
FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING/WORKSHOP HEARING

LOCATION

Joseph P. Cresse Hearing Room 148
Betty Easley Conference Center
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

(Page Nos. 1 - 51)

Thursday, July 11, 2024

9:31 a.m. - 10:19 a.m.

BEFORE: Vice Chair Julie I. Brown
Commissioner Charles Drago
Commissioner John D'Aquila
Commissioner Tina Repp
Executive Director, Louis Trombetta

Stenographically Reported By:
I. Iris Cooper
Stenographic Reporter

Job No.: 352968

1 APPEARANCES: (Appearing remotely via Zoom)

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COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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Vice Chair Julie I. Brown

4 Commissioner Charles Drago

Commissioner John D'Aquila

5 Commissioner Tina Repp

Executive Director, Louis Trombetta

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8 PARTICIPANTS:

9 - Emily Alvarado, Deputy Chief Attorney

10 - Joe Dillmore, Director of Pari-Mutuel Wagering

11 - Ross Marshman, Deputy Executive Director
and Chief Legal Officer

12

- Lisa M. Mustain, Director Of Administration

13

- Jamie Pouncey, Program Administrator

14

- Elizabeth K. Stinson, Chief Attorney

15

- Marc Taupier, Deputy General and Chief Gaming
Enforcement Legal Advisor

16

17 - Elina Valentine, General Counsel

18 - Carl Herold, Director of Law Enforcement

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OTHERS PRESENT:

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- Various Members of the Public

22

- The Florida Channel

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| | | |
|----|---|--------|
| 1 | INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS | Page 3 |
| 2 | | PAGE |
| 3 | 1. Discussion of renewal applications for slot machine license | |
| 4 | 1.1. 2024-029142 - Gretna Racing, LLC | 5 |
| 5 | 2. Discussion of application for non-wagering pari-mutuel license | |
| 6 | 2.1. 2024-020893 - Florida Standardbred Breeders' and Owners' Association, Inc. | 6 |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | 3. Discussion of amended application for pari-mutuel operating licenses | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | 3.1. 2024-034591 - Gulfstream Park Racing Association, Inc. | 9 |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | 4. Discussion of amended applications for cardroom licenses | |
| 13 | 4.1. 2024-031317 - Dania Entertainment Center, LLC | 10 |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | 4.2. 2024-034688 - Dania Entertainment Center, LLC | 10 |
| 16 | 5. Discussion of default final order | |
| 17 | 5.1. 2023-044862 - Segarra, Sara Milagro | 10 |
| 18 | 6. Discussion of consent orders | |
| 19 | 6.1. 2024-002207 - Sarasota Kennel Club, Inc. | 12 |
| 20 | 6.2. 2024-021051 - Sarasota Kennel Club, Inc. | 13 |
| 21 | 7. Discussion of license denials | |
| 22 | 7.1. 2024-018224 - Cotrone, Robert A. | 15 |
| 23 | 7.2. 2024-021088 - Holmes, Teresa Rosezette | 16 |
| 24 | 8. Discussion of final order pursuant to request from respondent | |
| 25 | 8.1. 2023-039465 - Durand, Kendra | 20 |

| | | |
|----|---|--------|
| 1 | INDEX OF PROCEEDINGS - (Continued) | Page 4 |
| 2 | | PAGE |
| 3 | 9. Discussion of policies and procedures | |
| 4 | 9.1. 02.26.01 - Transporting Detainees | 21 |
| 5 | 9.2. 03.06.01 - Dual and Secondary Employment (deferred) | -- |
| 6 | 9.3. 03.22.01 - Anti-Retaliation | 24 |
| 7 | 10. Executive Director update | 26 |
| 8 | 11. Public comment | 29 |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER | 51 |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |
| 25 | | |

1 Thereupon, the following proceeding began at 9:31 a.m.:

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We are going to begin our
3 agenda conference today on Thursday, July 11th.
4 The time is 9:31. If you would so kindly please
5 stand for the pledge of allegiance, which will be
6 given by Commissioner Drago.

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Please join me for the
8 pledge of allegiance.

9 (Pledge of allegiance recited.)

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, all. I hope you
11 all are having a great summer. We have a big crowd
12 in the audience today, and I know we have a few new
13 employees that will be recognized under the
14 Executive Director's report. Really excited to
15 have them join us today for this meeting.

16 And with that, we are opening the meeting.
17 We're going to go right into our Item No. 1,
18 discussion of renewal applications for slot machine
19 license.

20 MS. POUNCEY: Good morning. Jamie Pouncey,
21 pari-mutuel wagering. First item is 1.1.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Pouncey, could you just
23 please pull the mic for the court reporter.

24 Thanks.

25 MS. POUNCEY: Better?

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Better.

2 MS. POUNCEY: First is 1.1, Case No.

3 2024-029142. It's Gretna Racing, L.L.C., who is

4 applying for their annual slot machine license.

5 They have submitted the application. They possess

6 a greyhound permit.

7 We've reviewed the documentation that was

8 received on May 24th, and the application was

9 deemed complete. They have met all of the

10 requirements, and we recommend approval of their

11 slot machine license for the 2024/2025 year.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

13 Commissioners, are there any questions on this

14 item? Seeing none, can I get a motion to approve.

15 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Motion to approve.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say

19 aye.

20 (Multiple ayes.)

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pouncey.

22 Moving on to Item No. 2, discussion of

23 application for non-wagering pari-mutuel license.

24 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 2.1, Case No.

25 2024-020893. It's Florida Standardbred Breeders'

1 and Owners' Association. They're applying for
2 their annual non-wagering horse license.

3 They have submitted a request to extend their
4 license through the end of the 2024/2025 fiscal
5 year. They have submitted the required
6 information, and we recommend approval of this
7 license.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pouncey.

9 Seeing that all statutory requirements are
10 complied with, I don't think this is a problem.

11 Commissioners, any questions?

12 Commissioner Drago.

13 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Just one comment, if I
14 could. Could somebody, for the sake of the public
15 and everybody that may be listening, explain what
16 the non-wagering permit is because it's a little
17 different than what I think everybody is used to
18 hearing. So can someone just explain what that is?

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good question,
20 Commissioner Drago. Thank you.

21 MR. DILLMORE: Good morning.

22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Good morning.

23 MR. DILLMORE: Yes. Non-wagering permit, it's
24 associated with horseracing for a prize or a purse.
25 However, no individual wagering can happen on the

1 winner of the event. So they're just conducting
2 the races for the purse or the prize.

3 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So where are these races?
4 Where do they hold them? Where's their facility, I
5 guess?

6 MR. DILLMORE: I think we only have one
7 currently.

8 Ms. Pouncey, can you help me out with the
9 location they applied for?

10 MS. POUNCEY: We do. We currently only have
11 one, and please don't quote me. The name of the
12 facility is Sunshine Equestrian, I believe. All of
13 that information is within the pamphlet
14 information.

15 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

17 Commissioners, if there are no other
18 questions, can we get a motion to extend the
19 non-wagering horseracing license for the fiscal
20 year.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
25 aye.

1 (Multiple ayes.)

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Item No. 2.1
3 passes.

4 Moving on to 3.1, which is a discussion of
5 amended application for pari-mutuel operating
6 licenses.

7 MS. POUNCEY: Item No. 3.1 is Case No.
8 2024-034591. This is an application from
9 Gulfstream Park Racing Association. They applied
10 to amend their operating license by canceling one
11 of their thoroughbred performances. They have
12 submitted the required documentation, and we are
13 requesting that this amendment be approved
14 effective July 1, 2024.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

16 If there are no questions on this, can we
17 please get a motion to approve the item effective
18 July 1, 2024.

19 COMMISSIONER REPP: Motion to approve.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
23 aye.

24 (Multiple ayes.)

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. 3.1 passes.

1 Ms. Pouncey, can you combine 4.1 and 4.2,
2 please.

3 MS. POUNCEY: Yes, ma'am. 4.1, Case No.
4 2024-031317. 4.2 is 2024-034688. This is a
5 request to amend Dania Jai alai, Dania summer
6 Jai alai's cardroom license. They are requesting
7 to add five tables to their cardroom.

8 They have paid the associated fees and
9 submitted the required documentation and met the
10 requirements, and we recommend approval at this
11 moment.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

13 Again, seeing all the statutory requirements
14 are complied with, can we please get a motion to
15 approve Item Nos. 4.1 and 4.2, if there are no
16 questions.

17 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
21 eye.

22 (Multiple ayes.)

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The motion
24 passes. We are moving on to discussion of default
25 final order Item No. 5.1.

1 MS. ALVARADO: Emily Alvarado, for the record.
2 Item 5.1 is 2023-044862, Sara Segarra. In this
3 case, you were provided a three-count
4 administrative complaint alleging that she was
5 arrested and convicted of four felony offenses.

6 Respondent failed to notify the Commission of
7 her arrest and of her conviction as well. She is
8 subject to revocation of her cardroom employee
9 occupational license pursuant to 550.105(5)(b).

10 You were also provided the hand service
11 affidavit showing that she was served with the
12 administrative complaint. Respondent failed to
13 respond within 21 days.

14 Therefore, the Division would ask the
15 Commission to enter an order finding that she was
16 properly served with the administrative complaint,
17 that she failed to respond within 21 days, that the
18 facts in the administrative complaint are the facts
19 in this case and concluding that her cardroom
20 employee occupational license will be revoked.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.

22 Commissioners, are there any questions on this
23 default final order? Seeing none, can we please
24 get a motion to approve the final order revoking
25 the cardroom occupational license number.

1 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will make a motion
2 to approve the final order as stated.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
4 second?

5 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

6 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
8 aye.

9 (Multiple ayes.)

10 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The motion
11 passes unanimously. We are going to move on to
12 discussion of consent orders 6.1 and 6.2, please,
13 separately.

14 MS. ALVARADO: 6.1 is 2024-002207, Sarasota
15 Kennel Club. In this case, you were provided an
16 administrative complaint alleging that respondent
17 violated Rules 75-11.020(1)(b) and 75-11.025(10) by
18 failing to have the drop box affixed with a lock to
19 the table and allowing a surveillance room camera
20 to be obstructed preventing the observation of
21 cardroom activities.

22 They had no prior violations of either rule.
23 However, when the investigators went back about
24 three weeks after finding the violation, they did
25 see that it was still obstructed, the view was

1 still obstructed.

2 Since then, investigations has confirmed that
3 it is not obstructed anymore. I also followed up
4 with the attorney for Sarasota, and they said they
5 fixed the problem shortly after that February 6th
6 date.

7 Respondent has sent back a signed settlement
8 and consent order with a total fine of \$750.
9 Therefore, the Division would ask the Commission to
10 enter an order adopting and incorporating the
11 settlement and consent order in this case.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Alvarado.

13 Commissioners, are there any questions on Item
14 No. 6.1? If not, can we get a motion to adopt the
15 settlement and consent order.

16 COMMISSIONER REPP: I would like to make a
17 motion to adopt the settlement order.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
19 second?

20 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those
22 in favor, say aye.

23 (Multiple ayes.)

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: 6.1 passes. 6.2.

25 MS. ALVARADO: 6.2 is 2024-021051, Sarasota

1 Kennel Club. In this case, you were provided a
2 filed administrative complaint alleging that
3 respondent violated Rule 75-11.025(4)(C) by failing
4 to have the current time stamps on three
5 surveillance cameras.

6 There was one prior violation of this rule
7 from 2022, which resulted in a \$250 fine.

8 Respondent has sent back a signed settlement and
9 consent order in this case which had a \$500 fine.

10 The Division would ask the Commission to enter
11 an order adopting and incorporating the settlement
12 in this case.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

14 Commissioners, any questions on this? If not,
15 can we get a motion to adopt the settlement consent
16 order.

17 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those
21 in favor, say aye.

22 (Multiple ayes.)

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The motion
24 passes unanimously. We are moving on to a
25 discussion of license denials. We only have two

1 today at this meeting, 7.1 and 7.2.

2 MS. ALVARADO: 7.1 is 2024-018224, Robert
3 Cotrone. The Division received an application from
4 the applicant seeking pari-mutuel wagering
5 professional individual occupational license.

6 After review of the application, it was
7 discovered that he had several felony offenses,
8 including a 1984 attempted robbery; a 1987
9 attempted assault, criminal sale of a controlled
10 substance; and a 2003 grand larceny insurance fraud
11 and criminal mischief.

12 The applicant applied for a waiver, which was
13 declined by the Executive Director. Here, the
14 Division would ask that the Commission authorize a
15 notice of intent to deny or the issue of a letter
16 of license denial in this case.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

18 Commissioners, any questions on 7.1? Seeing
19 none, can we please get a motion to issue a letter
20 of license denial, intent to deny.

21 COMMISSIONER REPP: Motion to issue the
22 letter.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
24 second?

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
2 aye.

3 (Multiple ayes.)

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All right. Moving on to
5 7.2.

6 MS. ALVARADO: 7.2 is 2024-021088, Teresa
7 Holmes. Here, the applicant sent in an application
8 for a pari-mutuel wagering professional individual
9 occupational license. After review of her
10 application, it was discovered that she had a
11 felony theft from 2008.

12 The applicant applied for a waiver, but did
13 not complete her waiver interview after several
14 attempts to get in contact with her. The waiver
15 was then declined by the Executive Director.

16 Here, the Division would ask that the
17 Commission authorize the issuance of a notice of
18 intent to deny in this case.

19 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

20 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can
21 we please get a motion to issue a letter of intent
22 to deny.

23 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So moved.

24 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Second.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
2 eye.

3 (Multiple ayes.)

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Alvarado, I know we
5 talked about this at the last meeting under the
6 Executive Director's report of the statutory
7 changes that are in effect now -- that's July 1st
8 -- with our Agency bill on some of these license
9 denials.

10 If you could just for edification of the
11 audience, I find that there's two notable ones on
12 how this will affect new applicants moving forward
13 on issuance of licenses.

14 MS. ALVARADO: I'm going to direct that to the
15 Executive Director.

16 MR. TROMBETTA: Sure. I believe the two
17 you're referencing have to deal with, one,
18 misrepresentations that could be made on an
19 application.

20 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes.

21 MR. TROMBETTA: So if you remember, as part of
22 DBPR, there was a statute that allowed essentially
23 the divisions within DBPR to deny licenses based on
24 people lying on their application.

25 When we left DBPR, we didn't have a similar

1 statute. So one of the things we did with our bill
2 was create that, so that is now in effect.

3 Secondly, I think you were referring to the waiver
4 process.

5 So we've tried to -- there was an
6 inconsistency in the way Chapter 550, the
7 pari-mutuel law, and Chapter 551, the slot law
8 treated applicants that had essentially
9 disqualifying offenses in their criminal history.

10 Under Chapter 550, the applicant could apply
11 for a waiver of that disqualifying offense so that
12 they could still have their license application
13 considered. That did not exist in 551.

14 So now we've made a change that's effective
15 July 1st that allows applicants for slot licenses
16 to also take advantage of a waiver process.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. I appreciate
18 you sharing that information with the public.

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Can I ask just a quick
20 followup?

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes, Commissioner Drago.

22 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So I realize it goes into
23 effect July 1st, but does it affect applications
24 prior to July 1st that we might be reviewing like
25 today?

1 MR. TROMBETTA: I'm going to pass this one to
2 legal. I think I know the answer, but just to be
3 safe here.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Ms. Valentine.

5 MS. VALENTINE: Elina Valentine, for the
6 record. The change in the law applies to
7 applications that are pending as of July 1st. And
8 so there will be applications going forward that
9 will be in front of the Commission for review, but
10 none that the 90-day time period would have expired
11 before July 1st.

12 And the 90-day time period that I'm referring
13 to is the 90-day time period that we are required
14 by law to either grant or deny a license. That's
15 under Chapter 120.

16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I'm sorry, but I think I
17 got more confused. So if somebody filed an
18 application prior to July 1st and we reviewed it,
19 we accepted it, we reviewed it, but it hadn't been
20 approved yet for anything, is that -- then it comes
21 before us after July 1st, is that under the old
22 statute or the new statute?

23 MS. VALENTINE: That would be under the new
24 statute.

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: It would be. Okay. All

1 right. Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
3 Commissioner Drago.

4 Commissioners, any other questions? Okay. We
5 are going to move on to Item 8.1, which is
6 discussion of final order pursuant to request from
7 respondent.

8 MS. ALVARADO: Item No. 8.1 is 2023-039465,
9 Kendra Durand. The Division seeks to enter a final
10 order adding Ms. Durand to the permanent exclusion
11 list for all pari-mutuel and all slot machine
12 facilities.

13 The Commission served respondent with an
14 administrative complaint seeking her exclusion from
15 both pari-mutuel and slot machine facilities. The
16 respondent requested an informal hearing which was
17 held on May 16th.

18 At this hearing, she represented that she did
19 not oppose the Commission seeking permanent
20 exclusion. On May 23rd, the hearing officer
21 relinquished jurisdiction back to the Commission
22 for issuance of a final order.

23 Therefore, the Division would ask that the
24 Commission enter a final order adding Ms. Durand to
25 the permanent exclusion list for all pari-mutuel

1 and all slot machine facilities.

2 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

3 Commissioners, if there are no questions, can
4 we please get a motion for a final order
5 permanently excluding this applicant.

6 COMMISSIONER REPP: I would like to make a
7 motion for the order.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. Is there a
9 second?

10 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Second.

11 VICE CHAIR BROWN: All those in favor, say
12 aye.

13 (Multiple ayes.)

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. The motion
15 passes unanimously. We are going to move on to
16 discussion of policies and procedures. We're going
17 to defer Item No. 9.2, which is the dual and
18 secondary employment, and take up Item No. 9.1 and
19 9.3. 9.1 is transporting detainees.

20 Chief Herold, are you presenting?

21 MR. HEROLD: Good morning.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Morning.

23 MR. HEROLD: Thank you for having me. This is
24 simply a policy that we've asked for to identify
25 the needs of the agents and how we would go about

1 transporting any detainees. For the most part, our
2 vehicles are not set up to transport any prisoners.

3 So essentially, the policy outlines that we
4 will partner with one of our local law enforcement
5 individuals to make transportation for us.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you for the summary.
7 Commissioners.

8 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Just a quick question, if
9 I could.

10 MR. HEROLD: Certainly.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So practically speaking,
12 do we have someone now identified, an agency that
13 we will call whenever our agents need
14 transportation around the state, or how is that
15 going to work practically?

16 MR. HEROLD: That's a great question. Thank
17 you for the question. Right now, every one of our
18 operations, we partner with a local law enforcement
19 because of the complexity and the multitude of
20 tasks that are required to do these types of
21 operations.

22 And so we already have partnerships
23 established, and that's simply one more ask that we
24 have with local law enforcement. And so while it's
25 not one particular agency that we identify.

1 Typically, it's with those partner agencies that
2 we're working with on these operations.

3 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: So what about if we're
4 going to be on our own somewhere and we make an
5 arrest, one of our agents, do we have anybody
6 identified yet, or is that in the planning to
7 identify FHP or whatever to be our go-to agency to
8 transport our prisoners for us?

9 MR. HEROLD: Yes, sir. So we do not have
10 someone that I would say or an agency that I would
11 say would be our go-to. We find that as part of
12 the ops plan, we reach out to local law enforcement
13 because they do provide assistance to us, even if
14 it's entry or guarding the perimeter to ensure that
15 nobody comes in while our guys are processing
16 evidence and those kind of things like that.

17 So the ask is to local law enforcement, and we
18 have utilized FHP. And we have been offered up by
19 other state law enforcement agencies to give us
20 assistance.

21 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: I would just suggest that
22 we get somebody, a state agency somewhere that we
23 could at least forewarn them that if we do need
24 someone, our agents arrest someone, and we're not
25 working with any other local agency or anything.

1 And I'm sure local agencies would do it from
2 time to time. But I would just suggest that we
3 forewarn or at least have some type of
4 understanding with whether it's FHP or the
5 sheriff's departments or whoever it might be that
6 they're not confused and shocked about it when we
7 start asking for help transporting, that they're
8 aware that it's a possibility or whatever.

9 MR. HEROLD: Yes, sir, and thank you. We will
10 make sure we do that.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
13 Commissioner Drago.

14 Commissioners, any further questions?
15 Thank you, Chief Herold.

16 All right. We are moving on to Item No. 9.3.
17 Administrative Officer Mustain, anti-retaliation.

18 MS. MUSTAIN: Good morning. This is
19 anti-retaliation. This policy sets standards
20 prohibiting retaliation against employees who
21 identify workplace issues such as fraud, waste,
22 abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or any
23 inappropriate conduct or practices, including
24 violations that may pose a threat to the health,
25 safety, and well being of our employees.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. I don't have
2 any questions. Commissioners, do you have any? If
3 not, can we get a motion to --

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Can I just ask one quick
5 one, please. So how does this interact with the
6 whistleblowers' situation? I mean, does this kind
7 of piggyback off of that? Is there a separate
8 policy directing towards whistleblowers, right, and
9 this piggybacks off of that?

10 MS. MUSTAIN: Yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And it
13 delineates whistleblowing in this policy, too.

14 MS. MUSTAIN: It does.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And I neglected to get a
16 motion to approve 9.1. So if there are no other
17 questions, can we get a motion to approve 9.1 and
18 9.3.

19 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I will make a motion
20 to approve 9.1 and 9.3.

21 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
22 Commissioner D'Aquila.

23 Commissioner Repp, is there a second?

24 COMMISSIONER REPP: Second.

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Any discussion? All those

1 in favor, say aye.

2 (Multiple ayes.)

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you both for your
4 work. I know we have more policies to come, and
5 looking forward to seeing them next month. We are
6 moving on to our Executive Director's update.

7 MR. TROMBETTA: Hi. Thank you. Good morning.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Good morning.

9 MR. TROMBETTA: I have a few things. First, I
10 just point out that we as a Commission just kind of
11 celebrated our second year in existence. So, you
12 know, internally we did a few things. We've been
13 trying to celebrate and just kind of recognizing
14 the hard work that everybody's put in.

15 Some of these accomplishments we've had, I
16 mean, really it's -- let me take a moment to kind
17 of identify some of the stuff that isn't super
18 obvious. Our role coming from DBPR was to make
19 sure that our regulatory work kind of continued to
20 be up to par and do everything that it was supposed
21 to do.

22 And I think with Joe's leadership and
23 everybody in PMW, we were able to do that. I think
24 if you ask most of the pari-mutuels -- don't get me
25 wrong. There's been hiccups, just in terms of

1 timing and just, you know, some unexpected things
2 of just shifting to a Commission.

3 But I think for the most part, we've been able
4 to continue to be there to license and to regulate
5 the way we're supposed to, leaving the citizens in
6 the state with safe gaming opportunities that
7 continue to provide good revenue for the state.

8 At the same time, we were trying to create the
9 law enforcement division and the support structure,
10 so our IT and our admin team. So in two years, we
11 really have come a long way, just in terms of, you
12 know, Lisa's team, Suzie's team, just continuing to
13 really try to make little efficiencies that, again,
14 aren't public facing but that really do help us be
15 responsive to the public.

16 I'm not going to name all of them. There's
17 too many things. But I do want to just recognize
18 some of the hard work that has gone into getting us
19 to where we are in two years, which is a short
20 amount of time.

21 I mean, I'm sure the Commissioners, you know,
22 you've seen it. We have come a long way, and I'm
23 very proud of the work we've done. So really, it's
24 a good thing. And then moving on to --

25 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Wait. Before you move on,

1 no, no, you cannot underscore the amount of work
2 and accomplishments that have gone on. You really
3 summarized it beautifully in our email to
4 employees.

5 But there have been such tremendous strides.
6 I mean, even effective July 1st and the Division of
7 Law Enforcement, what is going on there is just
8 tremendous.

9 There's great media coverage on some of the
10 great work that they're doing, but they're
11 constantly working and growing, and it's a very
12 exciting agency to be a part of.

13 MR. TROMBETTA: And something just to add to
14 it, too. The employees are very flexible, which is
15 something, you know, going into it that, frankly,
16 government is not known for being. But I really
17 give a lot of credit to everybody that's been in
18 here and been able to adjust.

19 Early on, there was a lot of how do we make
20 this work? And there's been a lot of, well, let's
21 do this instead of that, you know, where it's not a
22 common thing. Most government agencies have a long
23 kind of period of time where people get just used
24 to the routine.

25 I'd like to appreciate just in general a lot

1 of the employees that have been here through this
2 transition that have been able to be flexible, make
3 adjustments and kind of continue to produce good
4 work. It's not an easy thing to do, and people
5 have done it through difficult asks at times.

6 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. And
7 stakeholders, too.

8 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes, for sure. With that
9 said, you know, recently we've made a number of new
10 additions that I would like to kind of highlight
11 and point out. Is Justin still here? One of the
12 people here helping us get our computers working is
13 the new help desk person.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can you stand up, please.

15 MR. TROMBETTA: Stand up. There he is.
16 Justin Garcia Vargas is our new kind of help desk
17 personnel. He's come on. He's been, you know,
18 super helpful. You know, I know that for the
19 people that are not in Tallahassee or that are not
20 in Tallahassee all the time, the help desk is great
21 at, you know, just working with everybody, the
22 people that are here before our individual
23 meetings.

24 Yesterday I had an issue, and he came over and
25 fixed it during his lunch break. So really just,

1 you know, thank you there. It's been good. On the
2 Division of Law Enforcement, there's I think two
3 that are here.

4 Gary Snyder and Christina Lynn are both new
5 additions. Gary and Christina, if you don't mind
6 just standing up just so that we can see you. They
7 are both reporting directly to Carl.

8 Gary is our chief of law enforcement, and
9 Christina is our chief of intelligence. So we're
10 looking forward to kind of what their impact that
11 they're going to have. They're both good additions
12 immediately, but I think it's going to be a good
13 thing going forward.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We're very excited to have
15 you. Great illustrious backgrounds, so we're
16 grateful for you all to be here.

17 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes. Thank you both.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioner Drago.

19 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Can I ask that perhaps we
20 have the Commission can step down and get a picture
21 with these new folks. You know, everybody's going
22 to be going a million different ways from now on,
23 and we won't get this kind of opportunity perhaps
24 to do this.

25 I think we should recognize the great job that

1 everybody is doing and the new people that we hire.
2 I'd like to see if we could just step down as a
3 Commission and get a picture with the new hires and
4 come back to -- or however you want to do it.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Let's do it after the
6 update. Does that sound good?

7 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: And I think that's a great
9 idea. And I know we're going to have an
10 opportunity to talk about our future communications
11 position, which I think will really bolster
12 internally and externally.

13 MR. TROMBETTA: I think that works, whenever
14 you'd like. Another I don't think she's here, but
15 Lerrah Clark is another one. She's technically in
16 Lisa's shop, so she's in the division of admin.
17 She was brought in to kind of help be essentially
18 liaison between our Division of Law Enforcement and
19 the other areas.

20 It's going to take a lot of work off of both
21 Lisa, Director Herold. It's going to just make
22 easier for communication for information to flow
23 between our Division of Law Enforcement and both IT
24 and admin, so that's a big help, too. She's been
25 on board and has made an impact right away, too.

1 Moving on outside of law enforcement, so
2 there's been some shuffling, all good shuffling, in
3 terms of handling our reports. So we still have
4 our outward facing report portal where people can
5 make reports of either illegal activity or just
6 issues they're having anywhere really gambling
7 related.

8 ^Cyntoria Harris was the first full-time
9 position tasked with that. She has since moved
10 back to licensing with a promotion. So she was
11 promoted, and she now has a supervisory role in our
12 licensing team.

13 So her background was in licensing. She took
14 the opportunity to help out handling the reports
15 and has now moved back to licensing in a better
16 way. She's been a big help.

17 Again, speaking of employees that were able
18 to, you know, just jump on something and, you know,
19 take something brand-new, she was able to do it,
20 and I give her a lot of credit for jumping in early
21 and making that her own.

22 We've been able to kind of move some people
23 around internally to replace her. So Kim Johnson
24 is here. Kim, if you don't mind standing up. Kim
25 was at the front desk. And when Cyntoria moved on,

1 Kim expressed interest. She has since taken over
2 the role of handling the complaints.

3 So if people file reports, it goes right to
4 Kim. Kim is the one on the phone talking to
5 people, directing, filtering. She's jumped in, and
6 she's done a great job. So thank you, Kim, really
7 for doing that.

8 And then replacing Kim at the front desk is
9 Alexis Crenshaw who is not here, I don't believe.
10 Alexis was an OPS position that was helping the
11 admin team. When that positioned opened up, we
12 were able to kind of keep her and move her into
13 that.

14 She's been helpful and done a good job there,
15 too. So really just again from my end, it's great
16 to be able to keep people internally, even if they
17 move around. It's been a good transition
18 throughout, so I really thank all three of them.
19 It's been good.

20 Legal, we have some changes in legal. Marc,
21 who is over here, Marc has been promoted to the
22 deputy general counsel. So Marc was here, came and
23 has been working specifically on the law
24 enforcement side.

25 He's been helping our law enforcement with all

1 their legal needs. He's going to kind of continue
2 doing that while we seek to kind of find somebody
3 else to do that so he can kind of move into a
4 traditional deputy general counsel role. But right
5 now, it's been a big help.

6 He's taken on a ton of work. Elina has been
7 able to take on a ton of work. Really, our legal
8 team is in a good spot. Shireen, there she is.
9 Shireen also just received a promotion. She was a
10 junior attorney. She was promoted to senior
11 attorney.

12 Again, Shireen, super helpful. Enjoys the
13 subject matter and has a lot of experience and is
14 very helpful. So really, legal is in a good spot.
15 And then on --

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Congratulations everyone
17 for these promotions and shifting around and being
18 nimble. It's awesome.

19 MR. TROMBETTA: And Emily, too. Sorry. Emily
20 as well, if you see -- sometimes I forget because
21 she's been not in the office, just because she's
22 had other stuff going on. But she's doing a ton of
23 work as well, even while she's been coming back.

24 She recently received a promotion to a chief
25 attorney. As you can see, she's still very good

1 and doing everything she's supposed to be doing.

2 So, Emily, sorry, but thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: We're grateful.

4 MR. TROMBETTA: On the PMW side, we also have
5 a promotion. Jose Cuevas, it's very close to
6 Cuervo, Cuevas, and I have to go very slow. Cuevas
7 was promoted to a slots manager for Broward County.

8 So the way our slots team is structured is we
9 have two managers, one for Broward and one for
10 Miami-Dade. He was promoted to the Broward
11 supervisor. He's been with us for a while. Great
12 guy and does good work, so that's a good one. He's
13 not here. He's out of the Fort Lauderdale office.

14 Tracy Swain, we did a little bit of a reorg.
15 So when Kim Ferree, who was the bureau chief for
16 our auditing team left, we made kind of a decision
17 to it's going to help better, you know, create some
18 efficiency.

19 In our PMW team, we combined the revenue team
20 with the auditing team and moved Tracy in charge.
21 So Tracy is the bureau chief of audit and revenue.
22 Tracy has been with PMW for a very long time.

23 She was here when I started and super helpful
24 from then till today, so it's a good promotion.

25 She is very competent, knows what she's doing. And

1 combining these two areas made a lot of sense. So
2 with her leadership, I think we're going to be in a
3 good spot there.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Great.

5 MR. TROMBETTA: And then to replace -- so
6 Tracy had formally been in charge of revenue. So
7 to replace Tracy, we promoted Karen. Karen -- I'm
8 going to pronounce her last name wrong -- Stelter,
9 who worked for Tracy prior in revenue.

10 We moved her up, so she's now the revenue
11 administrator overseeing the revenue side of that
12 bureau. So we're again in good hands. So there's
13 a lot of moving parts. There's been other stuff
14 going on that has also helped us kind of manage
15 just changes.

16 Again, I appreciate the people I've mentioned,
17 but also everybody else that have been part of this
18 that have taken new challenges, stepped up and done
19 a great job. It all adds to kind of our success in
20 these two years. So thank you, everybody. Really,
21 it's been very good.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Awesome. And I think it's
23 also appreciative for folks in the audience here
24 and who are tuning in to hear about the changes so
25 that they know who to contact moving forward, too,

1 with all of these wonderful changes, too.

2 Commissioners.

3 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Yes, just a quick thing.
4 So much has been done, and I really appreciate the
5 overview of everything because I think we all
6 forget. And I know people who might be watching or
7 paying attention to this certainly don't realize
8 all the things that go on to make this agency work.

9 I just want to say I really appreciate
10 everybody that's in this room and everybody that's
11 not in this room that participates in all this. I
12 congratulate the people that got promoted, every
13 single one of them.

14 I know that Lou keeps us advised of what's
15 going on, so I know that you all deserve what
16 you're getting and what you're doing. I'm proud of
17 you. I really do appreciate it. It's hard to keep
18 up with it, with all the changes.

19 It's great to be able to see this. I have one
20 quick question. Marc's position, has that been
21 advertised yet, that legal advisor for the law
22 enforcement folks?

23 MR. MARSHMAN: It has.

24 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Do you want to provide
25 more information?

1 MR. MARSHMAN: We did not receive any
2 satisfactory applicants, so we are readvertising
3 that position.

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Readvertising. Okay.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: What are the specific
6 requirements, in terms of how many years of
7 practicing law and criminal law experience,
8 et cetera?

9 MR. MARSHMAN: We can pull the ad and provide
10 that to the commissioners later. But for anyone
11 listening that might be interested, background in
12 criminal law is preferred, but not required.
13 Background in administrative law is preferred, but
14 again, not required.

15 If you look at our previous legal enforcement
16 advisor, Marc, and his career path, he's worked in
17 both administrative law, criminal defense, and
18 criminal prosecution for years. He's a ten-year
19 lawyer, at least.

20 And he was excellent in that position, and he
21 will continue to provide excellent support. And
22 another attorney that can supplement Marc and
23 continue to assist Carl's team would be ideal.

24 So having an attorney general with years of
25 experience under their belt would be excellent.

1 They would have to be willing to move to
2 Tallahassee, but there's a lot of good reasons to
3 move to Tallahassee.

4 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Spoken from a Tallahassee
5 guy.

6 MR. MARSHMAN: I might be biased. But for all
7 the reasons that Director Trombetta just explained
8 about the good working conditions here, we are, I
9 think, an above average workplace. And ROGC now
10 headed by Ms. Valentine, so is a good place to work
11 and a good place to hone their craft.

12 And the law enforcement particularly is
13 unique. There are not many law enforcement
14 agencies that are also administrative law agencies,
15 and there are not many that have statewide purview.

16 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I agree with all of that,
17 and our agency is stellar. Would it be advisable
18 to reach out to or at least advertise in the
19 Florida State Law newspaper or around there?

20 I know you're looking for a more senior
21 attorney, but there are folks that would know
22 people. And I'm going to start putting my thinking
23 cap on, too, based on the credentials that you
24 described.

25 MR. MARSHMAN: We would appreciate that and

1 any other ideas for any marketing or advertisement
2 for this or any other open position we have would
3 be welcome. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Where is it advertised,
5 besides the State People First, is it advertised
6 anywhere else?

7 VICE CHAIR BROWN: The Florida Bar?

8 MR. MARSHMAN: I would have to check. I don't
9 know.

10 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Because I'm just
11 wondering how the legal advisors around the state
12 working for police agencies now, how they would get
13 the information that there's a job opening here.
14 So I'm not asking you to answer it now.

15 I'm just suggesting that to me that would be,
16 I think, a pool that you'd want to get into, as
17 well as prosecutors' offices and public defenders'
18 offices and all this kind. I don't know if they
19 all look at People First or not.

20 But my first thought is the legal advisors
21 that are out there now working for local agencies
22 might be a good place to go. But just to close out
23 my thoughts is I want to welcome all the new
24 people. Thank you for joining.

25 This is an exciting place to work. As you can

1 see, there's so many things going on here. It's
2 hard to believe that it's just been two years. I
3 think back to the first days that we were here and
4 can't believe where we are now, how much has been
5 accomplished.

6 Director Trombetta, to you and all the members
7 that work with you have done such a great job of
8 getting us there. Starting a law enforcement
9 agency personally has been really exciting and
10 interesting to me because it just doesn't happen
11 very often.

12 And I hope it's going to be the same way to
13 everyone else that's involved with it. And that's
14 just not the law enforcement people. That's the
15 support people that are here, like Lisa and people
16 that are all involved and all our lawyers and
17 everybody that they go to to get help in order to
18 make this happen.

19 It's just tremendous. I've worked at a lot of
20 agencies over my years, and I don't think I've ever
21 seen any that work so well together without anybody
22 trying to outdo the other one as everybody does
23 here, so I thank you for that.

24 And the new people, you're coming into an
25 awesome place, awesome experience, I think. We're

1 certainly going to pick your brains and suck
2 everything out of you that we can to continue to
3 grow with this, so thank you. Thank you,
4 everybody.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you,
6 Commissioner Drago.

7 Commissioner D'Aquila.

8 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I cannot do a better
9 job than my fellow commissioner. I ditto
10 everything he just said, so thank you to all. With
11 regard to advertising both the legal position and
12 all positions, for that matter.

13 When we post the advertisements, mentions of
14 these employment opportunities, have we developed a
15 standard paragraph about the gaming industry,
16 sports and gaming industry as it pertains
17 particularly to the excitement, the growth?

18 It is certainly one of the most -- one of the
19 more exciting industries in our country as it
20 pertains to both the issues legally, business-wise,
21 changing, dynamism, so forth.

22 So my question is do we do that now? And if
23 we do, are we pleased with it?

24 MR. TROMBETTA: So we do have stock language.
25 I think we can revisit how exciting it reads, but

1 your point is not lost. I think we've tried to
2 look at our advertisements and make them appealing.

3 I think there's many state agencies that don't
4 try to make them appealing, let's say, where we do
5 put some time into that. But, you know, I think we
6 can revisit it with what you just said and try to
7 make it even more pulling. Lisa --

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: I see Lisa shaking her head
9 yes.

10 MR. TROMBETTA: Lisa, do you mind just talking
11 about the hiring process in general, just where we
12 advertise, how it kind of works, in general.

13 VICE CHAIR BROWN: That would be great.

14 MS. MUSTAIN: So we advertise through People
15 First. And People First, they have different
16 connections where they send it out. So if you go
17 like, for instance, on Google and put in state of
18 Florida jobs, you'll get responses from several
19 different places.

20 But it's a great idea to reach out and maybe
21 to the Florida Bar and ask them if they could put
22 the attorney positions advertisements in the Bar
23 News or put an email out. We didn't think of that,
24 and that's a good suggestion. Is there anything
25 specific?

1 MR. TROMBETTA: No. Thank you.

2 MS. MUSTAIN: To your point,
3 Commissioner D'Aquila, we could probably do a
4 little better with our opening statement about the
5 excitement of working at the Florida Gaming Control
6 Commission, it's true.

7 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: You might even
8 consider mentioning just some of the national
9 stats, the statistics using other professions.
10 I'll pick my own. I have an opportunity to be a
11 CPA in a rapidly growing, changing environment
12 versus an industry that's declining, I might choose
13 the first one.

14 So we are fortunate in that we are working in
15 the very -- and that's the reason we're all here,
16 the reason our agency and our commission is growing
17 so quickly.

18 This is in-demand, growing national --
19 international phenomenon as a result of court
20 decisions, state and local decisions, and so forth.
21 Try to capture some of that in your opening
22 paragraph.

23 I mean, we are looking for not just a person
24 to fill a position quite often, as we describe some
25 of these legal positions. We're looking for

1 special people, and to move special people that
2 little bit of extra can make a great difference.

3 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: And if I may add one
5 more question. I understand People First. I've
6 seen it, used it. To our ads ever make it to some
7 of the more obvious national, non-statewide sites
8 such as Indeed or LinkedIn and the like? Is that
9 part of the arrangements? I'm just curious about
10 that.

11 MS. MUSTAIN: Yes.

12 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: I think Indeed,
13 LinkedIn, ZipRecruiter -- I'm not doing an
14 advertisement for these organizations. I don't
15 know if they work or not, but I have seen them be
16 used quite often.

17 MS. MUSTAIN: Yes. Typically, like I know
18 Suzie is really good about posting her vacant
19 positions on LinkedIn. She's got a lot of good
20 response there. But, yes, they do.

21 COMMISSIONER D'AQUILA: Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. All good
23 suggestions. And I think particularly
24 Director Herolds' position or attorneys, very
25 important. And to get qualified people, we have to

1 broaden the scope.

2 That's just a critical position in your shop.
3 And I think Florida Bar and any other creative ways
4 to get the most qualified folks because people are
5 jumping, and we are getting great employees.

6 We're very lucky. We want to make sure we
7 have that position locked. I know we're still on
8 Executive Director update.

9 MR. TROMBETTA: Yes. One other thing I wrote
10 down here and obviously anything else that you may
11 have for me, but just scheduling, just the usual.
12 So my notes, I have a Commission meeting agreed on
13 August 8th and September 5th.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Yes.

15 MR. TROMBETTA: I didn't have anything for
16 October, and I wasn't sure if you wanted to plan
17 October or November yet.

18 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Now, October 3rd is a
19 holiday. So if there's a way to be a little more
20 flexible with that date, instead of doing the 3rd.
21 And I know the following week is G2E Conference.
22 So I'm open for you all if you have a suggestion.
23 Maybe October 1st or 2nd. The 3rd is Rosh
24 Hashanah. The 1st or 2nd?

25 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: Either one.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Either one.

2 MR. TROMBETTA: I can check to see if this
3 room is available either day, and I can get back to
4 you on that.

5 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you. I just wanted
6 to ask you a question about the status of
7 rulemaking. We have a few rules that are going on
8 right now, not just the cashless wagering, but
9 where we're at right now on -- and maybe it's a
10 question for Mr. Marshman or Ms. Valentine.

11 And then I also have a HISA question or just
12 an update for the public, too, so those two legal
13 questions.

14 MR. MARSHMAN: I would defer to Ms. Stinson
15 for the rulemaking update and probably for the HISA
16 HIWU update as well.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

18 MS. STINSON: Good morning. So for the
19 rulemaking update, we have our greyhound rule
20 update is about to -- we're about to publish the
21 notice of proposed rules, and that will start the
22 official time clock for adoption.

23 We are also about to publish the notice of
24 proposed rule for the 75.5003, which is the
25 fingerprinting rule.

1 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Right.

2 MS. STINSON: That, too, is about to be
3 published in the FAR. And we have the rules for
4 the implementation of 804, which you granted us the
5 ability to publish the notice of development. We
6 are getting that ready, and that should be coming
7 soon. And I think that's all of the rulemaking.

8 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Cashless wagering.

9 MS. STINSON: Cashless wagering, we're working
10 on putting together the rulemaking language or the
11 rule language -- excuse me -- that you guys
12 requested at the May meeting down in South Florida,
13 and that should be forthcoming shortly.

14 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Commissioners, any
15 questions on rulemaking?

16 COMMISSIONER DRAGO: No.

17 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Can you please give us an
18 update on the Sixth Circuit decision and how that
19 affects, if it affects, and the time frame for the
20 Supreme Court possibly to take that
21 unconstitutional language up.

22 MS. STINSON: Sure. So in the Sixth Circuit,
23 the plaintiffs had petitioned to the U.S. Supreme
24 Court. And in the last cycle, the U.S. Supreme
25 Court denied certiorari in that case.

1 In the Fifth Circuit, it's a very messy topic
2 right now. So in the Fifth Circuit, the Fifth
3 Circuit said that HISA had the ability to
4 promulgate rules, but that those rules, they did
5 not have the ability to enforce those rules.

6 And so we are right now looking into how
7 that's going to affect Florida. It is in the Fifth
8 Circuit, which we're in the 11th. So I don't think
9 it's going to have an effect on us, but it is
10 something where the plaintiffs are, I assume, happy
11 with the outcome.

12 But HISSA, I'm going to assume, is going to
13 petition the United States Supreme Court for a
14 review.

15 VICE CHAIR BROWN: Thank you.

16 Commissioners, any questions on that? All
17 right.

18 Are there any other matters to take up before
19 we conclude the meeting?

20 Sorry. Mr. Trombetta.

21 MR. TROMBETTA: Again, credit to Dixie Parker.
22 This room is available October 2nd.

23 VICE CHAIR BROWN: It sounds like October 2nd
24 is going to be our October regular Commission
25 meeting. I have no speaker cards from the public

1 right now.

2 If there's anybody in the public in the
3 audience that would like to come up, now is your
4 chance.

5 Seeing none, Commissioners, are there any
6 other matters to address? Seeing none, then we are
7 adjourned. Have a good July, everyone. See you
8 soon. Thank you.

9 (Proceedings concluded at 10:19 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF LEON

I, I. IRIS COOPER, do hereby certify that I
was authorized to and did stenographically report
the foregoing proceeding, and that the transcript
is a true and complete record of my stenographic
notes.

Dated this 1st day of August, 2024.



I. Iris Cooper
Stenographic Reporter
Notary Public, State of Florida
My Commission No. 1366674
Expires: February 7, 2028

Job No.: 352968