UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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COMMISSION MEETING

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2009

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OPEN SESSION

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The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m., in Room 540 at 624 Ninth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., Gerald A. Reynolds, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT:

GERALD A. REYNOLDS, Chairman

ABIGAIL THERNSTROM, Vice Chairman

TODD F. GAZIANO, Commissioner

GAIL L. HERIOT, Commissioner

PETER N. KIRSANOW, Commissioner

ARLAN D. MELENDEZ, Commissioner

ASHLEY L. TAYLOR, JR., Commissioner

MICHAEL YAKI, Commissioner

MARTIN DANNENFELSER, Staff Director

STAFF PRESENT:

DAVID BLACKWOOD, General Counsel

MARGARET BUTLER, EEO Director

CHRISTOPHER BYRNES, Chief, Programs

Coordination Unit

DEBRA CARR, Associate Director

DEMITRIA DEAS

LILLIAN DUNLAP

MAHA JWEIED

ROBERT LERNER, Assistant Deputy Staff Director, OCRE

EMMA MONROIG, Solicitor

STAFF PRESENT: (cont'd)

LENORE OSTROWSKY

EILEEN RUDERT (via telephone)

KIMBERLY TOLHURST

AUDREY WRIGHT

COMMISSIONER ASSISTANTS PRESENT:

ALEC DEULL

TIM FAY

DOMINIQUE LUDVIGSON

JOHN MARTIN

KIMBERLY SCHULD

ALISON SCHMAUCH

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (9:34 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. We will get started now. Commissioner Kirsanow will join us shortly.

Folks, put your phones on vibrate.

Good morning, this is Chairman Reynolds. The meeting will come to order.

This is a meeting of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on August 7, 2009. The meeting is being held at 624 Ninth Street, N.W., in Room 4 -- 540, rather, in Washington, D.C.

With the exception of Commissioner
Kirsanow, all Commissioners are present. Commissioner
Kirsanow will be joining us shortly.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The first item on the agenda is the approval of the agenda. I move to approve the agenda. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I have some amendments to it, but I -- can I second the motion, and then propose an amendment?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Sure.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. I second,

and I would like to propose the following adjustments. Because of some of the letters that are on the agenda, their approval or disapproval might affect some of the decisions we are making on related proposals later in the agenda, I propose the following -- that we first -- under Program Planning, we first the letter on proposed health care take up legislation, we next take up the followup letter to the Department of Justice regarding the New Black Panther Party suit, we next take up approval of concept paper for 2010 statutory report topics, we then take up the approval of the 2009 statutory report, and then we conclude with three updates, the update on the national conference, the update on the status of document requests to government agencies regarding their civil rights enforcement activities, and an update -- finally, an update on the possible Commission public service announcement.

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And -- I'm sorry -- before the updates, the last is a consideration of sending a letter regarding the pending Native Hawaiian government bill.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Hold on. Let me adjust this.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: So number 1 would

1 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The proposed health care letter. 2. COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. I think that 3 4 makes it four, three, two, one on that list, with the 5 Akaka bill put in, proposed Akaka bill letter, after 6 that, and then the updates as they are -- they are 7 listed last. 8 Τf it needs a second, I second 9 Commissioner Gaziano's motion to amend. 10 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. And 11 Commissioner Kirsanow has joined us. 12 Okay. This is going to get messy. But in 13 any event, let's vote. 14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Wait. Are you asking 15 for any more input on the agenda? 16 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Sure. VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I'm sorry. 17 Ι 18 didn't hear the question. 19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Shouldn't we vote on 20 Todd's motion, then have a further motion? 21 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, we are going to 22 have discussion on Todd's motion. COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Wait. But that 23

motion should be taken care of, then we can make a

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further motion.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Not unless we have 1 2. some discussion on it first. 3 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Well, we can discuss 4 it, fine. But then, you know, some further motion to 5 amend the agenda. 6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Unless, of course, 7 there is a substitute motion, which takes precedence 8 over that motion. 9 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Folks, the way 10 it generally goes, it's my understanding that there is 11 a motion, it is seconded, there is discussion, there is a vote. So let's have a discussion. 12 13 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I'm sorry. 14 missed Commissioner Yaki's question, so if it could be 15 just restated, so I understand. 16 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I would like to amend 17 the proposed amendment and move the discussion of the 18 national conference up to the top of Program Planning. 19 It shouldn't take that long.

> CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Offered as a friendly amendment.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I would prefer to have the updates at the end.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I would also like to add to the agenda, if Todd would include it in his motion, to have the Staff Director's report, as we usually have. It is not on this agenda.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes. What happened to that?

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I think we should have one every meeting.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes. I think that is supposed to be the updates here, but any other -
CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Are we prepared to provide --

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We do have a couple of updates that I will be providing.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Where would you propose to --

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Where it usually comes in. Was it after Announcements or -- I'm not sure where it usually is scheduled on the agenda.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Since the updates are in that nature, why don't we just add it there at the end, anything that isn't included in those updates that Marty has, just put it there with the updates.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So that would be after the Akaka letter?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I have a motion on the floor to amend the -- a suggested amendment to put the

1 national conference report up first on Program
2 Planning.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The reason I would prefer --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: There is no second to that motion.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Right.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Oh, I'll second it, I mean, so that we -- you know, because I want to hear the -- Marty's -- I would like to do the regular thing.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Hold on. The motion that was on the table was Todd's motion. Commissioner Yaki wanted to discuss -- have a discussion about the proposed order that Todd put on the table. Are there any other comments regarding --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: He has made --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: -- Todd's motion?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: He has made a substitute -- or amended my motion. I just wanted to speak to that. The reason I would prefer to put that off is we sometimes lose a quorum. I don't know what people's travel time are. We don't need, as far as I know, to vote on the conference.

As important as it is, we don't need a

quorum to discuss it, or get an update on it. We do need a quorum for the other items, so I would prefer to keep those first and make the discussion of the national conference the very first item on updates, and the Staff Director's Report that Commissioner Melendez has requested to follow that.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Any other comments?

8 (No response.)

Okay. What are we voting on, the substitute?

11 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We are voting on Yaki's motion.

13 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

14 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: To amend my motion.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: All in favor please

16 say aye.

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(Chorus of ayes.)

18 Abstentions?

19 (No response.)

20 All in opposition?

21 (Chorus of nays.)

22 Vice Chair Thernstrom?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, I support it.

I want to hear from the Staff Director.

25 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: This is on

1 the national conference.

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VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes, I know, but it would be part of your -- I mean, we always have your Staff Director Report early.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: That is not his motion. His motion only relates to the national conference.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The order of the discussion.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But the motion has failed anyway, so we need to discuss Todd's motion and go on.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Commissioner Taylor, how did you vote?

16 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Nay.

17 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All right.

18 Commissioner Melendez, how do you vote?

19 COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Can you restate

20 the motion?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: It is Commissioner
Yaki's substitute motion where he asks that the
discussion of the conference be moved to the top.

24 COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I agree. I will

vote yes.

Next up?

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 10,

2009 MEETING

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. The second item is the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on July 10, 2009. I move that we approve those minutes.

24 Is there a second?

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COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Second.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I have a motion to amend. Yes. I think everything prior on the draft letter to the Ohio legislature on page 3, everything prior to Commissioners Yaki and Melendez voted against, the rest of the Commission voted in favor, some words should be substituted for those prior sentences.

And the substitution should read, "The Commission voted to send a letter to the Ohio legislature cautioning them about the use of racial contracting set-asides as required by pending Ohio Senate Bill 146."

The letter pointed to relevant court cases in the Sixth Circuit and the District Court, which have previously overturned or otherwise limited racebased contracting set-aside programs in the state.

The Commission voted six-two to send the letter.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I second that amendment. I think it is -- glad someone clarified the nature of the letter.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion?

(No response.)

All in favor please say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Objections? 1 2. COMMISSIONER YAKI: Abstain. CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Melendez? 3 COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Abstain also. 4 5 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Taylor? 6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye. 7 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Two abstentions. The 8 remaining Commissioners vote in favor of the motion. 9 It carries the day. 10 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I have a question. 11 I don't think it will require an amendment, but if I could ask Commissioner Yaki. The minutes -- I just 12 want to understand what the vote was, to see whether 13 14 these minutes correctly reflect that. Just above the 15 Ohio legislature, the sentence reads, "The 16 Commissioners voted to amend the prior minutes of 17 June 12 to reflect that the vote on the motion to send 18 the letter to Department of Justice was four-zero-one, 19 with Commissioner Yaki abstaining." 20 I may have misremembered and -- were you 21 present at -- I thought it was Commissioner Melendez 22 who abstained. So were you saying that you abstained, 23 too, or that you were the abstainer?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I was not present for

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the vote.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. Well, that 1 doesn't mean you abstained. That means you weren't 2 present. So it seems like we do need to correct 3 4 the --5 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Whatever. Whatever. 6 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. I would like 7 the minutes corrected to reflect that Commissioner 8 Melendez abstained on June 12, and Commissioner Yaki 9 wanted it reflected at the last meeting that he was 10 not present at the time the vote was taken. 11 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Does anyone 12 feel that that needs to be voted on, or can we just 13 make the change? 14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Just make the change. 15 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: All right. Next up, Announcements. Voting Rights Act of 1965. 16 17 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Should we approve 18 it as -- vote to approve it as amended? 19 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I thought we had. 20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Didn't we just 21 approve the amendment? 22 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes, and that 23 we --24 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We have to approve

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the minutes now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The motion passes.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Next up is the Voting Rights Announcements. The Act of 1965. August 6th marks the anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 into law by President Lyndon The Act was in part a result of hearings conducted by this Commission, which chronicled massive resistance by state officials to the enforcement of the 15th Amendment, marked by measures to interfere with blacks' right to vote, which existing federal anti-discrimination laws had been insufficient to overcome.

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Section 2 of the Act applied a nationwide prohibition on the denial or abridgement of the right to vote, for example by suspending literacy, knowledge, or character tests, which have been used to disenfranchise blacks in the south. Under Section 5, covered jurisdictions were required to seek approval from the Attorney General or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for any changes affecting voting.

The Act also authorized the appointment of federal voting examiners and directed the Attorney General to challenge the use of poll taxes, which the Supreme Court ultimately ruled unconstitutional in 1966.

Also, August 18th marks the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits states and Federal Government from denying citizens the right to vote because of their sex. Okay.

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VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Mr. Chairman?
CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Section 2 is not quite accurately described there. It doesn't really matter, but it isn't quite accurate.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Please clarify the record.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, Section 2 in the original 1965 legislation was just a preamble restating the 15th Amendment basically. And I think -- I would have to look at the exact prose -- but I think what you describe there is Section 4. But it -- I would have to look at your exact prose.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Well --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We can just note that it's not correct.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: One of the benefits of having an expert on the Voting Rights Act.

IV. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. The regional

program staff anticipates submitting a large number of State Advisory Committees for rechartering, many before the end of the fiscal year. In order to consider and recharter these State Advisory Committees, and also ensure that the Commission can conduct its other important business, it will be necessary to schedule teleconference meetings of the Commission between our normally-scheduled in-person Commission meetings.

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Ι recommend that we calendar teleconference meetings two weeks following every scheduled business meeting or briefing. So our next teleconference, provided everyone -- provided that a consensus, would be held on Friday, there is August 21st. То accommodate our West. Coast participants, I propose that meetings be held no earlier than 11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time.

Staff has distributed our current meeting schedule, along with proposed teleconference dates through the end of the calendar year. Please check your calendars and advise as to whether you would be available on the dates proposed for the teleconferences.

The Staff Director informs me that we will vote to schedule meetings for the calendar year 2010

in September or October, and will include teleconferences as a part of that schedule.

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The first question: how does everyone's schedule look for August 21st?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, actually, I have a first question, if you don't mind, Mr. Chairman. I am just not -- from a number of angles, including the fact that, like the last time you didn't have a quorum, I am not wild about these teleconferences. I wonder if they are absolutely necessary.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I am not wild about them either. It is not absolutely necessary, but I also think that we need to -- I mean, staff has worked hard to get these rechartering packages done, and I think that at our current pace, looking at the workload that we have, that this is a reasonable way to get -- or to satisfy our obligation to recharter State Advisory Committees.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: So this is mainly about rechartering?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Exclusively.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Exclusively.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No, I don't think

you want to say that. I think, you know, other issues

1 may come up.

2 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Letters on

4 occasion.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: You are right. You are right. But when I -- when I had discussions about these issues, the only thing I had in mind was rechartering. But I -- there is no blanket prohibition against introducing other issues.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: They are just not a substitute for us sitting in the same room.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: And I don't think that we should have substantive discussions about either controversial matters or --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I don't think you want to say that either.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Sometimes --

19 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes, yes, yes.

20 Agreeing on what's on the front page could be controversial.

Okay. Commissioner Heriot?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: The standard isn't absolutely necessary in the sense that, you know, the universe will not explode. But if we want to actually

comply with the law -- and I would think of that as absolutely necessary -- yes, we have to do this. We are hopelessly behind on chartering SACs. And the notion that, you know, gee, this is inconvenient, you know, when you take the job, you agree that you are going to comply with the law.

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So I think we definitely, definitely, definitely, definitely, need to have these telephone conferences, and the alternative would not be not to have telephone conferences, but for us to have meetings twice a month here in Washington, which I think probably won't fit in with our budget, or have two-day meetings.

I think this is the best way to go. I think it is absolutely necessary that we catch up on our SAC approval. I think that it is a serious problem that we have not been keeping up with our SAC approval, and I would strongly, strongly urge that we do this, and I don't think we should limit what we cover in the telephone conferences.

Obviously, I would prefer to deal with the less controversial issues on the telephone conferences, but sometimes, you know, the universe doesn't cooperate, and you have to deal with controversial issues at an off meeting rather than an on meeting. And by "off meeting" I mean a telephone

meeting rather than an in-person meeting.

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So I would strongly urge that we do this expeditiously. I would also say that now and then there may be a month where we don't have anything for the agenda, and in those situations we just cancel the meeting.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: You mean cancel the telephone conference.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Cancel the telephone conference. And that may happen often, if we start getting really good at dealing with our in-person meetings.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Commissioner Gaziano is next, then Vice Chair Thernstrom.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I would certainly like to support the proposal that we have these. Since the chair has in mind mostly dealing with SAC rechartering, I think it would -- he is going to set the agenda. That is mostly what is going to be on. It should be open to amendments, particularly as I think there may be congressional actions that we may want to send a letter on, so there are some things that we might want to add to them from time to time.

But there are these other -- if we have these already scheduled and noticed, then we can -- we

do have the possibility of taking up an emergency issue, voting on something that we postponed at one of our in-person meetings. There was a question. That has occurred before, too, rather than waiting an entire month.

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So I think there are several advantages in doing this, and we may more likely keep a quorum for each of these once these are on our schedule than sometimes lose a quorum at one of our in-person meetings.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. When they are scheduled way ahead of time, then people know not to put something in that time slot. And staff should be instructed to routinely notice these meetings. And sometimes those meetings may be canceled, if we don't have an agenda.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Vice Chair Thernstrom?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I mean, the only thing that is bothering me here is that the SACs, as an issue, shouldn't -- rechartering shouldn't take that long at our regularly-scheduled meetings. And I am a little puzzled why it would take --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But it does.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We sometimes lose

-- even if it -- even if you are right, we sometimes lose a quorum before we get to them.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I would like to try to get them on the -- you know, on regular meetings.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: And when we can, then we can cancel the telephone conference.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I mean, I would like that to be the expectation, that we are going to manage to have SAC votes at the regular meeting.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Well, that is a goal, but I do believe that, judging by our past history, this is -- this is a method to get caught up, because the method that we have used in the past has not allowed us to hit our goal.

Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes. As one of the two Commissioners, along with Commissioner Melendez, who have repeatedly raised the issue of SAC rechartering, I just wanted to make two points. One, I had said many -- like probably two months ago that I was going to be pretty much out of pocket for the latter part of August, starting on the 14th, and the 21st I can definitely tell you I will be in a place where I will not get -- have access to cell reception.

1 So that will not work for me.

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Number 2, I would just like to say that, along with Commissioner Thernstrom, that I believe that we can take care of this in the regular course of events at a meeting. But, again, recognizing and understanding the fact that Commissioner Melendez and I have been the ones who have been pushing this for quite some time, obviously there may be some need for some of these teleconferences.

I think that we should make all our best efforts to accommodate them during meetings, as much as possible, rather than through teleconference. And, again, August 21 is just off the book for me.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Do you have a date in August that works for you?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, unless you can do something before the 14th, which you can't under the federal notice.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Well --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: How about very early September? I mean, there is no reason we can't have a telephone conference like two days before a meeting. It is only an hour, a couple of hours.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Yaki,

does that work for you?

1 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I have no objection.

2 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Commissioner

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Heriot, since this is your idea, you get to select the -- or propose the date.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I have a question.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I think that we should always work from trying to get these face-to-face meetings, and then, secondarily, maybe do the teleconference. So, but we have kind of headed towards -- when we talk about business meetings, I know that we are starting to limit business meetings to -- I'm not sure how many per year, you know, are left in the rest of this year, as far as what we call just a business meeting and not a briefing.

Is there a business meeting scheduled between now and the end of the year, or --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Who knows the schedule?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: The next -the remaining business meetings for the year are
September 11th, October 16th, November 6th, and
December 4th.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: So there will be no briefings.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: So there are all --1 2 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Oh, I'm 3 sorry. Briefings? 4 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: There might be a 5 briefing in addition to a business meeting. 6 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, those are the 7 dates -- right. 8 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: That's the 9 dates of meetings. There could be briefings at that 10 time, but --11 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think everybody agrees that we would rather do the SACs in -- live 12 13 when we can, and that we are going to make every 14 effort to do so. These telephone conferences are 15 being scheduled for the overflow. You know, when we 16 aren't able to finish it in our live meeting, we will 17 do it on the telephone --18 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: When we lose the 19 quorum --20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- conversation. 21 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- or something 22 like that. 23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Like on a couple of 24 occasions we have lost a quorum, because, you know, 25 some members leave early. We have had occasions where members have walked out to defeat a quorum. So this is simply our way to deal with the overflow, and these meetings will be canceled if we dealt with them at the business meeting, if we have already done the business. And I hope that happens often.

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But just in case it doesn't happen, rather than trying to schedule a telephone conference on an ad hoc basis, when it is much more difficult for people to schedule under those circumstances, if you know four months ahead of time that the -- you know, the telephone conference in December is going to be December 18th, you know, we all know not to schedule things for that time period.

But I hope we are going to be able to cancel a lot of these, because we will already have dealt with the business in the live meeting. That is -- you know, we are just trying to schedule these things ahead of time in case there is overflow. And if history is any guide, there is going to be overflow.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Okay. Well, what I want to see is that, for example, August 21st and September 11th, we know that we are going to be here face to face September 11th. I would rather have the first face-to-face meeting, tell me how many of these

SACs are pending, because it really has to do with, are you ready to -- are we ready to vote on these, or are these still being worked on, that type of thing. Otherwise, you would say on September 11th we've got 25 that are ready to go, then we try to take care of many in the day's meeting, and then we hand the rest to the second teleconference.

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So I have no idea how many are ready to go, as to what you would actually put on September 11th. If you said there were 10 ready to go, we'll take care of how many we can do in the September 11th, we will throw the other two to teleconference the following teleconference meeting. So I just don't have any idea what we are -- what the workflow and how many would be pending, unless you are telling me that there is 25 all set to go and that's the problem. Or you're saying he is still working on some, and we don't know that.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, Marty can tell you where we are in terms of what is ready to be voted on.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, we had four scheduled last week when we were not able to get a quorum on the teleconference, so those four are ready to go.

1 | COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Today.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Yes. So we expect -- well, they are not on the agenda for today, but they would be ready to go the next time the Commission meets.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: But why aren't they on the agenda today?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We have a very long meeting, I suspect, already.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes. If we go through those --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And I don't know when your flight is, Commissioner Melendez, but that --

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: My flight is at 5:00-something. I was -- you know, could at least have been here until 3:30.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes, there is no chance of us getting through this agenda and doing the SACs. That's the problem. We'll be lucky to get through the agenda the way it is.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I think that there is a consensus that we strive to get as much of that work, the rechartering work, done during our face-to-face meetings, and I think that there is a consensus

that to the extent that we are unable to do that we will take care of it during teleconferences.

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asking is you had four scheduled that we could have put on today. Are you saying that there could have been -- as much as five or six could have been put on today? Or are you saying that there was only four ready to go? That's what I'm trying to get at.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, there are four that are ready to go now. The Acting Chief of the Regional Programs Coordination Unit anticipates that another 14 might be available by the end of September, so a total of 18 between now and the end of September could be available.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But we'll have had by that point two telephone conferences and a face-to-face meeting, so it's not like we are going to be dealing with all of those at the same time.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Vice Chair Thernstrom?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Mr. Chairman, the only thing that is continuing to bother me here -- I understand your argument about rechartering the SACs.

But if Commissioner Gaziano's -- and I think to some extent Commissioner Heriot's -- description is -- or vision of these teleconferences is what we've got in

mind, you know, because there is -- I think
Commissioner Gaziano said if there is kind of a, you
know, business that is worth talking about between
these and things, then we have, it seems to me, quite
a -- then we've got a really kind of questionable
process of moving important stuff into the
teleconferences, and I just hope that that will not
happen.

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The SACs I understand perfectly, but I just don't want this to get -- you know, these teleconferences to be in any way equivalent to face-to-face meetings.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. At this point, let's talk about the dates. Commissioner Yaki, if I understand you right, there is nothing -- no date in August after the 14th where you are available.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Right.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Are you available on September 4th? That's a Friday.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: That's the Friday of Labor day, yes.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: That is Labor Day Friday. No.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Labor Day is not Friday.

Page 34 1 COMMISSIONER YAKI: It's the Friday 2. before. 3 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: It's the following 4 Monday. 5 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Is that too difficult? COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: 6 How about the 3rd? 7 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Someone threw 8 out the 3rd, the 2nd. 9 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I object to the 10 notion that Friday is a holiday. 11 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: What about the 3rd? 12 Let's just inquire about the 3rd. 13 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I am not in 14 town, but I will hope that I could -- where I am I can 15 call in, but it's possible I won't be able to. 16 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Is the 3rd 17 problematic for anyone else? 18 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Oh, hey, hang on. 19 Hang on. I can do the 3rd. 20 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Melendez? 21 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Wait a minute. 22 Labor Day is the 1st? 23 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: 7th. 24 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: It is the first

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Monday.

Page 35 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The 31st is a 1 2. Monday, of August. 3 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: It's the first Monday 4 5 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Oh, I'm looking at 6 the --7 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: -- following --8 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I'm sorry. I'm 9 not reading my calendar correctly. Sorry. 10 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. So the 3rd works for the first teleconference. Okay. 11 12 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Should we set a 13 general time? Should we say 1:00 Eastern, 1:30 14 Eastern? CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: That's fine. 15 16 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Does that work for 17 West Coast people? CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: 1:00 is fine. 18 19 COMMISSIONER YAKI: No. 20 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: What would be a 21 preferable general time? 22 COMMISSIONER YAKI: 8:30 is fine. 23 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: 8:30 Pacific? 2.4 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: 8:30 Pacific Time?

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So 11:30 Eastern?

	rage 30		
1	COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes.		
2	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: That's fine.		
3	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Is that a general		
4	is that a time we should just put down for all of		
5	them?		
6	COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes, I think we		
7	should have a time that we regard as the basic time,		
8	unless we vary it. We should assume it will always be		
9	at 11:30 Eastern, because what we need is something		
10	that the staff can just routinely notice. And if		
11	turns out we cancel, then we cancel.		
12	COMMISSIONER YAKI: We've gone through		
13	this list. Keep on going.		
14	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. On August 5th,		
15	the Staff Director circulated a letter addressed to		
16	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm sorry. Are we		
17	going to do other dates? Should we do October 16?		
18	Does October 16 work?		
19	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: You want to do all the		
20	dates now for the rest of the year?		
21	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, let's		
22	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.		
23	COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Can we just move to		
24	adopt this?		
25	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm sorry.		

I'm

Because

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ:

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for me, too.

burning some annual leave on Fridays at my job, other
job.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: All right, folks. So we are going to back it up a day.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: 24th. And with the understanding I may or may not be able to make it.

If there is a conference, I hope I am going to. I hope I am going to be able to find the time to go.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: 24th? Going once,

going twice. Okay.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: You just --

12 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Since we -- by the
13 way, we have yielded on time --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Fridays are much better for me.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- if Commissioner Heriot's teaching schedule, which she doesn't know yet, conflicts, I would propose that we adjust the times.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think we should go back to the Fridays that were originally proposed.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. That proposal --

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I am just going to say this. I have a business that requires a lot of

Page 39

travel, and the safest day that I know I will not be in the air is a morning on -- is a morning on either a Thursday or a Friday. Beyond that, I can't -- I am not going to commit to any other time.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. Well, let's go with Friday, then, since Commissioner -- most of the time, since Commissioner Heriot, not on the day before Labor Day, but since Commissioner Heriot thinks that is less likely to conflict, students don't like to go to class on Friday --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Actually, if we are going to do it at 8:30, we are okay. I can do it any day, any time.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. So -- that's good. So Thursdays it is.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, wait a minute.

Is that the --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The 24th of September.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. So for each date that is listed, we are just going to back it up a day and have the teleconferences -- have the teleconferences scheduled for Thursday.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: 11:30.

	Page 40
1	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I might have to
2	leave after half an hour on the 24th, but I am not
3	going to interpose that as an objection.
4	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.
5	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: If it works for
6	everyone else.
7	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: October 15th, is that
8	fine?
9	STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: No, no,
10	that's a regular business meeting.
11	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: That's a regular
12	meeting.
13	STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: So you mean
14	October 29th.
15	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. Does that work
16	for everyone? October 29th?
17	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That I have a
18	monthly civil rights meeting I conduct, and it seems
19	like it is conflicting with every
20	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: What time does it
21	start?
22	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: It starts at noon,
23	and so the 11:30 would mean I sort of have to leave
24	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Wait a minute.
25	And I go to that, too, obviously.

REYNOLDS:

We

made

an

CHAIRMAN

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30th.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. November 19th? COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm sorry. Which

11 day?

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12 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: November 19th.

13 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Thursday,

14 November 19th.

15 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Oh. Does that

16 conflict again with your --

> COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, that is the same -- again, are Fridays okay with everyone? Could we stick to the 20th?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, Commissioner 20

21 Melendez --

22 COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: That's fine.

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. Friday, the

24 20th.

25 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: 30th?

Page 44 1:30 on the 17th? 1 2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: That's what, 10:30 my time? 3 4 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. 5 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Or put it the previous day, the 16th. 6 7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: The 16th would be 8 better. 9 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: 16th is fine with 10 me. 11 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Any objection to the 16th? 12 13 (No response.) 14 The 16th it is. Okay. 15 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: 11:30 that day, right? 16 17 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. 18 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Everything is 11:30. CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Unless there is 19 20 additional discussion, we can move on. 21 On August 5th, the Staff Director 22 circulated a letter addressed to the President and to members of Congress expressing the Commission's 23 24 over racial preferences contained in concern 25 H.R. 3200, the Health Care Bill, currently before the

House of Representatives.

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Three House committees -- Ways and Means, Education and Labor, and Energy and Commerce -- have contributed to the current proposal. In the proposed letter, questions are raised about the constitutionality of some of the provisions creating racial preferences. The letter also questions, in light of our recent briefing on health care disparities, whether these provisions are the best way to medicate -- mitigate health care disparities along different racial groups.

I move that the Commission approve sending this letter to the President and members of Congress.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Second.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion?

17 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Actually, can I move to amend your motion?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: What was your motion

21 exactly?

22 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: To approve the letter.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Can I like give a

24 | friendly amendment to that?

25 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

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adopt the letter, but that it be subject to a few tinkering changes if we can get the unanimous consent in the next few days of the people who vote in favor of signing the letter, or the people who signed the letter.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes, that's --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Because I would want to be able to tinker with a couple of the footnotes and maybe something in the text.

11 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: That's fine.

12 Discussion? Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Do we have copies of the sections of the legislation that apparently offend to some people on this Commission?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I'm sorry?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Do we have copies of the sections of the legislation that apparently offend some members of this Commission? It's a very simple question.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The question is not complex, but I didn't hear you.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: About how long would it take?

25 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Ten or 15 minutes,

1 it could probably be --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. So let's continue the discussion while we try to get --

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Or let's postpone

it until --

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Let's table it. I am not prepared to have a discussion until I see the damn language. So let's move on to the next --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It's on the internet. It would have been available to you.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: You easily could have gotten it.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Just like I could have easily gotten all of that research that you did on the Native Hawaiian Act, too, Commissioner Heriot. So let's have it in front of us I believe would be appropriate.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Let's see if there is a consensus. I don't believe that -- well, I am not -- I think it is important to get the letter out as soon as possible. The fact that we don't have the language in front of us right now, the fact that we will have to wait 10 or 15 minutes, that is not a problem. And let's move --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I have seen the 1 2 legislation. I think the letter -- or the provisions. 3 I think the letter accurately reflects it. 4 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Let's rearrange the 5 agenda, and we will deal with something else while we 6 seek copies of the language. 7 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I wouldn't mind 8 seeing the language again. 9 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That's fine. T am 10 just saying that if anyone had a doubt about it, they should have obtained it. But I don't think that we 11 12 should delay significantly the consideration of the 13 letter. 14 Is the Commissioner -- do you suspect that 15 there aren't racial preferences in the health care 16 bill, Commissioner Yaki? 17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I'm not going to 18 that. I'm not going to answer that, answer 19 Commissioner Gaziano, until I have the language in 20 front of me. 21 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Probably makes 22 sense to wait 15 minutes. 23 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. Should we go 24 on to the next item and come back?

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V. PROGRAM PLANNING

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Next up, on June 16th,

Commissioners Kirsanow, Heriot, Gaziano, and myself

sent a letter to the Department of Justice regarding

dismissal of voter intimidation charges from an

incident in Philadelphia during the 2008 election.

On June 22nd, Vice Chair Thernstrom and

On June 22nd, Vice Chair Thernstrom and Commissioner Taylor sent their own letter lending support to our letter. The Department of Justice sent an undated letter that was largely unresponsive to our request, which the Commission logged in on July 24th.

The draft of a followup letter to the Department of Justice was sent to you on Wednesday, August 5th. I move to approve the followup letter to the Department of Justice. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Second.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion?

Commissioner Gaziano?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: As Commissioners know, I took the lead in trying to draft the followup. And I would move to allow minor tinkering, if you all see typos.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Friendly amendments.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, a friendly

amendment to the Chairman's. For example, I would

Page 50

like to, with the explanation Commissioner Yaki gave 1 2. this morning, add to footnote 1 that Commissioner 3 Melendez abstained from the original vote, and 4 Commissioner Yaki was not present, since he seems to 5 want that to be noted. But I want to speak --6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I was just stating a 7 fact. What do you mean by "wanted it to be noted"? 8 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: In the -- if you 9 don't want it to be noted, that's fine. I'm just 10 saying --11 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I don't care if it is 12 noted or not, but don't characterize it as I didn't 13 want it to be noted. 14 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay, folks. 15 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I was simply 16 correcting --17 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Folks? Folks? 18 COMMISSIONER YAKI: When you asked a 19 question, I corrected what the minutes were going to 20 say. 21 Yes, at the last --COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: 22 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Gaziano, 23 let's just move on.

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last

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO:

meeting, you wanted that noted.

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Anyway, just by way of explaining to fellow Commissioners and people in the audience, the response we received from the Department of Justice to our original letter was largely non-responsive. While they stated they did not think that the facts of the case merited continuing the suit, they did not provide answers to our questions about what the facts were, so that we could form our independent judgment, which is our responsibility.

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They also did not provide information on similar cases, and what the standard -- the legal standard was that they applied to this case. I think that we are entitled to a complete and satisfactory response in this matter, but, further, I certainly believe, as do I think some others who have been commenting on this case, that the replies from the Department are more damaging and put the Department in a worse light than no response at all.

There are factual errors, I believe, in questionable legal claims, in the original letter, and I believe that those responses undermine respect for the rule of law. I think the rest of the letter speaks for itself in explaining calmly and carefully what kind of material we expect the Department of Justice to provide to us, so that we can complete our

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1	special responsibility to study and report on voting
2	rights issues for the nation.
3	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Kirsanow?
4	COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I am just curious
5	if the Staff Director has received any other responses
6	from the ALJ related to this matter since we last
7	addressed this in a public gathering?
8	STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: No. Just
9	the letter that is noted in this letter.
10	COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Okay. Thank you.
11	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Additional
12	comments, questions? Please note that Commissioner
13	Taylor has stepped out of the hearing room.
14	At this point, we will take a vote. All
15	those in favor please say aye.
16	(Chorus of ayes.)
17	All in opposition?
18	(No response.)
19	Abstentions?
20	COMMISSIONER YAKI: Abstain.
21	COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Abstain.
22	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Vice Chair Thernstrom?
23	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, no. I'm
24	sorry. I was thinking about something. Aye.
25	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Two

1 abstentions.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Could we allow the vote to stay open until Commissioner Taylor --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Sure. Okay.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I'm sorry, I'm not thinking. I want to -- Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I'm distracted here. Which letter are we voting on now, the health care?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The DOJ letter.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: The DOJ, right.

Okay. I'm sorry. I'm doing two things at once here.

12 Yes, I'm voting aye, as I said.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Okay. A memo was sent to Commissioners on June 29, 2009, with various suggestions for a 2010 statutory report topic with followup -- with a followup e-mail July 2, 2009, with suggestions by Commissioners Thernstrom and Melendez.

At the June 12th meeting, we agreed that project proposals would be developed on the concept papers we favored. Some Commissioners have prepared project concepts. Others have submitted broad ideas. I will describe these project ideas briefly, and then ask that each of their sponsors describe them more fully.

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On July 30th, a project proposal was prepared by Vice Chair Thernstrom. It was sent to Commissioners in the meeting binders. The Staff Director circulated the proposal again by e-mail on August 3rd. The proposal would examine enforcement of Title VII, and police, fire, and municipal employment, in light of the Supreme Court's June 29, 2009 decision in the Ricci case.

Under this project, the Commission would analyze how enforcement actions in other cities differed from those that gave rise to the Ricci case. It would also consider how the EEOC's uniform guidelines on employee selection procedures are being interpreted regarding disparate impact with regard to employment tests.

Vice Chair Thernstrom, would you like to elaborate on your contact?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes. I think that's an absolutely -- it's a nice, succinct description, and I don't think we need to linger further on what I am proposing here.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Discussion?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Should we get everything on the table?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I think we should

get everything on the table --

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: -- Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: All right. Yesterday the Staff Director circulated a concept paper by Commissioner Heriot regarding Title IX enforcement that asked the Commission to investigate whether certain public and private moderately-selective co-ed liberate arts schools discriminate against women in their admissions policy, in order to ensure a balanced gender ratio, so as not to discourage women from attending.

As a part of this project, the Commission would investigate whether and to what extent, if any, Department of Education enforcement policies contribute to the problem.

Commissioner Heriot, would you care to elaborate?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No. Again, that is, you know, a useful summary. There is reason to believe that some universities -- the University of Richmond, in particular -- I have been told by many academics that this is quite common now in moderately-selective universities, to discriminate against women.

I should point out that for some of these

schools this is not a violation of Title IX, that the way the statute is set up public schools can't discriminate in admissions on the basis of sex. Graduate schools cannot -- public or private. Professional schools cannot -- public or private. But that private schools, undergraduate schools, legally can do this.

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But I think it is, nevertheless, something that --

PARTICIPANT: And continue to receive federal funds?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. Because, remember, there are schools that are all women or all men. And this also applies to co-ed schools apparently, based on what I am told.

But legal or not, it is certainly worth determining whether or not it is happening, and that would include whether it is happening in public schools, where it would be illegal. So I would propose that we look at a variety of schools, a private school, like the University of Richmond, a public school -- I was thinking of schools that were fairly close by, like George Mason, where it would definitely be illegal, a Catholic school or a sectarian school of some sort. I proposed Catholic

University because it is nearby. An HBCU -- I proposed Howard. You know, we could propose other schools. That is not crucial to the proposal, but to find out whether or not this is happening and report back.

My proposal would also involve having a briefing where we ask schools of that sort to tell us about their non-discriminatory methods for trying to attract more male students if they think that is important, but I think otherwise the proposal speaks for itself.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Chair, I note that Commissioner Taylor has reentered the room, and perhaps you would like to close off the vote on the DOJ letter.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: On the DOJ letter.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, I vote in

favor.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Please let the record reflect that we had two abstentions,

Commissioners Melendez and Yaki. The remaining

Commissioners voted in favor of the motion to send a followup letter to DOJ.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And pursuant to the

I think friendly amendment that was accepted, that that is open to correct typos or any other minor changes. If Commissioners would communicate those to me, I would work with the staff to get the letter out as soon as possible.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Point of information.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: It would be I think useful and courteous if, on the day that such letters were sent, that Commissioners Melendez and I receive copies of that letter on the day that it was sent. There seems to be a rather interesting time lag between the time letters are actually sent and the day that we actually receive it.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Which letter are we talking about?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: All letters.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: When you send the letters, when you distribute letters, do you send them to all Commissioners at the same time?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Yes. I know with respect to the last letter that went to the Department of Justice, I believe they might have gone

out late in the day and were distributed the next day, but there was no lag time beyond one day that I am aware of.

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COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, I think one day is -- I'm sorry, I think one day is a lifetime. If it goes out on Friday at 5:00, I want a copy Friday at 5:00. I don't want a copy of Friday -- on Tuesday or Monday at 9:00, whenever the next business day is. I think that's unacceptable. If it goes out, it goes out to everyone, including us, at the time that it goes to the agency.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We can endeavor to do that. I will try to make -- we will make sure --

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Why is it "endeavor"?

Why is it difficult? We are all members of the

Commission. We are entitled to documents that go out

bearing the Commission signature, Commission label.

So I do not understand why, on that particular letter,

it goes out one day and there is essentially a 12- to

14-hour cycle before it shows up in our in box. I

think it's inexcusable.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, to make sure I understand, you are saying that certain Commissioners -- it is sent to certain Commissioners --

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COMMISSIONER YAKI: I don't know if it is sent to certain Commissioners. I just think for all Commissioners -- first of all, you have all seen the letter. We don't see the -- Commissioner Melendez and I don't see the draft, so we don't know what is in that letter before. And you presumably have seen it and done final signoff on it. I am, quite frankly, less concerned about you than I am concerned about Commissioner Melendez and myself.

So when the letter goes out on -- at 4:00 in the afternoon, but we don't get it until the next day --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Sure, let's do it.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: -- I think that's

unacceptable.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So you just want him to hit the "Send" button and everyone gets it at the same time.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I agree.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, that's fine.

Or at least within an hour. You might be transmitting to members of Congress or the Attorney General, and some slight -- have to do it in some different way.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Normally, when we sent

out these letters, my assumption has been that when it comes out of the Staff Director's office that it goes to everyone at the same time. That was my assumption.

Apparently, that is not the case.

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And I agree with Commissioner Yaki that when it comes out of the Staff Director's office, hit the "Send" button, and each Commissioner should receive the document.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Where am I? On July 2, 2009, Commissioners received an e-mail from the Staff Director circulating a statutory report/recommendation by Commissioner Melendez. His project would focus on funding, staffing, and workload levels of federal agencies' civil rights enforcement in 2010 to assess the executive branch's institutional capacity and goals to address civil rights violations.

To the extent possible, staff analysis in the report would describe trends in civil rights enforcement, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the agencies based on their own goals.

The project would capture and analyze data on annual changes since the Commission's 2005 report on a similar subject, spanning both the Bush and Obama administrations. The statutory report would provide

useful data on agencies' changes in capacity and mission accomplishments over time.

2.

Commissioner Melendez, would you care to elaborate?

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Well, one of the reasons it would be relatively easy, because it is something we have done before and we actually could follow the 2005 I believe statutory report, I think I funded federal civil rights enforcement, the President's 2006 request.

So I am concerned about, you know, based on the timeframes that we do something that would be attainable. And I think that that is kind of our mandate also, to see how these federal agencies -- I know they evaluated HUD and the Justice Department as to how much money they were receiving, whether or not it was adequate in increases. And it kind of would give us a good idea of even what the current administration is doing as far as funding levels and seeing if these agencies are capable of doing what they are supposed to do.

So I just think that it would be a -- I think our staff would be able to pick up and use some of the data maybe that we have had before and be able to probably be successful in a timely manner to get

this done, as we are always behind. So I think it is a pretty good project, falls in line with what our mandates are as far as our relationship with the other federal agencies, and see if they are capable of doing what we think they ought to be doing.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. This past Wednesday Commissioners received an e-mail from Commissioner Gaziano regarding --I'm recommending that our investigation of the National Black -- National -- actually, the New National Black form the basis Panther Party case of the 2010 statutory report focusing on voter intimidation.

He sent a preliminary concept paper to Commissioners via e-mail yesterday evening, a copy of which you should have in front of you.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Sure, I'll make a few points. I think that there -- I will list a few reasons why I think that this could work as our -- designated as our statutory report, but at the same time I want to emphasize that because of the type of investigation we still could adopt another -- some of these other -- or at least one of these other ideas that wouldn't necessarily need to be our statutory report, and I actually would recommend that we do so.

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But with that said, the reasons why I think this would be a good statutory report is we just committed ourselves, in the letter that we approved, to a thorough and careful investigation of the New Black Panther Party decisionmaking. That investigation that we are already committed to could easily be adapted to satisfy our statutory report duty.

The Office of General Counsel hopefully shouldn't be distracted by too many other types of investigations, if they are -- if we are going to take the New Black Panther Party investigation seriously.

And I think, of course, as I said just a few minutes ago when we were debating the letter, I think voting rights studies and reports are a special responsibility.

And the kinds of responses we have gotten from DOJ thus far I think do have serious implications for how the Department of Justice would enforce voter intimidation statute in the future. So I think events outside the Commission commend this as our statutory report topic.

I think that, as I say in the pre-concept paper, that a concept paper should be prepared if Commissioners are interested in pursuing this. I have

laid out the kind of things that probably should be in the concept paper. I want to make one minor correction to what I sent you last night, so if you could -- we are not, you know, actually voting on this, so I don't think it matters.

2.

But in question 5, research question 5, it is with regard to each defendant in the New Black Panther Party litigation. Do the facts as established in (i) through (iii) in question 1 -- and this is the addition -- and the actions taken by DOJ constitute a continuance or departure from prior DOJ enforcement policy?

I think that question is an important one for us to answer, and, most importantly, the concluding question, what are the implications of DOJ's action with regard to the New Black Panther Party suit, with regard to encouraging or diminishing arguably intimidating conduct?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. That is the list. Commissioner Heriot?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm sorry. I'm assuming that you are opening it up for sort of general --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- discussion now?

Just generally on statutory report topics, I want to point out that we have a -- we call it a statutory report because our statute requires that we have at least one report on an enforcement matter per year. It doesn't require that it be our biggest report of the year. It doesn't require anything other than we have a report on an enforcement matter.

2.

And I would strongly urge the Commission to avoid our -- the paradigm we have been working from for the last couple of years, and that is having a big battleship report that we take all year long, and it is, you know, the largest and most significant thing that we produce that year. That is not required by the statute. What is required is that it have some bearing on enforcement.

And it seems to me that Todd's proposal has the virtue of being, you know, very strongly related to enforcement. It doesn't have to be a battleship report. It can be something that, you know, it may turn out to be guite small.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: If DOJ confesses error, we still have some things to investigate, but maybe we could get it done by January or February.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes, possibly.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We could have a

1 hearing.

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And otherwise we still could possibly get it out in April, if this is the topic we choose.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: There are -- we could in fact, at this -- you know, we are able to do this as a small project, do -- have the Office of Civil Rights Enforcement do the research, for example, on my sex discrimination proposal, not as a statutory report, but just as a project of OCRE, because I think that is something that falls directly into their jurisdiction.

It is the sort of thing that, you know, Dr. Lerner is very familiar with, and that might be a report that we don't call our statutory report. We might call it something else, but that could -- that research can be conducted.

And parallel to that, I also have another proposal that I think that would fit very well into what OCRE does, and that is a report on legacy preferences, how much weight is given to the fact that someone is the son or daughter of an alumnus or alumna in admissions.

Frequently, when I debate affirmative

action policies, those who favor race-based admissions argue that race-based admissions are necessary to counter legacy preferences. And I am against legacy preferences, the way I am against race-based admissions.

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I think it would be very useful for the Commission to find out and nail down with some certainty just how serious these legacy preferences are, so that people know.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Vice Chair Thernstrom, then Commissioner Yaki.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, two things.

One, the reason I got mine in very early is because I really believe Commissioners need time, and I thought we had a kind of general seven-day rule. But, you know, we did have a deadline I think.

I just think Commissioners need time to kind of contemplate this. I mean, I did not have the time, Commissioner Heriot, to read yours.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Mine is the same proposal I made last year.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Okay. But, in general, I do think these discussions are extremely difficult when the Commissioners have not had -- gotten the proposals in time to think about them

carefully. But I also have a question for the General Counsel -- resources, scheduling, when we need to get started. I mean, partly my reaction to these proposals depends upon the answers to those questions.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Those are legitimate criticisms, and today we are just going to have discussions. There is not going to be a vote today.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Okay. Okay, good.
COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Oh. We don't want

to --

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: No. I mean, I -COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I would just
slightly prefer, for example, if there would, you
know, be some -- if there is a majority to pursue the
New Black Panther Party, we have already begun that
investigation. We are already a little further.

But I would rather not -- I would be happier drafting up the detailed concept paper, helping staff with Commissioner input, do so, if that is where the majority of the Commissioners really want to go.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, due to the fact that some of this was recently distributed, I can tell you now I am -- I am in favor of the -- of your concept paper, but I think that we should have an

official vote on it at the next business meeting. We should continue our discussions, get a sense of where people are with the recommendations that have been placed on the table.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: The letter commits us to do something, but it doesn't require us to do it -- make this a statutory report.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That's correct.

That's correct. I just -- I --

2.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: And I'm thinking about it separately. The letter is done.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That's fine. Yes, I understand that. And I can live with not voting today. I just think that -- and I understand from some of the staff -- the staff would feel comfortable knowing, for example, if they are not going to accept my proposal, which we have already begun some of the investigation, then that might create concerns that we are further behind a schedule.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But given the letter, we have already committed to doing something, so I think that makes -- you know, that authorizes Commissioner Gaziano to prepare a more elaborate proposal.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, I don't -- I

can propose a more elaborate proposal. I just wonder, are other -- do other Commissioners -- there are advantages and disadvantages to waiting for a final vote. I do think there are some things we can flesh out a little bit more, but I think this is as much as we have had in some years before we have begun a statutory report.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, Vice Chair Thernstrom has expressed an interest in having information in terms of, well, logistics. So I think that before we vote at the next meeting we should be prepared to answer those types of questions with respect to each of the proposals that we will discuss today.

I think that we should, to the extent possible, discuss the recommendations that have been read into the record, see what the issues are that need to be addressed for the next meeting, and then at the next meeting we vote.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I am prepared to address any logistics questions on my proposal. I am certainly not familiar with the other proposals, but I have certainly given some thought in preparing the pre-concept paper to what I think would be the Vice Chair's questions. So I hope that -- if I don't

satisfy you and you want to move it to the next month, fine.

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VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I do think we need to hear from the staff rather than you on this.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: What question would you like to hear from the staff on?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I would prefer to go on to what the Chairman is suggesting, a general discussion here, and with the understanding we are going to vote not this meeting but the next meeting. I do think it is really important not to rush this kind of thing.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: If we are going to write a concept paper, we need to know what questions you think are left open.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I don't -- I need to know -- I mean, that's why I addressed it to the General Counsel. I need to know exactly -- I mean, we are way down in staff on this Commission. I need to know the relative ease with which these various topics can be addressed by the staff as a statutory report.

Now, one way of looking at it of course is how Commissioner Heriot just said. We don't need to make such a distinction between a statutory report and

a regular briefing report, but traditionally a statutory report.

2.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I wouldn't mind if the General Counsel answers this quick question, but it certainly seems to me from the Commissioners' standpoint that it would be a much heavier load on the General Counsel's office to conduct the investigation we are committed to conducting, and doing something else that would take the full attention of his office, or the near full attention of his office, than to just concentrate on the New Black Panther Party investigation.

So if that is your question -- and I am happy for the General Counsel to correct me or agree with that sentiment right here.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Is the General Counsel ready to entertain these questions? Or do you need more time?

MR. BLACKWOOD: I got the proposal this morning. I am really not in a position to say what would be required overall. I would point out to you all that the statutory reports are generally assigned or worked together -- the last couple of years has been a joint project between OGC and OCRE, and also takes into consideration existing briefing reports

that are scheduled, which we have none of right now.

So it is difficult for me, at this point in time, to say. That said, I read it this morning, could we do it? Sure we can do it, but it is in conjunction with other work.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. But to my specific question, is it easier for your office, do you think, resource-wise, to make the New Black Panther Party investigation that we are already doing, and we are already committed to, the statutory report than to do the investigation we are already committed to and to do a major statutory report of the type we have done in the past?

MR. BLACKWOOD: I am not going to walk through that door.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. It sounds like that we will have --

(Laughter.)

-- we will continue the discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, I am just going to say this, which is that when I missed the deadline I figured, okay, I had missed the deadline, and then these other things began trolling in at the last minute. I was originally going to be very supportive

of Commissioner Melendez's and still am, but I will now, given the fact that the door has been opened by late submission of papers, will be submitting a concept paper on what could be termed a battleship project, which I care deeply about, and that is the rise of racism on college campuses.

2.

So I am definitely not prepared to make a decision today. I will give it to people in more than adequate time before the next meeting, more than a day, certainly more than two weeks hopefully --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: -- for people to review.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Kirsanow.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I just have a question for Commissioner Gaziano with respect to his concept paper. I am wondering -- we have not, in my estimation, received an adequate response from DOJ related to our inquiries in the New Black Panther Party case. But we have just --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Do you want to pick up the mic? Are you picking that up? Oh, you've got -- I'm sorry, you've got two. You've got another one there. Okay.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: This one should be

1 working.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I didn't hear you, your booming voice. Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: But we have just approved another letter. And let's suppose that the response we receive from DOJ in fact is satisfactory. Do you think that somehow vitiates the purpose or the impact of your concept?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, I think not for two reasons. First of all, the letter, again, that we approved I think speaks to the need for us to make our own independent judgments. So nothing the Department could give us in the next response could satisfy our responsibility to then compare the prior cases that they may turn over to us. This is assuming they give an absolutely complete, you know, response to us in the next two weeks or something like that.

It does not -- given the position they have taken, I think the most significant contribution the Commission needs to make is our own finding of the facts, our own analysis of the law, and our own statement of how we think the DOJ's current policy implicates their enforcement, or will it lead to increased intimidation, and so on.

So even if they change their position on

this case -- by the way, I think there is plenty for us to investigate. Are you going to refile? If you admit error, are you going to refile against some of these defendants? Or if they give us all of the documents we want, I think there is still a lot for us to do. For example, I think we potentially should call the fact witnesses on -- at the poll on Election Day in Philadelphia.

2.

We should call perhaps the political appointees from DOJ who believe that the facts in the complaint justified suit, and give our recommendations to the Department and to Congress.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: So I guess the thrust of my question is two-fold. One is, could it in fact make the concept moot? But, secondarily, even if it does make it moot -- and I think you have maybe answered this -- does it still go to the manner in which DOJ pursued this particular case? And whether or not this is emblematic of how we should be proceeding on voter intimidation cases in the future.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Absolutely.

Regardless of what the Department's next response is,

I think there is plenty for us to investigate,

analyze, come to some factual conclusions on, come to

some legal recommendations on.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Commissioner Taylor, then Vice Chair Thernstrom.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I wanted to share my thoughts about this concept paper and to see if we could try to focus really on question 7. I don't know where that leads us, but I -- from my perspective, question 7 -- that is the implication of the policy or position taken by DOG -- DOJ, rather, is most important.

You know, at this point I am less concerned about making, you know, factual findings ourselves. I am more concerned with looking at their record, looking at the approach they took in this case, and then looking forward and discussing the implications on voting rights, both from a legal perspective and the practical implications of what is going to happen over the next few years in terms of the boots on the ground on voting day.

And, I mean, to me that is the most important part of this discussion. I mean, what -- and I think it is what is being -- it has gotten lost in the media, because they have been so focused on the New Black Panthers that they have sort of lost sight of the importance of the policy and the approach, and the argument it may or may not create in future cases

in terms of the precedent it sets.

2.

And so I think question 7 to me is the critical question for this body to consider, and it is the reason I think we need to get more information.

But we should be looking forward, in my view, rather than backwards.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Vice Chair Thernstrom, then Commissioner Heriot.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I just -- this is really a question and a recommendation I am hoping,
Mr. Chairman, you will agree with. The question -- we have had a seven-day rule with respect to briefing report topics, that they come in seven days ahead of the discussion at the meeting.

I don't think -- we would need to go back to the record here to check on this. I don't believe we had that same rule, although we should have honored it, has been stated explicitly with respect to statutory reports. But if not --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: If I could correct what our rules provide, because --

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- my able new

assistant looked up the rule.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The rule is -- that applies to the staff, the staff shall -- and I think applying it strictly to Commissioners would impede our work rather than -- that staff must make material available seven days before, if it is available. So it doesn't even apply to staff, and it is just part of -- it is just part of the AIs.

We have a practice amongst ourselves, which I think is a sound one, of trying to make material available to each other at least that amount of time, and it is a good one. But, for example, the New Black Panther Party matter was unfolding as we speak. But regardless of that, it is something that Commissioners can always take into account in urging other Commissioners to delay, as we have today, in urging Commissioners not to vote against a particular proposal.

If one of the Commissioners has not gotten something to you 33 days before, and you want it to be 33 days before, specifically at the last meeting I committed to trying to get something seven days before, but on the particular topic I abandoned the particular topic. So I don't think that there is — there is not a rule that applies to Commissioners that for something that is on the agenda, if we have a

motion that relates to something on the agenda, that we have to get it to fellow Commissioners seven days.

2.

I think that would be a bad -- that would be a bad practice.

Gaziano, would you agree, though, that it is a better practice that we provide adequate -- well, provide Commissioners with adequate time to digest the materials? And that probably a flexible approach would be -- would be a better rule in that if it is a complicated issue, if it involves a document consisting of hundreds of pages, then, yes, more --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: -- time is -- would be needed.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Of course.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. We have decided to put off the vote, so this is a moot issue.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, it is not a moot issue for the future. It really isn't.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: She is bringing up a

-- this is a conversation that is related but separate
from the issue that we dealt with already.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Right.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: But if we have a proposal on the agenda and someone proposes something,

if someone has got an amendment they want to send three days before, and someone wants to send another amendment a day before --

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Commissioner

Gaziano, I do think, really, I had understood -- which

is the reason I got my proposal in as early as I did

-- that other Commissioners needed time and that we

did have -- I believe we had a vote at one point on

the seven-day rule with respect to briefing reports,

but -- and that did not cover the statutory reports.

I feel very strongly we should not be in the position we are today of looking at the last minute.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Well, we are not.

We have another meeting we are going to vote on this.

So we are actually getting the extra benefit of having the opportunity to discuss it --

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I know. But it is often difficult for the staff when we postpone things. I am sure the staff would have preferred a statutory vote today. I am just saying as a general policy -- and I think the Chairman has just backed me up on this -- it is really preferable.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And you have made it more difficult for the staff.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Here is -- I think that we have to be flexible, we have to be reasonable, we have to be rational. If someone throws a document across the table that has 100 pages, and the expectation is that the vote -- that a vote will take place with little opportunity to review it, I think that that is a simple -- it is not a complex situation. I think the obvious --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Everybody agrees with you.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Right. So at the end of the day, it depends. It depends on what the issue is, it depends on what -- the complexity, it depends on whether the document is voluminous.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: And that is why the rule is written the way it is. The staff is supposed to get us stuff --

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: You know what? I often --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- a week ahead of time when it is available.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I often have not thought out the complexity of an issue, which could be just two pages. I can't think of --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That is an argument

for you to persuade fellow Commissioners, as they see fit, that they should vote against it or postpone it.

But we should not have inflexible rules.

2.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, I have a serious problem with this, because, as you know, Mr. Chair, I have very strong feelings about the fact that the Commission has been operating under a premise of decision by ambush with regard to the Democratic minority on this Commission.

The whole -- I would say that one of the hallmarks of government is transparency, is the ability for the public to understand what is going on, why it is going on, and how decisions were being made.

When material is submitted only to Commissioners, and, therefore, not available to anyone else to review, because the agenda packet is not out there, two, three days before, one day before, the morning before, we are not really advancing the cause of democracy.

It may be convenient for some. It may be for some in the way that they see -- they see things that it makes perfect sense from a logical or business kind of perspective, but it certainly doesn't advance principles of democracy and transparency in the way

that we conduct our business.

So, you know, I am with Commissioner

Thernstrom on this. I don't care if it is two pages.

I don't care if it is a hundred pages. I really do

believe that there is a -- there is a substantive

principle involved in being able to have information

out and available for digesting at -- for a reasonable

amount of time, and not just sort of whenever someone

decides, "Well, I am going to toss that topic, put in

this one. We've got a couple of days to do it, and

the staff can certainly figure out a way to make this

thing work." That is not how we should be doing our

business.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Where are we?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think what would
be helpful is for people to talk about which of these
proposals they think -- they think they could possibly
support, so that we have a sense --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We don't need to take a vote.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Right, what is likely to happen.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Where I stand right now, I am likely to vote for the concept paper submitted by Commissioner Gaziano. I like

Commissioner Heriot's topic also, and, if I understand you right, you suggested that if it is not selected as the statutory report it could be --

2.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It could be handled by OCRE anyway. You know, that would give -- you know, that is a topic that they could deal with, since I think Commissioner Gaziano's topic would not involve that much input from OCRE.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: And, Mr. Chairman,
I think that Title VII probably will not get support,
and I would -- I would hope that we might move it to a
meeting report or whatever, that we would --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think that's possible, yes.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes, that we would take it up, but not as a statutory -- but I just don't think there is going to be the support for it.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I would have to say that my objection to your proposal is I thought it was too complex.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It can be narrowed down in some way that would make a good briefing report I think.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I wanted to ask

Commissioner Yaki to expand on his thought. I wanted

to hear where it was coming from, what he is saying

out there, if we are going to discuss these proposals.

ago we spent a fair amount of time and money, which as of right now I still have no idea how much time and money was spent, on the issue of anti-semitism on campuses. And while that is important, and certainly a worthy pursuit of our Commission, you continue to read in the papers -- I continue to read in the papers about racial incidents on campuses north and south in this country, that the commentators have talked about the fact that there is a degree of racial animosity blossoming on our college campuses.

And it just -- you know, to go backwards at a time when we should be going forward on racial issues is, to me, quite disturbing. It is something that I had thought about for quite some time. I have talked about it I think at this Commission more than once. I talked about it I know with the chair and with certain other members of this body, but I am not going to say that because of that, therefore, we should be moving forward.

I will say that -- allow me the privilege

of putting together something more substantive. I will get it to you in -- as quickly as I can, and certainly with more than adequate time for you to review.

2.

Do I expect it to be adopted? Probably not. But it has been important enough for me that I at least wish to put it on the table for consideration by members of the Commission.

But thank you for the question, Commissioner Taylor.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Gaziano, Kirsanow.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: You can go first.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I just wanted to follow up, to ask Commissioner Yaki, because I am not familiar with burgeoning instances, but I am wondering, is this something that you have seen -- or this racism, is it something directed at specific races or ethnicities? Or is this something that is broad? How would you characterize it?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, I would say that I am always obscured by the fact that every Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday there seems to be some kind of activity, offensive activity taking place, on one college campus or another, or that I have read about, mocking the idea of what that holiday is about.

I do know that, from speaking with some professors who I have worked with in the UC system, they have talked about how animosity regarding Latino or Asian students has been pumped up a bit. I mean, it may -- like I said, let me take a crack at it. It may be that when I come to it, the conclusion, it may not rise to the level of a huge report, and I may decide not to.

But at least given the fact that other people submitted their stuff late, I at least wanted to have the opportunity to take a try at this. If it doesn't work, I will be the first one to admit that there isn't enough to sustain a full report, but perhaps there may be some locus of activity in certain areas of the country, certain systems, that we should be -- that we should take a look at.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Actually, I said you, then -- okay.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: First of all, I wanted to express my level of interest to some of the other topics. I still I think will advocate for my own to be the statutory report next month, but I certainly have an interest, a long-standing interest in the Title VII issue.

I tried to make a go of something similar

to Vice Chair Thernstrom's or -- so at the point in which it is narrowed for a potential briefing, I would probably be very interested in it if it is.

2.

I think that Commissioner Heriot's sex discrimination topic is already fairly narrow, and I would support, unless I am convinced by one of the others, that we can move forward with that one at the same time, if we choose the statutory report that I am proposing.

And I would be very interested in seeing

Commissioner Yaki's proposal, whether it is for a

statutory report or not. But I do appreciate

Commissioner Taylor's sort of confirmation that the

seventh question is the most important, and I hope you

see that that is reflected in the title of the

whole --

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Oh, yes.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- of the whole.

So I agree with you, and that kind of input is helpful to me if I am going to try to refine the idea. So I would appreciate hearing from anyone else who is interested in that topic on the record today or soon, very soon, hereafter, so that I can try to come up with a description that satisfies most people in the most ways.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Heriot.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I wanted to say that I hope Commissioner Yaki does write this proposal, and there is a good chance that I would be supporting it if he does. It is important that we remember that -- to emphasize there has to be an enforcement hook in all of these proposals, but I think it sounds like a good topic, and I might well support it.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Chairman Melendez.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: The only other one that, you know, I didn't submit, but it was floating around before, was the issue on -- it was kind of neutral. It was employment discrimination on the basis of age in economic crisis. Older Americans, as you know, with the loss of pensions and few jobs available, make age discrimination more likely today.

And it is just something -- as we had talked about some of the components that we thought, even in our conference that we were looking at, we thought to broaden out more from just race, that, you know, one of those was age discrimination.

And so I have always felt we kind of needed to kind of broaden out and kind of look at some of those issues, because I think discrimination against age with people trying to stay in the

workforce because of the economic downturn is going to be a real issue that is going to come up.

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So I just wanted to just -- I think that is a real neutral topic, that if we could support something like that I think -- you know, I just want to see a little more unity, that we all come in to supporting whatever topic is there rather than having a five -- you know, kind of like a split vote on this whole issue.

So I just wanted to throw it out there as something that is kind of neutral and of interest to maybe all of us.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Kirsanow.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I appreciate what Commissioner Melendez said. I do think that is an important topic, and if it is not a statutory report, and if we look at it in some other context. I know in my own practice we are seeing more and more age discrimination cases. And with the advent of the babyboomer generation getting up there, I think we are going to see more and more of those kinds of cases.

But I also want to make just an observation with respect to Commissioner Melendez's proposal. It dovetails, frankly, very nicely into one of the things we are going to be talking about a

little bit later, and that is our document requests to the various agencies as to civil rights enforcement activities.

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In the past -- and Commissioner Melendez is correct -- the Commission has regularly, if not every year, sought to assess the civil rights enforcement activities of the various agencies. And we have -- in 2005 we did one -- Commissioner Thernstrom may remember -- I think we did something similar in 2003, maybe 2004.

But we did it without any kind of -- it was done in a vacuum. We just looked at funding, and then made an assessment without looking at what the activity really was. And here we would have at least some marginal empirical data by which we could compare funding versus how much activity is going on, and maybe come to an assessment as to whether, first of all, funding is necessarily the sine qua non for effective enforcement, or whether we need more funding or whether the funding is being used in an efficient manner. Just an observation.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I am all in favor of anything having to do with age discrimination.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Questions?

2 Other comments?

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(No response.)

All right. Let's chew on this discussion, and arrive at the next meeting ready to cast our votes.

Next up is the approval of the 2009 statutory report entitled "An Examination of Civil Rights Issues with Respect to the Mortgage Crisis." I move that the Commission approve Part A of the report for publication, which was produced by staff, reflecting Commissioner and panelist input, and then distribute it on August 23, 2009.

Under this motion, any concurring and dissenting statements submitted by any Commissioner August 23rd. Rebuttals to would be due by concurrences and dissents would be due by September 7th. Under this motion, if a majority of votes -- if the majority of the Commission votes to adopt Part A of the statutory report, the Commission would then open the discussion on Part B. If Part A fails to obtain a majority of votes, then Part B becomes moot.

Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion?

particular --

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Yes, I have a question. Have we -- basically following the AI 1-6 -- adequately inquired from the SACs as far as their input into this? That would be a question for the Staff Director.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: I'm sorry.

I was --

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I asked based on following A1 -- Administrative Instruction 1-6, have we adequately inquired and gained input from the SACs?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: On this

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: On this report, the statutory 2009.

on the -- we did inquire of the SACs on the original topic that was planned for the statutory report. When the topic was changed, there was not as much opportunity for the SACs to do hearings and the like on that. There were some hearings that were done at the state level through the SACs when they thought that it was going to be the fair housing topic that was earlier contemplated.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Okay.

1 | COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Could I --

2 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. Commissioner

3 Gaziano.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- ask -- I didn't write down the time for comments, and I am -- I would like to inquire whether there is any room in our schedule for slightly longer comment and reply periods, whether it is possible that we could send -- I know there is some extra time needed to get it in the -- get it all, but perhaps if the comment periods were a little bit later, we could send a, you know, Word version on September -- at the end of September, and then the prettied-up copy later. I just wondered if there is any flexibility, then, for a slightly longer comment and reply period.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I guess before I respond, do you foresee a need for additional time? I mean, do you have something specific in mind today?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I began some drafting of comments. I just think this is a huge topic, and particularly the reply time is what I would like. So would you repeat -- would you mind repeating the --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Not at all.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- comment periods?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Bear with me.

Concurring and dissenting statements would -- should

be submitted by August 23rd. Rebuttals to

concurrences and dissents should be submitted by

September 7th.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Is that regardless of whether we adopt findings and recommendations now or later?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I would think that only works if we decide, you know, today or decide not to have.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, let me rephrase that. I assume that we are going to have an up and down vote on Part A and Part B today.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Assuming that, that is your time. Okay. Because we can -- if those fail, then we have to adjust the other times. Even assuming that the Staff Director -- and I hope he certainly is able on the day that they are received to send us the other comments -- that is, you know, roughly a two-week period for replies. I would like a little longer if that is possible.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. How do you

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I generally like our 30-30 normal rule. That doesn't quite fit.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: That is if we don't -- if we don't adopt findings and recommendations today, they are due in the future, is that what you are saying?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, no, no. I'm saying even if we adopt Part A and Part B today, I would like as much time as possible for comments and replies. And so what I'm wondering is, if we could have the last replies closer to the end of September, and then we would transmit the -- everything else would be scrubbed at that point.

The staff could send on September -- is September a month with 30 or 31 days?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Thirty.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Thirty. On

September 10, the Word version --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Of everything?

21 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- of everything.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Including the replies.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. With gussied-

up copy to follow. So we have met our September --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I understand what you

	Page 99
1	want. Comments? Ashley?
2	COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I think that's fine.
3	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Arlan?
4	COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think that's good.
5	That's fine.
6	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Any concerns from
7	MR. BLACKWOOD: Yes. The deadline that
8	moving that people are talking about don't fly, or
9	it's a tradeoff, because if we are to print and have
10	it distributed on September 30th
11	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, no, that's not
12	that's not what he is proposing.
13	MR. BLACKWOOD: Okay.
14	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: He is proposing that
15	the finished product be delivered in the next fiscal
16	year. That what goes out in I believe Word format
17	COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Send it
18	electronically.
19	COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Whatever electronic
20	transmission, we send the electronic version on the
21	30th with a very nice cover letter.
22	MR. BLACKWOOD: Even the electronic
23	version has to be subjected through the editing
24	process of the editor that we are going to hire to

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Everything would be

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edited according to your previous schedule, except

Commissioner replies, which should not be edited

anyway.

MR. BLACKWOOD: Edited, no. But it has to be put in the format. The copy editors that we have hired --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Could you have -- could you do that in three days?

MR. BLACKWOOD: I can't commit to that.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Well, I think we

should. I think we should commit to --

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STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We can't even commit to 10 days.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, I think we should commit to making them do it in three days. I think we should commit to them doing it in -- he can't say one way or the other that this is --

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We can't send a bifurcated report to Congress.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, you don't need to. You don't need to ask for -- I'm saying send them -- send them -- attach the electrons that include the Commissioner statements.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Hold on. Do we have

1 -- do you have additional --

MR. BLACKWOOD: Number one, Ms. Jweied just pointed out to me, we don't send it electronically to Congress. It would crash. All right?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No. We can figure that out. Send it to them on a disk.

8 MR. BLACKWOOD: Well, you say that, but 9 that's --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Send it to them on a disk. I don't care.

MR. BLACKWOOD: We will not have it in the form of a disk by the end of the fiscal year.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We can if we get you our comments three days before the end of the fiscal year.

MR. BLACKWOOD: That's not accurate.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I think the staff should be made to do that. I think it is unreasonable --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, hold on, hold on. Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Now, the balancing act here is, I mean, I understand the need for more time. However, we have a procedure in place.

I don't have a problem implementing the rules in a

flexible manner. But it shouldn't be arbitrary, and we should take into account --

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. September 7 is arbitrary and unreasonable.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: But this is the scheme we adopted. If staff has legitimate concerns in terms of the logistics, we need to pay attention.

MR. BLACKWOOD: What I am saying is -CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Legitimate concerns as
opposed to a reflexive no.

MR. BLACKWOOD: It is not a reflexive no. We have looked at the issues, I mean, as far as the deadlines. The tradeoff is, if we further delay, we will not hit this fiscal year. Now, we did that last year, but it is a tradeoff.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No. You are not addressing the precise issue. The precise issue is, how long does it take to add electrons to an electron --

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We can't submit the report electronically.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That is false. I have submitted huge copies to Congress all the time. That is false. And there is no reason why you can't deliver a disk.

Since there 1 MR. BLACKWOOD: is no 2 argument, all I can say is that we will do our best. But I do not believe we will hit this fiscal year. 3 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: What did we do last 4 5 Last year, did we send the document in 6 electronic form to GPO? 7 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Last year, 8 we sent it on a compact disc, and then we made printed 9 copies available later on. But we did not -- we were 10 not able to distribute it by sending an e-mail to 11 Congress with an attachment, if that's what is --12 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Let's send the 13 compact disc via messenger. 14 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, you 15 have to get everything formatted, and then you have to 16 get the compact disc --17 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Everything else 18 will be formatted but Commissioner replies. 19 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The work we are 20 talking about --21 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, then, 22 it's not a complete report, if it doesn't have 23 Commissioner replies. 2.4 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Well, everything

will be formatted before the Commissioner replies.

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Then, you tack them on.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Hold on. Todd, hold on. Here is my concern. Right now, the Staff Director and the General Counsel have on several occasions misstated what Todd has proposed. Todd is not suggesting that we send the document in piecemeal fashion. What we are talking about, the work we are talking about is the reply.

The assumption is that everything else will be done, will be complete, and will be formatted, and that the only piece of work that is hanging out there left to be done is the reply. And my question is -- and since it is unlikely that these replies will be edited, the reformatting process, how long would it take? And would we be able to deliver this via e-mail or compact disc or by mule, would we be able to get it there by the 30th?

MR. BLACKWOOD: I cannot guarantee it.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. What are the challenges?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: It was contemplated that it would take a day or two to format the replies, that everything else would be formatted. But then, once it is all formatted, then it has to go to the printer, and then you have --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We are not asking for it to be printed.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I am proposing that we submit the printed version after.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Could we put it on a disk and hand-deliver the disk to GPO like we did last year?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: But the GPO is not Congress. GPO is GPO.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And can we give another copy of that same disk to the members of Congress that we normally distribute this to?

MR. BLACKWOOD: All I can say, since other people also have their own sources of knowledge, is that we work backward with GPO about what is -- here is our deadline. How fast can you do this?

The short of it is we were told September 9th.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: That is for printing, right?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That is for printed copy.

MR. BLACKWOOD: All I can is that is inaccurate. It is not what -- you may be accurate about they could do a better job, but that is not what

1 they told us.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, no. Well, I'm

not asking --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: We have a problem here. We need to check our tone.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Let me communicate:

I am not asking for GPO to deliver this. Maybe that
is the disconnect. I am asking, whatever we deliver
to GPO, we deliver simultaneously to the members of
Congress with a pretty transmittal letter.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Is this necessary to hash out right now? Can we just take this offline and move on?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No.

commissioner statements or replies as somehow, you know, the caboose here. I think these are very important, and we need to give Commissioners the usual amount of time to do this, in terms of --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, Todd is asking for more than the usual amount of time.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. The usual is 30 and 30.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes, he is asking

1 for less I think.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. I would say
Commissioners' statements are due August 30th, and
Commissioner replies are due September -- wait, let me
look at the days of the week. September 25.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Todd, that is too much. I mean --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: September 24?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I mean, we have a

10 schedule here, and it is not --

11 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Our usual is 30 and 12 30, is it not?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Question:

14 Marty, this particular --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I assumed comments were going to go beyond the schedule when we adopted the schedule.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: -- this particular schedule, how -- is this in conformance with what we usually do?

MR. BLACKWOOD: No.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: No.

MR. BLACKWOOD: No, if I may walk you through it. The 30 and 30 rule -- well, number one, it was never adopted in -- for this report. The 30

and 30 rule for briefing reports was adopted after the timeline was accepted and adopted by the Commission. So this is a change.

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STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We did say at the time when there was discussion about adding the additional rebuttal -- 30-day rebuttal period that that was not in the timeline that was approved by Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I assumed they were going to extend it.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: They would have to be shortened in order to meet the deadline.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So, Todd, it is your position that you will need this amount of time, or is this -- would this be a theoretical --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, I tend to need more than this amount of time. I think we all should have this amount of time to review each other.

I agree with Commissioner Heriot that our comments are perhaps the most important part of this report and should not be sloughed off because we can't deliver disks simultaneously to two different government offices.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: The idea that what we submit to a printer is in a form to

submit to Congress is a questionable concept. The reason you submit it to the printer is that you want to get it into a form that is presentable to Congress, not that it is in a lesser form.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And our pretty transmittal letter will tell them that the pretty copy will come in due time.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Folks, let's hear from other folks. We know Todd and Gail's position, and the position of staff. Pete?

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I have an informational vacuum. I'm not sure how I reconcile the two positions.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Any other comments? Okay. Vice Chair Thernstrom?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Somehow the response to the General Counsel saying, "Look, this is not possible for us to do the response," "Do it anyway," is to me -- it doesn't sit well with me. I mean, this -- we do have a professional staff here. They are trying to tell us what is possible.

I don't know. I am bothered by this discussion.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Do you have any opinions or comments on the substance of the dispute?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I don't. I have got -- I'm in the same position as Commissioner Kirsanow.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I think we have clarified maybe where the disconnect was. It was that staff prefers not to deliver an unformatted electronic version, and I think that can be a policy decision that we Commissioners make to accommodate our -- I now understand their position. I just think that there are greater disadvantages in jamming us on what we actually put in the report.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So on day 30, if I were to walk a CD over with a complete document, with a nice little cover letter explaining that the prettied-up version would follow --

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: You wouldn't get through the security at the House of Representatives or the White House to deliver it.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: You can't take CDs in there?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: You can't walk in with documents and just walk into somebody's office and start handing them out.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: If I made an appointment, would I be --

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, you would have to make 535 appointments for that day to deliver it to everybody.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We are not required to deliver it to everybody.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Who delivers the mail in the House and in the Senate? GPO.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, GPO sends -- GPO has got a higher level security clearance than the average person who walks in off the street.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: The idea I think would be to deliver it to congressional leadership.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: We've got information coming.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I deliver materials to congressional offices, particularly leadership offices, just about every week. I walk in those buildings. I go through the metal detectors. I hand them off. I don't understand why that can't be done.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. How about this

-- why don't we -- Todd, how do you feel about this?

Let's leave the schedule as is. Let's continue a

discussion about the mechanics of how we can get this

done, what constitutes delivery of a statutory report

to Congress.

It is not clear to me that going through the conventional process using GPO is the only way to satisfy that requirement. I could be wrong. What do you think?

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm sorry. You want to keep -- did you want to keep the comment periods the same?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Keep the comment periods the same while we have further discussions on what constitutes delivery to Congress. If their argument is that the only -- that the only way to satisfy our obligation under the statute is to use the conventional approach where we would submit a formatted document to GPO by a certain length of time, if they can convince me of that, then I would back staff's position.

MR. BLACKWOOD: I can answer your question right now. That is not the only way. All right? It is the way that we have reviewed, that the agency has followed in the past. What I am saying is that I cannot guarantee, in whatever way that the Commission ends up adopting to deliver to Congress, that we are going to do it by the end of the fiscal year if we change what we have already researched in length, what we have planned to do.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So there are alternatives.

MR. BLACKWOOD: Not that we are aware of.

Only what I have heard today.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So you're saying, then, that the --

MR. BLACKWOOD: The alternatives that we looked through where going through GPO. We also looked last year, for example, about running our own disk, going down to Kinko's and doing it. The better way, the way that was consistent, was to go to GPO, have them deliver it to Congress and the White House.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: What I'm trying to get at --

MR. BLACKWOOD: Is that saying that is the only way? No.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. I'm trying to get at the other options. They may not be optimal, but I want to know what the other options are.

MR. BLACKWOOD: I can't tell you. We would have to, as a result of this meeting, look at every single possible option, what we were told --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: No, we don't. We don't have to look at every single option.

MR. BLACKWOOD: Jerry, all I can tell you

is I can't guarantee it is going to get there by fiscal year --

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I'm not asking -
MR. BLACKWOOD: -- the end of the fiscal

year, especially when something doesn't come until the

25th.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I am not asking you that question. I am asking you what the alternatives are. I am not asking for you to examine every possibility under the sun. I mean, is there something that is different from what we have done in the past, but will still accomplish what we are trying to do? I am looking for some flexibility. I am looking for some creativity. That is what I am looking for.

MR. BLACKWOOD: I hear you. I can just tell you, we looked at that at length last year because of the -- going over the deadlines. This is as truncated a process as we have gotten it to. The whole idea -- and we spent a lot of time last year with shrinking it. This is much later than we have done it in the past.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I thought we set a precedent last year we didn't have to get it in.

MR. BLACKWOOD: That was not a great precedent. That was doing the best we could.

don't -- you know, that is all beside the point. The question is whether or not we can make it by the deadline that we would like to make, and that is the end of the month. And, you know, is three days enough to get that into a disk and deliver it to congressional leadership? And I strongly suspect it is enough time. And I am very much against what I perceive to be a tendency of the staff to believe that Commissioner statements and concurrences are somehow not very important.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, no, I don't think anyone said that.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Well, I think it is treated that way. We have had a very long discussion on this, and it seems to me something that we shouldn't have had to have a long discussion on -- the notion that somehow Commissioners can be expected to turn their stuff out like that, where things don't exactly get turned out quickly by the staff.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: We are talking about trying to meet our statutory deadline. I don't think that there have been any comments regarding the importance of Commissioner contribution, at least not during this conversation.

In any event, I suggest that we have some additional conversation --

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And that will affect how I vote on Part A and Part B, unless we have — the timing is different, unless we agree as a Commission to expand the times. I don't want to start the clock on what may be a very short comment period.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Folks, interesting. Okay. If that is the case, then the suggestion that I made is that we essentially stick with the dates, have some more conversation with staff as to alternatives, with the hope of providing Commissioners additional time for --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: When we are going to be able to vote on this extended time? Someone may object to longer times. If we don't decide that at this meeting --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- Mr. Chairman, I am worried how we can do --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So you want to have a vote, an up or down vote, on the dates.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Well, I am just talking about the alternative is I don't think we can ever get to my dates. We can never do that if we

don't do it today. It is a decision not to do it.

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Why don't we just set the dates later.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Some of us are not prepared to vote on that.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. Why don't we set the dates for later, subject to further input from the staff.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes. We really need further input from the staff. I cannot -
COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I know. But why

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: What would be the later dates?

don't we vote the dates later, and then say --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- say that we can vote to make them shorter or something?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No. I --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Or vote to --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Just make the default rule that Todd states. And if the staff can show us that this is impossible, then we can reset it at the telephone conference.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I would prefer the default date be exactly as the Chairman just said, let us go with what has --

1 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Folks, let's --2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Well, then you are 3 going to get a negative vote from Todd, and that may 4 make --5 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, you know --6 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Let's just vote on it. 7 Todd, would you like to make a motion? 8 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I move that the 9 Commissioner initial comments, concurrences, dissents, 10 be August -- due August 30, and distributed to all 11 Commissioners on the day they are received by the 12 Staff Director, and that any replies to Commissioner 13 statements be due on September 24th, Pacific Time, 14 midnight. 15 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. COMMISSIONER YAKI: What about the west 16 17 coast? 18 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Midnight. 19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Pacific Time the 20 east coast and west coast or --21 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. I second. We 22 have had discussion. Unless --23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Hold up. So I 24 understand, the result of this new timeframe would be 25 -- the result of this new timeframe would be, as I

understand it, we would be submitting an unformatted rough draft to Congress that would be supplemented at some later date by a submission that has been properly formatted. Is that -- that's the net effect --

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: That is the risk.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Right.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, actually, that would be the goal.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Right. That's -- so we would, from our perspective, what we are voting on is whether as a Commission we want our public face and interaction with Congress to be framed that way for our reports or not. Or do we want to go through the more traditional agency process of GPO? I mean, that is the real question, isn't it? What phase do we -- COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: My second-best alternative is that we don't deliver anything until some time in October.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: We just miss our deadline?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: You stated that was a -- your second best?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes. My third is the timeframe that was --

COMMISSIONER TAYLORE: I mean, let me tell

you, my preference is -- my preference would not be to adopt an approach that -- I want to choose my words carefully here -- that gives the appearance that our Commission is not run in an orderly, normal fashion, as other agencies. I mean, I wouldn't want to adopt --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Just clearing my throat.

(Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I wouldn't want to adopt a standing policy which gives, you know, someone that wrong impression.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: A misleading impression.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: That's right. I mean, I thought -- that is my concern.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And of the three, would you feel more comfortable with delivering a polished report that actually includes thoughtful Commissioner statements in October?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: That would be my preference. But, frankly, this isn't a surprise for any of us in terms of the timing. And I am -- I think we have done a great job, certainly since I have been on the Commission I think, of demonstrating that we

can run an organization, an agency, in an orderly manner. I think we have done a pretty good job of that, frankly, of improving our operations.

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And I would hate to put a policy in place which, again, could be misperceived by some as -- as being less than orderly and thought through. And that is my concern, because that is the message I fear some could get.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I agree that we have gone a long way to improving our procedures. But to me one of the most important things that has been improved is that we have been -- tried to be fair and allow Commissioners the requisite amount of time to do a good job in statements, and not run over the rights of individual Commissioners in doing that. And I would hate to see us regress on that.

and so we have a tension between that goal, to allow as much time as possible, and our goal to present Congress and the public with an impression of our agency as one that is efficient and run in an orderly manner. And, I mean, that is where we are. We've got to make a choice. That is how I see this vote shaping up.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Actually, I don't

1 think we are going to end up with a choice in the

2 sense that, you know, we can -- we can reamend this

3 later if it turns out that it is really, really,

4 really impossible to turn this around in three days.

5 But law firms do it all the time.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: This is not -- this is not Weil Gotshal.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm sorry?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Weil Gotshal. This is not a law firm, and that standard --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: So, fortunately, we only have to do this once a year.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. In any event -COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think we can do
it.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: In any event, Todd, would you have too much heartburn if we vote -- if the vote -- if the motion on the table is that we vote to confirm the original dates?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: And then, if that goes down, let us move to your motion.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I just -- you know, I am not sure I understand. I just -- if -- and I think Commissioners have heard that if that passes, that may affect how I vote on Part A and Part B. But

I don't know that I understand that there is much difference in the order.

But, again, there is this third option, and I -- if I could hear from other Commissioners, maybe none has a majority. It sounded like I heard Commissioner Taylor say that he might prefer to go into October.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Did you say that?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: As opposed to -
(Laughter.)

-- as opposed to another option. As I said, that is my second best. I am there.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: We could take these one at a time. If it goes down --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, folks, I have this -- just curious. Commissioner Yaki has his hand raised.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I just want to second the chair's motion and call the question.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All right.

21 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: What is the motion

22 on the table?

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Yours was the motion on the table. Let's just vote.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, it's the

1 chair's motion.

2 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The chair's motion.

3 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Oh.

4 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Your motion to vote on the schedule as it is.

6 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Fine, fine.
7 You didn't have a problem with that. All in favor

8 please say aye.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Wait. What --

10 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: It is a motion to

vote on the schedule that was distributed.

12 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The ones that --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: And that differs

14 from Todd's suggestion only --

15 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes.

16 | COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- in the reply or

17 on --

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And by the way, the

19 schedule, as distributed, I don't think it was

20 distributed. I heard it orally. It was never

21 distributed.

22 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I have not seen it.

23 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And that is part of

24 my problem. I assume --

25 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: You want seven days'

1 notice.

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2 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: What? No, not

3 seven. Not seven.

4 (Laughter.)

I assumed all along, before I heard the words out of your mouth --

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: This was e-mailed to all of us.

9 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: With Commissioner 10 comments?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, this schedule
was e-mailed to all of us.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: It was distributed via e-mail.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. Maybe I missed it, but I thought -- I never thought the schedule that I saw -- maybe I didn't open the e-mail -- included that. So I stand corrected if that was the case.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I've still got the question. Is your -- your first date is the same as Todd's, or it's different?

24 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, no, it's -- he
25 wants to say August 23 and September 7th.

1 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Right.

2 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Which I objected

3 to.

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4 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Right. So let's just

5 | -- let's vote.

6 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Commissioner Yaki

has called the question. Right. And that's all we

8 are voting on, just the schedule.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: That's it.

10 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: The schedule.

11 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: All in favor please

12 say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

14 Objections?

15 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No.

16 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No.

17 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Commissioner

18 Taylor?

19 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I voted. Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Commissioner

21 Kirsanow?

22 | COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I voted aye.

23 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All right. We

24 have two votes against. The remaining Commissioners

25 voted in favor. The motion passes.

Page 127 Now, let's discuss the --1 2. COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Part A. 3 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Don't we want to 4 have a backup? We haven't established that Todd's 5 schedule is not possible. We have only established 6 that it can't --7 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: We have just taken 8 a vote. Let us move on. 9 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Can I ask a -- you 10 know, again, my concern is in the face we present to Congress. I would like the staff to tell us --11 12 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: To look at alternatives to see if --13 14 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. Look at 15 alternatives. 16 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: -- we can get some additional time for Commissioner comments. 17 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And if there is some 18 19 precedent that other agencies use. I mean, I just --I would like to know that. It could be an outlier. 20 21 Flexibility, CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: 22 creativity. 23 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes. I would like

hope

that

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO:

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to know that.

Commissioners never adopt a statutory report schedule again that doesn't allow 30 minutes for comments and 30 minutes --

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Thirty minutes?
(Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- 30 days for comments, 30 days for replies. It was never my understanding when we adopted the schedule last time that that would -- once we amended our general rule, that that wouldn't be applied.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. We should have raised this, highlighted this. That schedule was distributed. Maybe we should have --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No. The schedule we adopted didn't have a reply period. The e-mail -- I don't know when the e-mail was sent out.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: There were some e-mails out about a month ago where there was -- there was considerable dialogue about these dates, and they were adjusted then -- yesterday what was sent out was just repeating what was sent out earlier, only taking it from the dates of assuming today that the report is passed, what are the dates going forward.

But there was a larger schedule that was distributed earlier, and this whole idea of the

response -- the Commissioners' comments and responses was discussed, and there were e-mails back and forth about that, and then it was amended and resent out to Commissioners with those dates.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Let's never do it again.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All right. Let us discuss Part A. Very good.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Yes, I have a question, just briefly. It has to do with the statistics. On page 192, when I looked through this, it had the credit scores for different races, and it had American Indians/Alaska Natives at the highest credit score, so I had -- when I saw that I thought, well, you know, it may have to do with the sample size that they took in relation.

So I just am asking that we put a footnote in that section that basically says that due to the small sample size and method of determining ethnicity from Social Security records, the fed study statistics for Native Americans should be viewed with caution, because I think it really -- I don't think that's the truth that I know of as far as Native Americans having the highest credit score. I just don't see that as an accurate statistic.

1 MR. BLACKWOOD: This is David Blackwood.

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I agree that would be an accurate statement. I think we put a footnote in a different part about the American Indian, just because -- because of the small sample size some of the figures are skewed.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Okay.

MR. BLACKWOOD: But we can certainly put the type of footnote you just mentioned.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Yes, that's all I ask.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: And do we know if -- I mean, there is a difference in -- I suspect that you would have a difference in outcome if you looked at Indians who reside on a reservation, on the reservation versus Indians who do not.

MR. BLACKWOOD: Commissioner Melendez's special assistant brought some of these matters to our attention, and we worked up a footnote that I believe is somewhere else in the report.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

MR. BLACKWOOD: That points out about the sample size and why some of the figures might be different. But we can certainly repeat that information, as you said.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Great. All in

1 favor please say aye.

2.

(Chorus of ayes.)

3 | COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm sorry. What

4 are we -- the final vote, on the whole Part A?

5 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Part A.

6 | COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We are not going to

7 have any other --

8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Wait. We didn't

9 have any more --

10 | COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: -- discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- more comments or

12 questions?

13 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, I think a few

of us have a few more --

15 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Comments on Part A?

16 | COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I have no comments

on Part A in particular. My comment is simply that I

18 am going to be abstaining on this report. I am

19 disappointed in it, but I did not have the time to do

20 the work that I thought would be necessary to work

21 this in. We have only been given 600 hours to work

22 per year, and I did not think this would be the best

use of my time. So I am going to abstain from this

24 vote.

25 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Todd, how do

1 you vote?

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abstain. Although I do appreciate staff's final efforts to include some of the -- of my comments, I did have concerns as to -- that it should have been narrowed, but my -- my real concern right now is that I don't think the timing is adequate for Commissioner comments. So I don't think we should go forward with Part A.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I call the question.

12 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, we voted.

13 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, did

14 you get everybody else voting?

15 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Did we vote on

16 | Part A?

17 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Oh, you

18 haven't voted.

19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We haven't voted.

20 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: We have not voted

21 on Part A.

22 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Okay.

23 | VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: And I am calling

24 the question.

25 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. The question

Page 133 has been called. All in favor please say aye. 1 2. (Chorus of ayes.) Abstentions? 3 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Heriot. Melendez. 4 5 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And Yaki? 6 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: He is not here. 7 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Well, you want to 8 hold the vote open for him, I would think. I assume 9 he wants to vote on this. 10 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. 11 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, we can add his vote when he comes back. 12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. 13 14 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. I'm not sure I 15 like this as a precedent. 16 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: When the person has 17 just walked out for a second, that doesn't affect --CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. But sometimes it 18 19 will in Jerry's interest to make use of the fact that 20 21 (Laughter.) 22 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, you're the 23 chair. You get to decide what to do. 2.4 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Anyway, I am just

thinking out loud. Okay. We will hold it open until

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1 | Commissioner Yaki -- until he returns. Okay.

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VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: That is a very good point. People can strategically walk out of the room, and we cannot keep holding votes open when --

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Let me say, that may happen in other agencies, but that would never happen here.

(Laughter.)

I want the record to reflect that.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I want the record to reflect that people are laughing.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. We are on to Part B. I am going to read the -- start reading the findings. I move that the Commission approve the following finding -- finding number 1, the effort to increase home ownership generally, and minority ownership -- home ownership in particular has been bipartisan in nature. Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Second.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm sorry. That was

the first finding?

24 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I have a substitute

motion. I was not real pleased with the findings and recommendations here. I have some findings and recommendations that I might be willing to put forth on this. But in general, I think that this -- we would be better off just not having findings and recommendations on this report.

So I move that we not have findings and recommendations at all.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. I second it. Discussion?

(No response.)

I'm sure that this is an opportunity for Commissioner Yaki to express a certain displeasure.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No, he's not here.

Let's not invite displeasure.

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VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: He is not here.

We need to move on. It is almost noon.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We can let him vote on it when he comes back, assuming that he just went to the men's room.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All right. All in favor please say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Any objections?

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Abstain. One.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. We have one abstention from Commissioner Melendez. Commissioner Yaki did not participate in the vote. The remaining Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

Okay. All right. Next up --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Can we go back to the health care letter now?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Why don't we go back to the health care letter.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: It would be nice to wait for Yaki, since he is the one who requested the statute.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Alec, would you mind telling us where Mr. -- Commissioner Yaki is? Is he coming back shortly? That is the only question we need.

MR. DEULL: I think so.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. This is what I will do. I will start -- I will just provide an update on the conference.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Aren't we doing the health care letter now?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: We are trying to wait for Yaki. He is the one who requested the additional information that we now have in front of us. He is

wandering the hallways of the Commission.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Just give an update on the conference. Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. I will just give an update on the conference.

Okay. On July 10, 2009, at the -- I'm sorry. At the July 10, 2009, meeting, we discussed a proposal for the national civil rights conference titled "A New Era: Defining Civil Rights in the 21st Century," which had been circulated to Commissioners a week and a half before the business meeting.

The concept paper consisted of an overview of the conference, its relationship to the Commission's statutory mission and strategic plan, proposed subject matter of the panels, recommended panelists and moderators, a discussion of two leading venues for the conference, discussion of budget options, a proposed conference schedule and suggested conference attendees or invitees. It was designed to be a jumping-off point for our discussions, and not the end of the matter.

At that meeting, I told everyone that everything was subject to revision. In any event, I was authorized at that meeting to proceed under the plan as modified by our conversations that day, and I

was also authorized to speak out -- authorized to reach out to speakers to assess their availability for the event for the recommended dates.

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I also proposed that every two weeks or so that we receive a progress report on where the planning process stands. The first such report was supposed to have occurred last Friday, but the conference call had to be canceled. We did not have a quorum. Nevertheless, we did have a conversation for those Commissioners who participated in the call, and an update was indeed provided.

In terms of content and structure of the conference, on July 13th, at my urging the Staff Director sent a followup e-mail giving Commissioners another opportunity to suggest revisions to the concept paper and to make panelist recommendations.

Now, he noted I was especially interested in receiving comments from Commissioners Melendez and Yaki, particularly regarding ways to broaden its scope to include a discussion of issues related to other protected classes.

Vice Chair Thernstrom, as well as
Commissioners Melendez and Yaki, submitted their
comments via e-mail, and the Staff Director
distributed them to Commissioners on July 23rd. Other

Commissioners have provided me with additional comments and suggestions offline.

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I appreciate the feedback from Commissioners and have attempted to incorporate many of the substantive concerns as to content and structure into the -- well, into the planning.

For example, as Commissioners Thernstrom and Gaziano, and also Commissioner Melendez, during our last meeting expressed some concern at the length of the panels vis-a-vis the proposed number of invited speakers, based on those concerns, and to ensure an opportunity for a full discussion of the important issues proposed, and adequate moderator participation, most panels have been limited to four speakers.

To increase the likelihood of a serious engagement on each panel, we will provide confirmed speakers with an outline and organize a pre-conference call for them with the moderator for the panel to go over the main points that they will cover. Included in one of the recommendations was a suggestion that we commission papers from our participants.

The original proposal contained a similar recommendation and differs only as to the timing when we will receive the papers. Under the original proposal, speakers would provide their summary

comments at the conference, and then would be given adequate time to develop these comments into a fully fleshed out paper or article that would be published with our conference proceedings if they choose to.

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Their products would benefit from the back and forth discussion and diverse perspectives offered by their fellow panelists and others at the conference. In their final submissions they could respond to other participants' positions or additional questions posed by the Commission, and engage in a rich debate.

I have asked the Staff Director to look into what the budget may allow in terms of a stipend for the papers. Apparently, in the past we have offered \$500.

Other recommendations were taken -- were well taken, but have not been incorporated. For example, Vice Chair Thernstrom expressed a desire to limit invited panelists to academic scholars.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, no, that is a misunderstanding.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, I never said that.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. What did you

1 say?

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VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I'd have to look at the -- my original thing, but I don't think that, and I didn't say that.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Well -VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: That is

misunderstanding.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All right.

Moving right along, we also have a suggestion from

Commissioners Yaki and Melendez that the conference be

extended to two days to cover every possible -- well,

to cover additional civil rights issues that we might

address. I think that that is a very good point.

Everything won't and can't be covered in a single day, or even two days for that matter. That, coupled with the budgetary impacts, cause me to not embrace that suggestion.

In terms of a date and logistics for the event, the -- as stated during the last unofficial conversation, the 21st -- the 24th, as a date, turned out to be problematic. The new date that we have on the table is October 7th. I have reached out to a number of speakers, and the 7th appears to be a good date for most, at least most that I have actually been able to discuss the conference with.

What else? Overall, the people who I have contacted have been enthusiastic about the Commission. Most of the people who I have contacted to date have accepted, with one exception. I have communicated, though not directly, with other folks, and I am waiting to set up one-on-one conversations with these folks. But to date, we have Paul Snyderman who would be on Panel 1, Kay Heimawitz and Carol Swayne on Panel 2, Bill Steffney and Roland Warren on Panel 3, and Ken Marcus on Panel 4.

I hope to reach out and speak to other folks who have received a brief description of the conference early next week. I hope -- oh, also, the deadline for handing over a check to the National Press Club, that has been extended to the 12th, Wednesday, whatever that date is.

So, basically, on Monday or Tuesday, either at the close of business Tuesday or sometime Wednesday, I will let folks know where we are in terms of folks who have committed. At that point, I just want to get input from everyone to see if -- what the consensus is in terms of is -- you know, do we feel that we have a sufficient number of people to move forward?

Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Chair Reynolds, do we

2 have a revised paper or concept paper?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: No, not yet.

appreciate certainly the enthusiasm with which you are pursuing this, and certainly the energy with which you have done so. I think it comes as no surprise that I continue to have serious substantive problems with both the procedural manner in which this conference has been put together and with the overall tenor and scope of this conference.

I believe that had we, at the beginning, started in a much more bipartisan manner we would not be at the point which I believe we are at today. But because we did not do so, because this conference is going forward in a manner where, again, we have no paper to tell us exactly what is going on, how anything has changed, who the people we have contacted are -- have been, who is confirmed.

But most importantly -- and this is with all due respect to you, Mr. Chair -- the fact that this, as it was originally conceived as a national conference on civil rights, the fact that I do not believe it is reaching out, I do not believe that the process embraces that, I am just going to say right

now and for the record that unless and until we restart this process in a bipartisan way, form a subcommittee or task force or whatever it is that you do -- so choose, to pull together and create a bipartisan consensus for how this should move forward, I cannot/will not support or attend this conference.

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To me, it is -- it is a sorely missed opportunity for this Commission to work together. And I believe that it is a sorely missed opportunity in terms of the dialogue on civil rights that is desperately needed in this country.

But the exclusion of the Democrats from this from the beginning -- and I don't want to go into how many times this was agendized and pulled off. I don't want to go into how many conversations we have had when and where. The facts simply are that, even as of today, you know, like I said, kudos to you for moving forward and with your enthusiasm, but you are doing so without the participation or input of the Democrats on this one. And I cannot/will not attend, cannot/will not support it, and I wish you the best of luck.

But as for me, this conference -- I take no responsibility, no ownership, and no participation in this conference as of this point.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Commissioner
Yaki, you have expressed these sentiments on at least
two occasions, and it is unfortunate, as I said in the
past, but it is what it is.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: I have a comment.

Commissioner Melendez here. You know, this -- some of the questions we had asked earlier I don't think are still answered. And as you know, a lot has to do with the budget. And many of our reporting requirements -- as you know, we just ended or we are getting close to ending 2009 at September 30th, and I have always wanted these reports on surplus, wanted to know exactly how much accumulation do we have to spend for the end of the year, and I never received those.

So to me, it also -- if funding was supposed to come out of surplus of 2009, never really understood where we were or what the surplus was or what priorities out of the surplus would be held off as opposed to if we put more money out of 2009 surplus into this. I never really understood that.

And then, the last I heard we were talking about using 2010 money for this, because it sounded to me like we were crossing the line into the next year, and it then seemed that we needed a legal opinion from our General Counsel as to what -- you know, can we do

that? Are there any problems with using 2010, you know, money, kind of using money from 2009 and 2010 for this?

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So we needed a legal opinion as to whether or not we could actually do that. And so I never heard whether or not that is -- any problems there. But I think the whole thing -- because you said we don't have enough money to do two days, well, it just tells me if we don't have enough money to do two days there may be a question of whether or not we have enough money to do this whole thing adequately in the first place, because if you say we can't do two days, well, it just tells me we must be really on the border edge of funding here.

So, again, with not budget in front of me, and no -- it is just really not really adequately -- because if we would have operated from a committee, as we first entailed, we could have been talking about everything that has led up to now, including the budget, where is the money going to come from?

And then, we would have reported back to the full Commission as to, okay, it is going to -- our plan is to take it from here and still -- we are kind of still up in the air, so -- and then, Commissioner Yaki was asking about going back to start over again.

The only way you could really accomplish that in my opinion is to move the whole conference to 2010 and do it next year, because I know that to try to satisfy what he is talking about, to try to do it as we move forward now, I don't think he is going to be satisfied of trying to say, "Okay. Michael, throw in your two cents," now that the ship has left the dock about three months ago, not stirred by him in any manner but stirred by the Chairman.

So I am just saying, you know, I would have to agree with Mr. Yaki's position that, you know, the only way we could go back to start in a bipartisan manner would be to push this off to next year. So I am in concurrence that I don't see myself participating also just based on -- just based on what Mr. Yaki's concerns are and what mine are, and just the unanswered questions that I have had on budget and everything else.

So if we want to put this off until next year, I would again be part of a committee to work on this, and budget-wise and planning-wise, but I think trying to do it in this hasty manner is going to give us a halfway product that I think that is just a waste of money in my opinion. So that is just my input into this. I'll just leave it at that.

Three.

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT:

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abstentions.

1 abstentions and the rest are yes votes.

2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I abstain.

3 | CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: What is the vote?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Four-zero-four.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: And so it --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It passes.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The majority of

8 those voting.

what else did we have --

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9 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Next issue,

11 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Then we had whether

12 or not --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: No findings and

14 recs on Part B.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: On Part B.

16 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I will abstain on that

17 also.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Mr. Chairman, I

was going to say, I want to change my vote on that to

20 an abstention.

21 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. What is the

22 tally?

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It is still going to

24 be -- the final tally will still be just yes votes and

a bunch of abstentions.

1 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes, that's right.

- 2 So it is not going to --
- 3 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: On the
- 4 | findings or on the report itself?
- 5 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, no, just the
- 6 findings.
- 7 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Oh, okay.
- 8 | COMMISSIONER YAKI: I will vote no on the
- 9 findings.
- 10 | COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It still passes.
- 11 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: It is just -- I am
- 12 | changing my vote only on --
- 13 | COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: The only vote was
- 14 not to have any, so that's the only thing you can vote
- 15 on.
- 16 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: What was your original
- 17 vote?
- 18 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I believe I voted
- 19 to omit the findings and recommendations.
- 20 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Right. Then you
- 21 | would vote yes.
- 22 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Folks, going
- 23 | forward --
- 24 | COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think we've got it
- 25 here. Commissioner Yaki votes yes. That is, to not

have findings and recommendations.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Commissioner
Thernstrom has now abstained rather than voting yes.
Nobody has ever voted no, as far as I know.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. It passed.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Yes. No, that's correct. I just -- I just have a problem with these reports without findings and recommendations, because nobody ever reads anything else.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. Health care letter.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Yes. We have the offending language as -- that is how it was characterized -- in front of us. Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I have read the so-called offending language, and I find that I am going to be outvoted, but I am going to put it out there anyway, which is that I think it is quite a stretch to try and cast Adarand on programs that go toward institutions.

This is not about set-asides for minorityowned businesses. This is not about a certain number of dollars being set-aside for minority-owned businesses. This is about ensuring that full -- that non-profit organizations, which could be of any nature whatsoever -- they could be faith-based, they could be completely majority-owned, they could be two people working on a reservation in Oklahoma, that they would be eligible for federal dollars, so long as the people to whom they brought services to were members of underrepresented or disadvantaged classes.

I, quite frankly, find it a great strain to make Adarand reach one step beyond to the component of the people who are being given government services, rather than to the ownership or nature of the ethnicity of ownership of the organization itself.

So go ahead, send this letter. I will be sending my own counter letter, because I just find it quite a stretch to push Adarand one step -- to a level one step beyond that which the Supreme Court analyzed.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Kirsanow?

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: My reading is a little bit different than Commissioner Yaki's. I do see Adarand implications, Croson -- potential Croson implications, and possibly even Grutter implications -- strike that, maybe Gratz implications, but with -- COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Grutter, too.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: -- a Grutter

2.

analysis. First of all, there would be grants given to entities here. This would be something similar to a set-aside, which implicates Adarand and possibly downstream Croson.

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I don't know if there has been -- at least according to this legislation there hasn't been any indication that an articulation of a as to compelling governmental interest to engage in this, and whether or not there has been effort -- an effort to narrowly tailor this particular program or seek racing to an alternative. It simply makes reference undefined class of individuals to an called "underrepresented minority groups."

So from that perspective I think clearly it falls within Adarand and possibly Grutter, maybe Gratz down the -- I'm sorry, Grutter and Gratz, and I think that the letter for that reason is appropriate.

I presume there will be regs that will be promulgated pursuant to this, but absent findings consistent with a Croson finding, I am not sure how the Congress can simply summarily make these kinds of dictates that seem to me to fall directly in the face of Adarand.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Taylor?

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I am going to abstain, but I don't want my position to be viewed

inappropriately. I intend to write my own letter, because my view of this is that -- and, again, I recognize this is a personal concern I have -- is that the issue of greatest concern to me, that we have real empirical evidence demonstrating that the health disparities are caused by limited access to high quality physicians gets lost in this letter, and that is something I want to focus on in a separate letter. I mean, I --

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I agree.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And not because -you know, not because I agree with Yaki's view of the law or -- but I just -- this is a personal --

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, you should.

(Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I just -- so I am going to abstain for that reason. I want to write a separate letter on that issue, because I think this, unfortunately, has -- is a reflection of, again, in my view the health care issue being used more for political advantage than to actually improve the condition of citizens. And so I want to write a separate letter because of that.

> COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I just wanted to say

25 that --

1 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: If you could

2 circulate that letter, I would like --

3 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

4 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Would you be

5 | willing to circulate that letter?

6 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Oh, absolutely.

7 Yes, yes.

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Commissioner Taylor,

I just wanted to say that one of the reasons I phrased
the motion I did, so that we can tinker with this,
with unanimous consent of those who decide to sign it,
is so we could beef up that just a little bit.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Okay.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And is there -- you know, I may want to join your letter, too, if you decide you need a second letter. But do you have a concern with joining -- potentially joining this one or thinking about this one more? And possibly sending --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I would like you to reserve the right to participate in this one, if in the final product you want to -

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Yes, I will reserve that. I just -- I don't want my voice to be diluted in the sense that I want it to be understood what I

individually am most concerned with, and it is -- this is -- again, there are -- I recognize the need to make political points when you draft things like this.

But this is one of those areas where we can -- again, we just had a panel on this. We now have empirical evidence demonstrating you can make a real difference if you just focus on certain things, and for some reason --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm not sure what you mean by -- I don't think that the letter as is necessarily makes political points. It does make -- COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: No, no, no, not the letter. No.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: The legislation.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Congress.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Congress has refused to actually do what we did and hold a hearing and ask people practical questions.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I'm sorry. I misunderstood. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: And so I --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: That's what I

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: But I hope that you
might find it possible to say, "I joined the other
letter, but my emphasis is" --

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I definitely want to keep that option open, but I --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It's just like Vice
Chair Thernstrom did -- abstained on one of the
letters but ultimately signed.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Right. Right.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Commissioner Taylor

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COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I may do the same thing. I --

14 | COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It's fine.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I just didn't want my abstention to be misunderstood. That's all.

17 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Yaki.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I would just say in the -- it is dangerous for us to presume that, with these particular programs, Congress has not held hearings. I would just note that there are probably hundreds of federal programs in -- throughout the Federal Government, and at the Department of Education, Labor, Health and Human Services, where these types of grants are routine, that have continued

on for years, that have had numerous hearings, whether you are talking about the Job Corps, whether you are talking about any number of different types of programs.

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So I would not be so quick to presume that there is no -- there are no statutory hearings and findings that have been made about these programs in the past. I think it would be a mistake to make that assumption.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Melendez?

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Well, as you know, this letter is -- you know, my concern is similar to Ashley's, having to do with health care in general.

And, as you know, Native American health comes by way of Indian Health Service, and many times they receive a lot of grants through the Indian Health Service.

So it is kind of a complex issue, and so I would probably not support being signed onto a letter at this point, mainly because of the trust responsibility of the Native American tribes, and sometimes that is viewed as special interest, and sometimes it is kind of put under a microscope and a task overturned, giving the trust responsibility to Native Americans and tribes in this country. So I would rather just not head in that direction myself.

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1	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.
2	COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Ready to vote?
3	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Sure. All in favor of
4	sending the letter with the qualifications offered by
5	Commissioner Heriot please say aye.
6	(Chorus of ayes.)
7	Objections?
8	(Chorus of nays.)
9	Abstentions?
10	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I am abstaining.
11	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. One, two,
12	three, four. Okay. We have two abstentions,
13	Commissioners Taylor and
14	COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Two abstentions, two
15	nos, four yeses.
16	CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioners Taylor
17	and Thernstrom. Two nos, Commissioners Yaki and
18	Melendez, the remaining Commissioners voted in favor
19	of the motion. The motion passes.
20	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I am likely to
21	sign on to whatever Commissioner
22	COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: I will circulate my
23	letter as soon as Kim writes it.
24	VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: I am likely to
25	sign on to whatever Commissioner Taylor writes.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Next up, Mr. Staff Director, please provide us with an update on the document request to government agencies regarding their civil rights enforcement activities.

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STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have received a letter from Loretta King at the Justice Department indicating that they will provide us with electronic copies of items 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, in our letter of request. They say that they are unable to provide us with item 4, which is "all letters of potential violations sent out during that month," because the routine public release of these letters could compromise their enforcement efforts.

The contact person who will work with us on the logistics of the document transmission is on vacation until August 11th. We have left a message for him and expect to speak with him next week. We have also spoken with the Branch Chief for Policy Development and Procedures at the Department of Labor to discuss our request.

She indicates that the Federal Contract

Compliance Manual is undergoing a major review and is

concerned that there could be some confusion in

referring back to it. She is still in the midst of

new activities relating to the stimulus money, such as hiring new staff, formulating procedures to oversee contractors, and intends to contact us within a week or two to start discussions about transmitting documents responsive to the Commission requests.

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The Department of Education initiated treated our correspondence as a FOIA request, but pursuant to a communication with a senior Office of Civil Rights official at the Department, they are now treating our correspondence as a request for interagency cooperation pursuant to the Commission's independent statutory authority.

We expect to receive the name of the appropriate contact person by today or early next week, and we are also expecting an update very soon on the status of our request from the Department of Education. The Acting Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is reviewing a draft response that the Commission staff has prepared to this Commission's request, and which they expect to send to USCCR within the next week. And that is my update at the moment.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Do you mind if -- I have a question about, first, the DOJ one. How was the concern about giving us the documents responsive

to number 4 communicated to us? Was that in a letter or on the phone?

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STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: That was in the letter that we received from Loretta King. That was articulated in that letter.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Would you circulate that to all of us?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Sure. I would be happy to do that.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Do you remember if there was much of a discussion, an explanation of that? I might accept some of it, or I might ask for an accommodation. There may be a way that she can satisfy our request and satisfy her own concern, so I want to make sure I understand her concerns. And I do not want to automatically accede to her view on that.

So do you remember if it had much of an explanation?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: I don't recall the degree of collaboration, but I will send a copy of the letter to all Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: If it doesn't -
I'm just telling you, if it doesn't have much of an

explanation, if it is just -- then I would like you to

follow up with a request for a more detailed

explanation of how this compromises, how we could possibly accommodate her concerns and still get relevant information that we need with possible redactions. I mean, that is the next step on that.

Is that --

2.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, I will send that out to Commissioners, and I will communicate — after you and others have received it, I would like to communicate with you as to how you believe that followup communication should be articulated.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Yes, but it sounds
-- my guess is from what it sounds like is that she
hasn't really given any -- any explanation or defense
of this concern, and so I would like to -- that at
least at a minimum is the next step. And what are
your thoughts about following up with these other
agencies that are still dragging their feet?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, we are following up with them. Like I say, with the Department of Labor we do expect to hear from them about how they can transmit these. And hopefully in less than two weeks, hopefully, you know, without about a week from them, and we have not gotten the name yet from the Department of Education, but we do expect to hear that.

The EEOC has been a longer process in terms of now we have just heard that they are in the process of drafting a response, so that is the one that is furthest behind if you will in providing a response to us. But we will take a look at their response and see what kind of followup is appropriate there.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: And so at Education they are going to give us a name of a person, and then what is the next -- what have they said would follow from that? Did they indicate that they are then going to comply? Or did they say that, "Well, we are just going to name the person who is going to fight with you?"

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: No. I mean, the initial -- the initial misunderstanding, if you will, was that they treated it as a FOIA request.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Right.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: And we went back to them and pointed out that we are another federal agency and would view this as a cooperative -- COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Right.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: -- effort on the part of two federal agencies. So they have since acknowledged that point. And we have the name, we did

make contact with one person there, but apparently there is another person. We have subsequently gotten another name that we have been told will identify the contact for us, so I can't --

anything more than they will -- okay. Obviously, it seems like there is going to have to be some more -- you know, our position has to be, okay, you know, you name the person who is going to do the work, but we need to know when it is going to start coming.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Right. We will follow up with them and try to get --

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Okay. Thank you.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: -- that

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16 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Heriot?

17 Did I miss --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No, it's just -- what month did we originally vote on this?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: I don't remember the exact --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Was it February or March? I mean, it just seems like it was quite a while ago. Why has this taken so long?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We have not

heard back. We have gotten responses, and, unfortunately --

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COMMISSIONER HERIOT: When did we send the letters? I mean, I am -- are we dealing with lack of cooperation here, or is it -- you know, what is going on? How should I interpret the EEOC -- when did they get their letter requesting this?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, they got the letter at the same time as the other agencies. They all went out together. I have to check the dates. I don't remember the exact dates off hand, but we --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Can the General Counsel help out here?

MR. BLACKWOOD: I don't know the dates. We can find out for you.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Can we find out? I am concerned about whether we are dealing with lack of cooperation or whether we just haven't pursued this diligently.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: So what you are looking at is a timeline?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes, a timeline.
When did we vote on this? When was the letter sent
out? When did we first follow up with a phone call?

Because this is taking really a remarkably long period of time.

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CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Would it be acceptable to you if he just distributed an e-mail containing this type of information?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Sure, as long as we do so promptly.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Okay. Next up, at the June 12th meeting, Commissioners approved a motion brought by Commissioner Melendez that the Staff Director be directed to prepare possible topics and cost estimates for a new public education project and a new public service announcement that would be presented to Commissioners within two months.

The Staff Director sent Commissioners a document with possible public service announcement ideas, along with cost estimates, on August 3rd.

18 Questions? Comments? Commissioner Melendez?

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Okay. Could he go over those, as to what he is recommending?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, the -what was distributed to Commissioners was a memo I
received from the Associate Deputy Staff Director, who
had explored different options and looked into the
costs and logistics of how this would be done.

And there were some examples, really just some examples of what -- the kind of things that we might pursue, mentioning an agency publication about knowing your rights, that we might develop a PSA that would build upon that particular publication, or looking into the complaint system that we have at the Department, trying to help people know how they might file a complaint if they have a civil rights complaint.

I think largely this was an example of how this whole process would develop, but we would want to really receive Commissioner input on the particular topic that we would like to pursue. Those were just a couple of examples of topics, and, again, there were some proposals put forward in terms of budget options that are available, that potentially would be available, but we did want to receive more important from Commissioners on a particular topic, since this would be something that we believe would be of particular interest to the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Just a question. How much money do we have available to do anything as far as the 2009 budget?

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: We had tentatively set aside \$40,000 from the surplus for

this particular project that could potentially be devoted to that. So I think that we would be able to -- now, these -- some of the options here -- both of the options here are less than that amount, but we just, for budgeting purposes with respect to the surplus, we have identified \$40,000 that could potentially be available.

2.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Gaziano?

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: I appreciate the research and advice of the Associate Deputy Staff

Director Carr. And if our budget were what it should be, we probably should do all of this with the assistance of, you know, multiple media experts.

I just want to suggest that while I think some of the guidelines or her recommendations seem to suggest we need to do it in a particular way, aren't necessarily what we -- we could truncate and skip some of these. I think, for example, we can identify the purpose, concept, and message of the PSAs without necessarily employing a professional.

So I am glad to get the budget estimate of what it would cost. And by the way, I am -- maybe I didn't read it clearly enough. What I am also a little confused about is this per PSA message costs or -- I was a little unclear on that. So, but I think

that this is sort of the upper range of what we might need to spend, and I think some of it we could economize on.

2.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Heriot?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think that the memo correctly identifies steps that we have to take.

You know, we have got to decide what the purpose, concept, and the message is going to be, who is our target audience, you know, all of this makes good sense. And that at this point, you know, we just have to start coming up with some ideas.

And I think that, you know, when we are talking about the purpose of the message, and, you know, who our target audience is, where we have to start first is these are policy questions for us. A media consultant can't tell us what our message is. So if we need a media consultant, we need them, you know, a little bit further down. And we have to start coming up with the ideas here, you know, some nice ideas for quick bullet points that can be made that would be useful to a radio audience.

And I think we ought to ask all members of the staff, all Commissioners, all special assistants, to come up with what -- the basic ideas that they think might be a good idea, and we will see what

floats. You know, we now have a document that will help us go through the steps. Now we have to come up with a good message, and that is a policy matter for policymakers.

2.

And I think we should accept input from all staff members, all Commissioners, all special assistants, and see if we come up with something. But I don't think it is time to hire a media consultant. I think that if we do that, it should be way down the line. First we have to come up with an idea of what our message is, and, you know, maybe it will have to be honed by a media consultant, maybe it won't be.

As I have said, I have done an awful lot of public service announcements, not on civil rights issues, but on issues of constitutional law. And I got pretty good at coming up with these. You know, you can't load a lot of the 60 seconds, but you can, you know, go for one little tiny message. And it's fun to do, and I think we can come up with some messages that we can get behind.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Just a comment. I think the last one we did was anti-semitism of public relations.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: I believe

that's correct.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: But I would like to see it narrow into what is happening today, you know, the idea of aging, the issue that we talked about, if there is something we could along those lines as far as a public -- you know, formulating something. I am kind of looking at some timeframes, because if we pick a statutory report for 2010, and we don't pick some of the other ones, then I would like to see us be able to quickly try to throw in some ideas to you.

But I would like to open within -- by the next business meeting to kind of in some way start throwing ideas to -- you know, from the Commissioners to, you know, include the Staff Director, so that he can kind of formulate, in some way pick those at some point.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I just wanted to add one little point, and that is college newspapers are also a good spot for quick little statements. You know, sometimes a public service announcement can be trolling for input from college students on an issue as well.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, I think we've had a lot of good suggestions, but in terms of

organizing these ideas and putting them in a shape that we can actually, you know, get ready to consider, Marty, I guess this will fall on your shoulders to take over the comments and recommendations and to fashion them into something that we can consider.

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has to --

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: So I guess it depends on what you want to do. If you think you have the time and the staff to do it, or otherwise you want to hire some consultant at low cost or something like this and come back to us.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I don't favor that.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Because somebody

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, I think what --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: This is policy at this point. Before we hire a media consultant, we need to be thinking about what our message is. A media consultant can't tell you what your message is.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Also, are we going to do three? Are we going to do six different messages? Are we going to concentrate on three this year, three next year? Is Jerry going to be the voice? Is Ashley? Are you? No, that we don't need

to do. But those sort of basic questions as far as whether we really want to just focus on one issue, whether we want to do every four months have a different one, whatever.

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STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Well, I think we other thing, we need to find some topics that, as Commissioner Heriot pointed out, I think the key is to come to an agreement on what would be the topic that the Commission would want to, you know, use the announcement for.

And I think that is something where I would like to send an e-mail out to the staff and to the Commissioners and assistants and invite suggestions on this.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Okay. Let's just start working on that, then.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: And then, try to get those before the next meeting, and perhaps we can have some follow up --

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.

STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: -- at the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Two issues left. The Akaka letter, who owns that issue?

1 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Oh, the Akaka

2 letter. I move --

3 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Is there a draft?

4 (Laughter.)

5 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. Noted and

6 logged.

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(Laughter.)

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I'm opposed.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. The Native
Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act is receiving a
lot of attention now in both Houses of Congress. In
June, there was a hearing before the House Natural
Resource Committee, which both Commissioner Yaki and I
attended and testified for. There was a hearing
yesterday on the Senate side.

This may be fast-tracked, so I move that we send a letter to Congress, to Congressional leadership, in fact to all members of Congress, both Houses, that states that the Commission is on the record in opposition to this bill, and briefly states the reasons for our opposition.

And I move that that letter be drafted as soon as possible after this meeting. But if we adopt in principle that letter now, that those members who voted yes, or who would want to change their vote to

yes after this vote, be able to sign that letter and get it out in the next few weeks.

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Can I rephrase just part of that?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Sure.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: That we vote to send an official Commission letter, if the letter you draft receives a majority of the Commissioners signing on.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes, that works. We send it if we can get a majority of members to sign on to it.

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: So no one needs to

commit to --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. You don't need to commit to signing it.

17 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We are committing to a process.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes. That makes sense.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: I am committing to opposing it, just, you know, so you know that.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: That's okay.

COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Second.

COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: Second.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Question. 1 2. CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Yes. 3 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner 4 Heriot, do you know if -- I am not sure exactly what 5 the current status is after the June hearing. What is 6 the status of the bill right now? Has there been any further movement, any markups, any conferences with --7 8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: All I know is the 9 Senate has held a hearing and -- yesterday, and my 10 fear is we won't get our act together in time if we 11 wait for the September meeting. And so it is better to send a letter now. 12 13 And, again, by voting yes you are not 14 committing to sign the letter. And if we don't get a 15 majority of members to sign the letter, there won't be a letter. 16 17 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. So --18 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: There won't be an official Commission letter. Individual Commissioners 19 20 could still -- could still send a letter if they 21 wanted to. 22 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Commissioner Yaki, do 23 you want to take the lead in drafting the letter? 2.4 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Sure. 25 (Laughter.)

COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: You can propose one, and Commissioner Heriot will propose one.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Actually, under the motion, I think you would be within your rights to propose a letter, which if you then got a majority on, that would be the official letter.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: That is all theoretically true and --

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: All of us see that.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: And particle physics is readily understandable by all of us. Yes, sure.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The testimony -- I assume that you folks have written remarks that you presented at that hearing.

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Mine basically started off with I don't like Jerry Reynolds, and I don't trust anything that -- no.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Well, I think that we need to -- how do you feel about putting your written comments --

21 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I can submit them,
22 yes.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think I did, but maybe I didn't. I don't know.

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: No, I have not

- 1 seen yours. I would like to see them.
- COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. Then, let's
- 3 put them up. Hate crimes testimony, too.
- 4 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. We are
- 5 voting for --
- 6 | COMMISSIONER YAKI: I didn't mean to say I
- 7 would put them up. I have written remarks that I can
- 8 give to you. That's all I meant to say.
- 9 VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Well, I would like
- 10 to see them.
- 11 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Sure.
- 12 STAFF DIRECTOR DANNENFELSER: Do we need a
- vote to do that, or --
- 14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I think, actually, we
- do. Under the old AIs, if we put up -- to put on the
- 16 | website, I think we should.
- 17 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay.
- 18 | COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Let's vote on the
- 19 first motion first, though.
- 20 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. Yes.
- 21 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Whether to send the
- 22 letter as the motion --
- 23 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: The Akaka letter,
- 24 the --
- 25 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Can I vote no first --

Page 180 PARTICIPANT: I'm sure you will. 1 2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: -- just to get it out 3 of the way? 4 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All in favor 5 please say aye. 6 (Chorus of ayes.) 7 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Did you get a 8 second? 9 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Don't we have a second 10 already? 11 COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: We do. I seconded it with my rephrasing. 12 13 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. All in favor 14 please say aye. 15 (Chorus of ayes.) 16 Commissioner Melendez, how do you vote? 17 COMMISSIONER MELENDEZ: No. 18 COMMISSIONER TAYLOR: Aye. 19 COMMISSIONER YAKI: No. 20 (Laughter.) 21 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. We have three 22 nos. Commissioners Melendez and Yaki voted against the motion. The remaining Commissioners voted for it. 23 24 The vote -- the motion, rather, passes. 25 Next up, I move that the testimony, the

(Chorus of ayes.)

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Page 182 Objections? 1 2 (No response.) 3 Abstentions? 4 (No response.) 5 The motion passes. 6 VT. **ADJOURN** 7 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Last issue is 8 personnel matter. We have to go into closed session. 9 Okay. Here is the magic language. item that we are about to discuss -- well, okay. 10 move to amend the agenda to add a personnel matter. 11 Is there a second? 12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: 13 Second. 14 CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Discussion? 15 (No response.) 16 Thank you. 17 All in favor please say aye. (Chorus of ayes.) 18 19 Any objections? 20 (No response.) 21 Any abstentions? 22 (No response.) 23 Very good. 24 The following item on the agenda is a 25 closed portion of the meeting pursuant to the

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Commission's regulations implementing the Sunshine Act. General Counsel and Solicitor, please certify that the meeting can be closed pursuant to the -- pursuant to Commission regulations.

MR. BLACKWOOD: We both so certify.

MS. MONROIG: We certify, yes.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: Okay. So I move that

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COMMISSIONER GAZIANO: Who can stay, and who cannot?

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: I move to close the meeting pursuant to exemptions 2, 6, and 10, of the closed meeting procedures for Commission meetings, and, furthermore, to authorize the Staff Director to place any location accessible to the public within one working day the public -- one business day, the public vote to close the meeting, an explanation of the decision to close the meeting, and a list of all persons attending the meeting. Is there a second?

VICE CHAIR THERNSTROM: Second.

CHAIRMAN REYNOLDS: All in favor please

say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

Any abstentions?

(No response.)

		Page 184
1		Any objections?
2		(No response.)
3		Okay.
4	(Whereupon,	at 12:50 p.m., the open session portion of
5		the meeting was concluded.)
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