what's already been said, I
14 have to thank you for all of your time. This
15 was not an easy task. It's hard to write well,
16 and this is extraordinarily well-written and
17 concise, and I just hope that it is received in
18 the same way that it has been given.

19 And you have -- you have done an
20 unbelievable job in representing us and in
21 governing this commission. Thank you for all of
22 your work. It's been wonderful, all of you, to
23 work with you.

24 Thank you for your leadership.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

1 Commissioner Garvin.

2 MS. GARVIN: I also want to echo that.

3 This has been a journey, but it's been an
4 exciting and wonderful journey. I have learned
5 so much. And I felt overwhelmed when I -- the
6 first meeting. I think y'all know that.

7 But you did such a good job of leading us
8 and directing us and giving us guidance that
9 I -- I was excited when I read the final
10 report. I thought, wow, and -- so thank you. I
11 have enjoyed being on this. I've enjoyed
12 working with each and every one of you.

13 Wyman, you've done an outstanding job.

14 Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

16 Commissioner Catlett.

17 MR. CATLETT: Well, I've read an awful lot
18 of reports from a lot of people, and this is one
19 of the best reports. I have to tell you, if the
20 legal business ever goes out of style, reporting
21 is for you. This is excellent and the average
22 guy can read it. I mean, I appreciate the fact
23 that you have a high education, but this is a
24 readable report, and readability is really
25 important when you're dealing with the public

1 and making sure they understand it, particularly
2 people that have appeared here and have put
3 their thoughts forward. And I just appreciate
4 the effort that you put into it.

5 Also, I want to thank you for doing a
6 wonderful job as chairman. I can't imagine
7 anybody doing a better job of keeping the
8 discussions in the center of the road and moving
9 them forward as well as you have. I personally
10 appreciate everything you've done.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner.
12 Commissioner Korman.

13 MS. KORMAN: One of the things I forgot to
14 mention because I thought we were just
15 discussing this is -- I have to thank you,
16 Chairman, for your protection at times when some
17 of us have been personally attacked. You almost
18 came across the table so I didn't have to, and I
19 cannot tell you how much -- I think yours would
20 have been prettier than mine.

21 So I cannot thank you enough for watching
22 out for our backs. At times, unfortunately, it
23 did get unpleasant. You always kept it in
24 control and you always showed it with dignity
25 and respect, and also the respect you showed the

1 rest of the commissioners was -- no matter -- if
2 you agree with our point or not, you always were
3 very, very respectful, and thank you for all of
4 it.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: My pleasure. Thank you.
6 Commissioner Thompson.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

8 I'd like to express the same comments that
9 have been made. I think you're a great leader,
10 and I want you to continue that success for the
11 city of Jacksonville.

12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner. I
14 appreciate that very much.

15 Vice Chair O'Brien.

16 MS. O'BRIEN: I move to adopt the final
17 report of the 2009-2010 Charter Revision
18 Commission of the Consolidated City of
19 Jacksonville as presented.

20 MR. FLOWERS: Second.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion and second.
22 Any further discussion?

23 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

24 THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor say aye.

25 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed.

2 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

3 THE CHAIRMAN: That motion carries.

4 Thank you.

5 Here's to us.

6 (Applause.)

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioners, just to give
8 you a road map of what happens from here: As
9 Council President Clark mentioned, it's my
10 intention to -- or it's his intention, I should
11 say, to have me make a presentation to the full
12 council at their next meeting on the 9th of
13 March. And, as I understand it, it would be
14 during that time at the council meeting, at the
15 beginning, when traditionally resolutions are
16 presented -- at least at this point it's my
17 understanding there will be no resolutions
18 presented that evening and that time block will
19 be set aside for me to address the Council, to
20 give them an overview of the report and its
21 findings, and I would encourage each of you to
22 attend because I certainly will recognize you
23 and ask that the Council express their thanks to
24 you. So I would love it if you could be there
25 for that.

1 MS. KORMAN: (Inaudible.)

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Pardon?

3 MS. KORMAN: March 9th?

4 THE CHAIRMAN: March 9th, yes.

5 I will be finalizing the report this
6 afternoon, presenting it to Council President
7 Clark tomorrow. The text that I will present to
8 him will be as you have all seen with some minor
9 changes to correct really just scrivener's
10 errors. And then next week, once the final
11 transcript from today is available, my intention
12 is to put all of the transcripts from all of the
13 meetings, all of the relevant PowerPoint
14 presentations that are referenced in the report,
15 the resolutions that we approved today on a
16 disk, a CD, that would accompany the final
17 version of the report with all of the supporting
18 information in it that I will then circulate to
19 each of you so that you'll have a final version
20 of the report, with all the supporting data on
21 the disk, and to each of the Council members so
22 that they can have a complete package as well.

23 I'll give -- what I'll give Council
24 President Clark tomorrow is the text of the --
25 the final text of the report, but not the CD

1 because everything won't be ready yet. But in
2 order to comply with our reporting requirement,
3 I'll give that to him tomorrow.

4 For the members of the press, I will send
5 you as well tomorrow the text of the report so
6 that you'll have it if you want to address it
7 over the weekend. Just an FYI for you.

8 Any questions about that process?

9 COMMISSION MEMBERS: (No response.)

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Just in closing for
11 me, I'd like to talk for a minute about how much
12 I appreciate the opportunity to serve with each
13 of you. In the last three or four months, I've
14 become more aware of the fact that public
15 service is a privilege, but it's not a picnic.

16 But what made it worthwhile for me was
17 being able to serve with each of you, to get the
18 benefit of your perspectives, the benefit of
19 your insights and analysis. I learned something
20 at every meeting that I hadn't thought of. You
21 know, I just -- it opened a lot of new vistas
22 for me, and so I appreciate that. I appreciate
23 the commitment, the time commitment that each of
24 you have made. It's been, I know, a sacrifice
25 for everybody in ways large and small.

1 And so I want to, as the Chair, thank each
2 of you for staying involved; staying engaged;
3 coming to the table; not, at any point in time,
4 throwing up your hands and saying, "I've got
5 other things I've got to take care of," or, "I
6 don't agree with where we're going," or, "This
7 is never going to get done anyway." I mean, you
8 stayed in the game, and I appreciate that very
9 much.

10 I think regardless of what happens from
11 here, the service that you have rendered to the
12 city has been remarkable. And even if no final
13 action is taken on our report by the Council, I
14 think the effort alone has -- is of benefit and
15 value to the city, both short-term and
16 long-term, and so I appreciate your commitment.

17 I also think that it's a testimony to that
18 commitment and to the credibility of your
19 efforts that I've had several requests, both
20 publicly and privately, for our tenure to be
21 extended to consider other issues. And while,
22 obviously, that's not going to happen and I
23 responded to each those requests, "Over my dead
24 body," I think it's -- I really think it is a
25 testimony to the credibility with which people

1 have viewed our efforts, that it's -- I think
2 the perception is that we've worked hard, that
3 we've worked in good faith, that we've
4 undertaken serious review and analysis, and now
5 people want to bring more problems to us, so I
6 think that -- in a sense, that's a validation of
7 our efforts.

8 I must engage in a small indulge- -- if
9 you'll indulge me slightly in a small bit of
10 "I told you so."

11 You may recall that several months ago
12 there was an editorial in the paper saying that
13 it would take superheroes to get through the
14 remaining issues that we had at that time on our
15 list. Well, I pulled that editorial up
16 yesterday, and guess what? We got through all
17 of them. And we took action on everything.
18 Some things we voted not to do any further
19 action on, but we addressed them all. I think
20 we had serious debate on all of it and I think
21 we've made strong recommendations on some of it,
22 so --

23 Mr. Adams, I'm sorry. I couldn't resist.

24 And, finally -- well, Commissioner Oliveras
25 is in the queue.

1 MR. OLIVERAS: When you're done.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Finally, I just want
3 to say, again, whatever happens from here
4 forward, I will regard each of you as friends
5 and I look forward to maintaining our personal
6 relationship.

7 I hope each of you continue, in ways large
8 and small, to serve your community and the
9 citizens of this community because I think
10 you're a great group of people. I think
11 Ronnie Fussell did an outstanding job -- and I
12 will tell him that on the 9th -- in picking each
13 of you, and thank you for putting yourself
14 forward.

15 (Applause.)

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Oliveras.

17 MR. OLIVERAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 I just want to say some thank-yous here.

19 First of all, to you. Your leadership on
20 this commission has been superior. When you
21 bring together a group as diverse as we, the
22 tendency to have to herd cats comes to mind.
23 That didn't happen. Nobody left the
24 reservation. We were able to stay on task.
25 Even when we disagreed, we were able to move

1 from item to item, issue to issue as a group
2 under your leadership. And I appreciate you for
3 that because I think that alone helped make this
4 a successful process, so I appreciate you for
5 that.

6 I would also like to thank all my fellow
7 commissioners. I've come to admire each of
8 you. I appreciate you. Diverse backgrounds,
9 diverse work experiences, we've come into this
10 process with differing opinions, different world
11 views, and we've moved together to put something
12 together that I think is very helpful for this
13 city. I just want to -- I want to make that
14 known.

15 This is a process where we -- each of us
16 came into it with our own ideas, and I think
17 we've come to recognize that through this
18 Charter Revision process, we've done something
19 in a kind of civics laboratory, if you will,
20 that really, I think, shows our elected
21 officials and our city leaders that there is a
22 way to move through these issues, complex
23 issues, controversial issues, but issues that
24 are important. The citizens deserve it. This
25 city needs it to move forward in a meaningful

1 way. And so I'm very proud to have been a part
2 of this process, and I just want to thank each
3 of you for it.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: I wholeheartedly endorse
5 that viewpoint. I agree with you entirely. I
6 would hope that our model could serve -- that
7 our experience could serve as a model for the
8 rest of the City.

9 Commissioner Catlin.

10 MR. CATLIN: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I
11 want to thank you for the speakers that you
12 lined up. I mean, we were so educated by what
13 you brought up. I know several other
14 commissioners were involved with that as well,
15 but thank you so much because we could have
16 never learned what we learned without the
17 expertise of the folks that came in.

18 And after 68 hours of hearings, 3,700 pages
19 of transcripts, 50 resource speakers, and then
20 not to mention all the numerous meetings we've
21 had on our own, I'd like to bring a little humor
22 to this as we finish this meeting, kind of what
23 I learned in this whole process.

24 What I learned, first of all, from former
25 Mr. Mayor is that you really, really believe in

1 the strong mayor form of government. You told
2 us that a few times.

3 I thank -- I'm so happy that we adopted
4 the -- brought the Ethics Commission back in the
5 Charter because another thing I learned from the
6 general public: John Nooney really believes
7 that the system is broken, public trust is
8 ruined, and he has plenty of Times-Union
9 articles to show that.

10 I learned that Wyman Duggan really does not
11 like being called Mr. Duggan (pronouncing).

12 I've learned that if there was a theme
13 movie for what Commissioner Youngblood would
14 want to do for this -- in this whole Charter
15 Revision Commission, it would probably be the
16 movie Total Recall.

17 I've learned that this council chambers is
18 actually Jim Catlett's other home.

19 Commissioner Catlett, I don't think there's
20 a seat out there that you did not sit in during
21 this whole process. I might see one in the
22 front row, but I saw you sit in several of
23 them.

24 I've learned that -- Commissioner Korman,
25 apparently not a lot has changed from your

1 student government days back in high school, in
2 tenth grade, except that your iron fist is
3 18 years older.

4 MS. KORMAN: Thanks, Billy.

5 MR. CATLIN: And I've learned what an
6 amazing group all of you are, and I can't wait
7 to get to know you away from here, away from --
8 when the Sunshine Laws are over and we can talk
9 personally and have a good time. I've been
10 blessed to be on this commission, and I just
11 want to thank you all.

12 I just had to bring a little bit of humor
13 to that.

14 (Applause.)

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Catlin.

17 I will admit, this was the bully pulpit so
18 that people could finally learn how to pronounce
19 my name. I wasn't going to miss that
20 opportunity.

21 Commissioner Oliveras, I saw you in the
22 queue. Was that from earlier?

23 MR. OLIVERAS: That was from earlier, but I
24 would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, that you
25 have two fewer vowels in your last name, and

1 they've messed your name up as much as they have
2 mine.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Vice Chair O'Brien.

4 MS. O'BRIEN: Commissioner Catlett will
5 precede me.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Catlett.

7 MR. CATLETT: Mr. Chairman, I'm hoping that
8 not only does the council look at our
9 recommendations favorably, but that they
10 actually act on them, not just that they read
11 them, but that they act on them.

12 And also I'm hoping that some of you
13 younger members than I -- much younger than I --
14 will seek higher office. I looked at this as
15 sort of higher office calling for -- with
16 training wheels, that all of you have an
17 opportunity -- you are younger -- to go up and
18 do something on the City Council or in the
19 mayor's level or other levels of government.
20 And hopefully the experience you've had here
21 will make that an even stronger commitment
22 because it's very hard to find good people to
23 serve in government, and every one of you are
24 some of the best people I've ever dealt with.
25 So I would hope this wouldn't be the end of the

1 trail for you and that you'd consider other
2 higher offices at a later time.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Austin, did you
4 want to speak?

5 MR. AUSTIN: Briefly, let me --

6 Mr. Chairman, I think you presided with
7 great skill and certainly fairness, and I'll
8 echo the -- you have brought very talented and
9 informative people before us to testify, and I'd
10 like to express my appreciation for all of those
11 things.

12 I think that we -- the items that we have
13 moved forward and recommended the City Council
14 and the Legislature to act on are important. I
15 also think that the items that we raised that we
16 did not move forward are important because we
17 created an atmosphere of community discretion
18 and challenging the system and people talking
19 about the system, getting me chewed out with my
20 friend periodically of ideas that we throw out.

21 But I think it's been a good exercise, and
22 the only really important thing is who it's a
23 good exercise for, and that's the community.

24 And I think we really -- really did that.

25 And I appreciate the opportunity to serve

1 with all of you-all. I wish you the very best.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Commissioner
4 Austin.

5 Commissioners, we do have one public
6 speaker card. I'll go ahead and ask Ms. Shirko
7 to come speak.

8 (Ms. Shirko approaches the podium.)

9 THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, Martha.

10 MS. SHIRKO: Good morning, Chairman Duggan,
11 Vice Chair O'Brien.

12 I would like to thank you, each and every
13 one of you for your service. I cannot tell you
14 how immensely the four meetings I've attended
15 that I've thoroughly enjoyed, and I think
16 Mr. Fussell could -- or City Councilman Fussell
17 could not have done a better job of selecting
18 you.

19 And I do like -- would like to echo
20 Mr. Catlett's sentiments, and that I hope some
21 of you consider future office.

22 I would also like to say I've watched
23 Chairman Duggan, since he's -- in his real job
24 as real estate representative for various
25 concerns, mature in the job of speaking for his

1 rep- -- whoever he's representing over the
2 years. And I have to say I wasn't well enough
3 to come to all of the meetings, but I knew that
4 we were in excellent hands and I didn't have to
5 worry about being -- fairness and openness and
6 have a full dialogue with great skill and great
7 gentlemanness [sic], and I thank you for that,
8 Chairman Duggan.

9 And I thank every one of you. Some of you
10 I know better than others, and I was so
11 impressed with having this. And I have since
12 met each and every one of you to try to get the
13 flavor for your background.

14 I have requested the transcripts so that I
15 will have the edification of reading them all,
16 but you couldn't have done a better job in my
17 eyes, and I so appreciate it. And I hope, as I
18 said before, that some of you do consider future
19 office. You'll make dynamic -- and public
20 service is, in most cases, a thankless job, but
21 please be aware that it is not a thankless job
22 in my opinion. I appreciate every hour that you
23 spend away from your family, and I know that
24 that -- those hours are tremendous.

25 And thank you for the opportunity to speak,

1 but could I make one other -- do I still have a
2 moment of time?

3 THE CHAIRMAN: You have a minute left to
4 speak.

5 MS. SHIRKO: The foundation and the guild
6 of the library -- this weekend is the Much Ado
7 About Books, Friday and Saturday. And if any of
8 you-all could have the time to attend, it's one
9 of the largest, most prestigious book festivals
10 that the city shares. And as a library friend,
11 I certainly advocate for it.

12 Thank you for the -- allowing me to speak.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Shirko.
14 Thank you for your kind words.

15 Just so you know, all of the transcripts
16 are on the City Council web page on the
17 Charter Revision page, so you can access all of
18 them.

19 And, actually, I would like to take an
20 opportunity to thank you and Mr. Andrews,
21 Mr. Markle, Mr. Nooney, and Mr. Scott -- I may
22 be forgetting somebody, but the regulars who
23 attended all of our meetings.

24 Mr. Andrews, you were at our original
25 orientation meeting, I remember, in June --

1 June 2nd.

2 So I appreciate the commitment that each of
3 you have made to our community, to take the time
4 to attend these meetings, to provide your input,
5 to provide needed citizen perspective, and to
6 keep -- to keep us honest and to keep all of
7 those other elected and appointed officials that
8 you monitor, to keep them honest as well. The
9 community needs that service. There's many
10 different ways of serving our community. This
11 is a way and what you're doing is a way. And so
12 let me thank you for doing that and ask each of
13 you to continue doing that as well.

14 Commissioner Miller.

15 MS. MILLER: Through the Chair, thank you,
16 Ms. Martha, for coming. We're very happy that
17 you're feeling better. And never forget that
18 your participation is vitally important to our
19 city and our community and this public process.

20 And all of our public speakers, we're very
21 happy to have you back and very happy to see you
22 here. Thank you for taking the time.

23 MS. SHIRKO: Thank you. That means a lot
24 to me.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Vice Chair O'Brien.

1 MS. O'BRIEN: Well, I think nobody could
2 say it as well as the individuals who have sat
3 around this oval to thank you for all of your
4 leadership, your courage, your respect, your
5 integrity. We have been through this process
6 together. You have been our chairman, you have
7 been our team leader, our team captain. I look
8 at us all as a team that came in with very
9 diverging opinions, we came together and created
10 what we believe is a very good document to be
11 passed on to the City Council, and we want to
12 thank you for all of your efforts.

13 And, most importantly, because you have run
14 such good meetings, we have a gift for you. And
15 you have very rarely had to use the gavel,
16 except in closings, but we wanted to make
17 sure -- we know you have to leave this one
18 behind (indicating), but we have your own
19 personal brass gavel engraved, "Chairman,
20 Charter Revision Commission, 2009-2010," that we
21 ask you to close our final Charter Revision
22 Commission with.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you very
24 much.

25 (Applause.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA:

COUNTY OF DUVAL :

I, Diane M. Tropa, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

Dated this 28th day of February, 2010.

Diane M. Tropa