

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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TELEPHONIC BUSINESS MEETING

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2019

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The Commission convened via
teleconference at 10:00 a.m., Catherine Lhamon,
Chair, presiding.

PRESENT:

CATHERINE E. LHAMON, Chair

PATRICIA TIMMONS-GOODSON, Vice Chair

DEBO P. ADEGBILE, Commissioner

GAIL HERIOT, Commissioner

DAVID KLADNEY, Commissioner

KAREN K. NARASAKI, Commissioner

MICHAEL YAKI, Commissioner

MAURO MORALES, Staff Director

MAUREEN RUDOLPH, General Counsel

STAFF PRESENT:**LASHONDA BRENSON****KATHERINE CULLITON-GONZALEZ****PAMELA DUNSTON, Chief ASCD****ALFREDA GREENE****PILAR VELASQUEZ MCLAUGHLIN****DAVID MUSSATT, Director, RPCU****LENORE OSTROWSKY****BRIAN WALCH****MARIK XAVIER-BRIER****COMMISSIONER ASSISTANTS PRESENT:****ALEC DUELL****CARISSA MULDER****AMY ROYCE****RUKKU SINGLA****E. PEACH SOLTIS****ALISON SOMIN****IRENA VIDULOVIC**

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(10:00 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. This meeting of the US Commission on Civil rights comes to order at 10:00 a.m. Eastern time on November 8th, 2019. The meeting takes place over the phone.

I'm Chair Catherine Lhamon. I'd like to confirm each of the Commissioners is on the line. So I'll take a roll call here at the outset. Please say present when I say your name. Vice Chair Timmons-Goodson?

VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Adegbile?

COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Present.

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Heriot?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm here.

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kirsanow?
Commissioner Kladney?

COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Here.

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki?

COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Present.

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Yaki?

COMMISSIONER YAKI: Present.

CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Based on that, a quorum of the Commissioners is present. Is

1 the Court Reporter present?

2 COURT REPORTER: Yes, ma'am, I am present.

3 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Okay, thank you. Is the
4 staff director present?

5 MR. MORALES: I am present.

6 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. The meeting
7 will now come to order. Is there a motion to approve
8 to the agenda for the business meeting?

9 I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

10 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: So moved.
11 This is Vice Chair Timmons-Goodson.

12 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Commissioner
13 Adegbile seconds.

14 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Are there
15 any amendments?

16 Hearing none, let's go to approve the
17 agenda as amended. All those in favor, say aye.

18 (Chorus of aye.)

19 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Any opposed? Any
20 abstentions?

21 The motion passes unanimously.

22 The first item on our agenda is an item
23 that we tabled from our last business meeting which is
24 a discussion and vote on appointments to the
25 Commission to Maryland Advisory Committee.

1 II. Business Meeting

2 A. Discussion and Vote on Commission Advisory

3 Committee Appointments, Maryland

4 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Before we begin
5 discussions, I remind my fellow Commissioners that
6 objections to these nominations have already been
7 shared with all the Commissioners.

8 To the extent we would like to discuss
9 continuing objections, I remind my fellow
10 Commissioners that the Commission has a policy to not
11 defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. Each of
12 these individuals has agreed to volunteer time and
13 energy in the pursuit of the protection of civil
14 rights.

15 With that said, I move that the Commission
16 appoint the following individuals to the Maryland
17 Advisory Committee based on the recommendation of the
18 staff director. Kendra Brown, Teresa Chaurand,
19 Tamara Chrisler, Sheryl Cozart, Candace Dodson-Reed,
20 David Kim, Sara Love, Melinda Maddox, Marie Meszaros,
21 Jennifer Matthis, Michelle Minton, Walter Olson,
22 Joseline Pena-Melnyk, Genevieve Segura, and Elizabeth
23 Slattery.

24 With this motion, the Commission will also
25 appoint Kendra Brown as the Chair of the Maryland

1 Advisory Committee. All of these members will serve
2 as uncompensated government employees. If the motion
3 passes, the Commission will authorize the Staff
4 Director to execute the appropriate paperwork for the
5 appointments which will begin on November 17, 2019,
6 after the current committee expires.

7 Do I have a second to this motion?

8 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: I second, Kladney.

9 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Any
10 discussion on the slate?

11 Hearing none, I'll call the question and
12 take a roll call vote. Commissioner Adegbile, how do
13 you vote?

14 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Heriot?

16 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I don't see any
17 point in going into an executive session to discuss
18 this, but I vote an emphatic no.

19 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kirsanow?
20 Commissioner Kladney?

21 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

22 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki?

23 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Yaki?

25 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Vice Chair

2 Timmons-Goodson?

3 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: I vote yes. The motion
5 passes. One Commissioner opposed, no Commissioner
6 abstained, all others were in favor.

7 We'll now move to the West Virginia
8 Advisory Committee.

9 II. Business Meeting

10 A. Discussion and Vote on Commission Advisory

11 Committee Appointments, West Virginia

12 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: I move that the
13 Commission appoint the following individuals to the
14 West Virginia Advisory Committee based on the
15 recommendation of the staff director. Lisa Younis,
16 Katherine Dooley, Frank Hartman, Jeri Kirby, Anne
17 Marie Lofaso, Tara Martinez, Lydia Milnes, Fanica
18 Payne, William Rhee, Isabel Simon, Merideth Smith,
19 Sean Thomas, Stephanie Thornton, Jeremiah Underhill,
20 Ronald Neal Walters, and Joshua Weishart.

21 With this motion, the Commission will also
22 appoint Lisa Younis as the Chair of the West Virginia
23 Advisory Committee. All of these members will serve
24 as uncompensated government employees. If the motion
25 passes, the Commission will authorize the staff

1 director to execute the appropriate paperwork for the
2 appointments which will begin on November 17, 2019,
3 after the current committee expires. Do I have a
4 second to this motion?

5 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Kladney, I second.

6 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Any
7 discussion on the slate?

8 Hearing none, I'll call the question and
9 take a roll call vote. Commissioner Adegbile, how do
10 you vote?

11 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

12 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Heriot?

13 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I vote no, failure
14 of balance.

15 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kirsanow?
16 Commissioner Kladney?

17 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki?

19 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

20 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Yaki?

21 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Vice Chair
23 Timmons-Goodson?

24 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: And I vote yes. The

1 motion passes, one Commissioner opposed, no
2 Commissioner abstains, all others were in favor.

3 The next item on our agenda is a
4 discussion and vote on the Commission's report titled
5 Women in Prison: Seeking Justice Behind Bars.

6 B. Discussion and Vote on the Commission's
7 report, Women in Prison: Seeking Justice Behind Bars

8 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: First we will consider
9 the report, and then we will consider the findings and
10 recommendations. To open the floor for discussion, is
11 there a motion?

12 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes, Madam Chair,
13 Dave Kladney here. I move the Women in Prison report
14 text, as circulated by my special assistant on
15 Thursday, November 7th, be adopted by the Commission.

16 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Is there a
17 second?

18 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Vice-Chair
19 Timmons-Goodson, I second.

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Commissioner
22 Narasaki seconds.

23 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Enthusiastic second,
24 thank you both.

25 I'll offer two points to begin our

1 discussion. First, I thank Commissioner Kladney for
2 his leadership with this project. And I thank your
3 staff, particularly Katherine Culliton-Gonzalez and
4 Lashonda Brenson, as well as other members of our
5 staff who pitched in during the research and
6 development of this project.

7 Thanks to all of their efforts, we today
8 consider a report that looks at a range of civil
9 rights issues that impact women in prison from the
10 adequacy of legal protections and federal actions
11 against unconstitutional and illegal treatment of
12 women in prison, to the appropriate security
13 classification and placement of women, including
14 transgender women, the impacts of family disruption,
15 access to healthcare, heightened risk of sexual abuse
16 and sexual assault, discipline policies, the use of
17 solitary confinement, to educational and programming
18 opportunities to prepare women for re-entering society
19 following incarceration.

20 At our briefing, we heard compelling
21 testimony from legal and academic experts, as well as
22 some women who had themselves experienced
23 incarceration, in the particular harm that women face
24 in prison.

25 I believe this report does justice to that

1 testimony I look forward to seeing the change that
2 this text can drive. I'll now open the floor for
3 discussion beginning with Commissioner Kladney as the
4 lead sponsor of this project.

5 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Madam Chair,
8 Commissioner Kladney, at an appropriate time, I'd like
9 to move a friendly amendment, but happy to take your
10 comments first.

11 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Thank you,
12 Commissioner Adegbile. Why don't take the friendly
13 amendment first, how's that? We're already there,
14 let's move.

15 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Okay, thank you.
16 I would like to make a friendly amendment to strike a
17 sentence located on Page 186 of the report in the
18 section entitled overview of DOJ litigation
19 activities.

20 The sentence that I propose to strike
21 reads as follows. "Our analysis indicates that while
22 CRIPA provides a broad statutory mandate for DOJ to
23 enforce a variety of civil rights, DOJ's enforcement
24 activity has focused largely on sexual abuse,
25 sometimes adding other types of claims, but not on

1 bringing actions that are focused on issues such as
2 inadequate medical care, unequal facilities, or
3 systematic inattention to disability needs."

4 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: I will accept that
5 as a friendly amendment.

6 May I proceed, Madam Chair?

7 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Sure, go ahead,
8 Commissioner Kladney.

9 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Okay. I would just
10 like to echo your remarks and thank our staff, who
11 worked so diligently to research and draft this
12 report. I thank my fellow Commissioners for their
13 support in this project and all their input.

14 I'm proud the Commission will be a voice
15 raising the serious issues that incarcerated women
16 face, particularly because their civil rights concerns
17 are not often recognized or acknowledged by the
18 broader community.

19 As the Chair laid out, our report covers
20 a broad range of topics which affect incarcerated
21 women every day. Incarcerated people do not forfeit
22 their civil rights and those in positions of power
23 must act to ensure that these rights are protected.

24 As a population, incarcerated women have
25 often been an afterthought and are therefore at risk

1 of harm when policies do not consider their
2 circumstances. We have laid out in detail the
3 research that exists in how prisons can uphold the
4 rights of women in their care.

5 As a country we should not assume what
6 happens in prisons doesn't matter or doesn't affect us
7 but instead should listen to what happens behind the
8 prison walls and work to prevent abuses.

9 I look forward to our vote today and to
10 the issuance of this report. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you, Commissioner
12 Kladney. Is there any further discussion?

13 Hearing none, I'll call the question, and
14 we can take a roll call vote on the report, including
15 with the friendly amendment that Mr. Kladney has
16 accepted.

17 Commissioner Adegbile, how do you vote?

18 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Heriot?

20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm going to have to
21 abstain on this one.

22 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kirsanow?
23 Commissioner Kladney?

24 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

25 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki?

1 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Yaki?

3 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

4 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Vice Chair

5 Timmons-Goodson?

6 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: And I vote yes. The
8 motion passes, no Commissioners oppose, one
9 Commissioner abstained, all others were in favor.

10 Next we will consider the findings and
11 recommendations for the report. To open the floor for
12 discussion, is there a motion?

13 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes, Madam Chair.

14 Commissioner Kladney here. I'll make two separate
15 motions on the findings and recommendations. First,
16 I move the findings and recommendations, as circulated
17 by my special assistant on Tuesday, November 5th, be
18 adopted with the exception of Recommendation Number 25
19 which I will move separately. In this motion, I move
20 to adopt all findings and recommendations except
21 Recommendation Number 25.

22 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Is there a
23 second?

24 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Madam Chair, I
25 have a friendly amendment to the motion to adopt the

1 findings and recommendations.

2 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Go ahead, Commissioner
3 Adegbile?

4 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: I would move to
5 strike Finding 16, which is the finding that
6 corresponds to the text that we struck a moment ago.

7 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kladney, do
8 you agree with that?

9 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes, I do, Madam
10 Chair.

11 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Okay. So now we're
12 looking for a second to Commissioner Kladney's motion
13 as adopting the friendly amendment as well.

14 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Commissioner
15 Adegbile ---

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Commissioner?

18 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: I hear either second
19 from multiple Commissioners. We'll start with
20 Commission Adegbile's second. Any discussion about
21 other amendments?

22 Hearing none, I'll call the question and
23 take a roll call vote. Commissioner Adegbile, how do
24 you vote?

25 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Heriot?

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm going to have to
3 abstain.

4 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kirsanow?
5 Commissioner Kladney?

6 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

7 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki?

8 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Yaki?

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Vice Chair
12 Timmons-Goodson?

13 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: And I vote yes. The
15 motion passes. No Commissioner opposed, one
16 Commissioner abstained, all others were in favor.

17 Commissioner Kladney, you may now proceed
18 with your second motion.

19 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Thank you, Madam
20 Chair. Second, I move Recommendation 25, as
21 circulated by my special assistant on Tuesday,
22 November 5, be adopted.

23 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Is there a
24 second?

25 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Commissioner

1 Narasaki, second.

2 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Unless
3 there's further discussion, or is there any discussion
4 of this motion?

5 Hearing none, I'll call the question and
6 take a roll call vote. Commissioner Adegbile, how do
7 you vote?

8 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Heriot?

10 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Abstain.

11 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Kirsanow?
12 Commissioner Kladney?

13 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki?

15 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Yes. And I want
16 to thank Commissioner Kladney and his special
17 assistant, Amy, for their incredible work on this
18 report. I'm very proud of it.

19 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Yaki?

20 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Thank you,
21 Commissioner.

22 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Vice Chair
24 Timmons-Goodson?

25 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: And I vote no. The
2 motion passes. One Commissioner opposed, one
3 Commissioner abstained, all others were in favor.

4 Thank you all. I'll note that, with the
5 adoption of this report and the findings and
6 recommendations, the clock begins ticking with respect
7 to the deadline for statements and rebuttals.

8 Statements will be due on Monday, December
9 9, with rebuttals due on Thursday, January 9.
10 Commissioners must file notice of their intention to
11 file a surrebuttal by Thursday January 16 and then
12 must file the text of their surrebutal, if any, on
13 Thursday, January 23.

14 Next, we'll hear from staff director,
15 Mauro Morales for the monthly staff director's report.
16 C. Management and Operations

17 Staff Director's Report

18 MR. MORALES: Madam Chair and
19 Commissioner, I apologize that I was unable to
20 circulate the report in time for this meeting. I will
21 be sending the report to all of you, all the
22 Commissioners, in another week or so. So thank you
23 for your opportunity here.

24 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you, Mr. Staff
25 Director. That concludes the business on the agenda

1 for today's business meeting. But before we adjourn,
2 I want to take a moment just to recognize Commissioner
3 Karen Narasaki, of whom this will be the last non-
4 briefing business meeting before her term expires at
5 that end of November, about which I am devastated.

6 RECOGNITION OF COMMISSIONER KAREN NARASAKI

7 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Narasaki
8 joined the Commission with a long history of civil
9 rights advocacy. As her official bio notes, she
10 previously served as president and executive director
11 of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, AAJP, one of the
12 nation's premier civil rights organizations.

13 Prior to that, she was the Washington
14 Representative for the Japanese American Citizens
15 League. She has served on many boards and commissions
16 throughout her career, including as Vice Chair of the
17 Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Chair
18 of the Rights Working Group, and Chair of the Asian
19 American Diversity Advisory Council for Comcast/NBCU.

20 She was a board member for Common Cause,
21 the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law,
22 Independent Sector, The National Adult Literacy
23 Commission, National Immigration Law Center, and the
24 National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

25 What her official bio does not capture is

1 the fierce spirit of justice and equality that
2 animates her work here at the Commission and has
3 animated that work throughout her career.

4 I will say that, when I joined the
5 Commission, Commissioner Narasaki's reputation well-
6 preceded her. And I was delighted to learn, in our
7 work together, that that reputation is well-deserved.
8 She is and has been both a leader and a colleague,
9 willing to roll up her sleeves and to put in the
10 spadework to ensure that we, together, do the work
11 that we love and that the work is as strong as it can
12 be.

13 It has been just a deep pleasure to be
14 able to benefit from that expertise, that leadership,
15 and that good collegueship. It's been clear to me
16 throughout my time with Commissioner Narasaki on this
17 Commission that the time, work, and effort she puts
18 into the projects, not just the ones that she leads as
19 lead Commissioner but on all the work of the
20 Commission, has extraordinarily benefitted from her
21 excellence.

22 She's been a consistent advocate for the
23 Commission, as well as for our staff, we're grateful
24 for her vigilance on civil rights issues that the
25 Commission needs to speak out on and her thoughtful

1 consideration of each of the issues that come before
2 the Commission.

3 Commissioner Narasaki, thank you for your
4 service to the Commission and to the country. And I
5 will miss you.

6 If there's nothing further, I hereby
7 adjourn ---

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Oh, Madam Chair?

9 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: -- this meeting. Yes?

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Madam Chair?

11 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Yes, Commission Yaki?

12 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I just wanted to
13 associate myself with your remarks on Commissioner
14 Narasaki. The Commission was invigorated by her
15 joining and has been invigorated by her presence. I
16 count her as a friend and not just a colleague.

17 And I know that she will continue doing
18 what she has been doing here for six years and has
19 continued to do outside of the Commission work which
20 is be a passionate advocate for justice, for human
21 rights, for civil rights, for the dignity and worth of
22 every individual in this country. It has been a
23 privilege and pleasure to serve with her. And I am
24 going to miss her.

25 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Madam Chair,

1 Vice Chair Timmons-Goodson. Would you permit me to
2 say just a couple of words?

3 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Please go ahead, Madam
4 Vice Chair?

5 VICE CHAIR TIMMONS-GOODSON: Thank you so
6 much. I was sworn in on the same day with
7 Commissioner Narasaki. Prior to that time, the only
8 thing that I knew about her was what I had heard at an
9 American Bar Association meeting where she had
10 received the Spirit of Excellence Award.

11 I, in working with her, have come to
12 admire her tremendous work ethic, at her ability to
13 get things done. I've learned a great deal from her.
14 It has indeed been a joy to work with her and thank
15 you, Karen, for being the great Commissioner that you
16 are and for being my friend. All the best to you.

17 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Thank you, Madam
18 Vice Chair.

19 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Madam Chair?

20 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Madam Chair?

21 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Commissioner Adegbile?
22 Commissioner Adegbile and then after Commissioner
23 Adegbile, Commissioner Heriot.

24 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: I yield to
25 Commissioner Heriot.

1 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I just want to thank

2 --

3 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Okay, go ahead.

4 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- Commissioner
5 Narasaki for all her work on the Commission. And I
6 especially want to thank her for her efforts to reach
7 across the aisle. I appreciate it.

8 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you. Go ahead,
9 Commissioner Adegbile.

10 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: I yield to the
11 senior Commissioner from the great state of Nevada.

12 (Laughter.)

13 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Thank you,
14 Commissioner Adegbile. And I guess I am the senior on
15 the Commission. Commissioner Narasaki, I can't
16 believe six years has gone by so fast. I've learned
17 reams of knowledge from you and have admired your
18 leadership during this time.

19 You came to the Commission at a time when
20 we needed you desperately. And I thank you for your
21 leadership, your inspiration, I thank you for being a
22 fighter for civil rights, and I thank you for
23 continuing the struggle. Thank you very much. I will
24 miss you terribly.

25 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: And Commission Adegbile?

1 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Thank you, Madam
2 Chair. I would just like to join in all of the
3 appropriate words of tribute that have been shared for
4 Commissioner Narasaki and just add briefly that when
5 I think of Karen's contributions, not only on this
6 Commission but as a civil rights leader, I think of
7 her as a person of tremendous courage, of an
8 unwavering commitment to equal justice and the
9 equality of all persons in our country.

10 And I am moved by the motivation that
11 brings her to her work in civil rights which, as all
12 of us know, and as she has carefully explained to us
13 at appropriate times throughout our work over many
14 years, is connected to some of the most harrowing and
15 darkest moments of the country in connection with
16 civil rights and human dignity.

17 And so I thank Commissioner Narasaki for
18 her leadership, for her example, for the way in which
19 she reminds us of our history and how it informs the
20 continuing work of the Commission.

21 And I too count Commissioner Narasaki as
22 a friend. And I know that stepping away from this
23 Commission will not dim, in the least bit, her efforts
24 to fight for the equality of all Americans. Thank
25 you, Commissioner Narasaki.

1 MR. MORALES: Madam Chair?

2 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Madam Chair?

3 (Simultaneous speaking.)

4 MR. MORALES: On behalf of the staff ---

5 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Go ahead, Mr. Staff
6 Director.

7 MR. MORALES: Thank you, Madam Chair.

8 Commissioner Narasaki, I can't thank you enough for
9 the leadership you've shown, the advice and counsel
10 you've given to me as a Commissioner on the
11 Commission.

12 And on behalf of the staff, I know all of
13 them will miss you, they're all grateful for the many
14 kindnesses you've given to them, and your hard work to
15 the Commission. They appreciate the work that's been
16 done and how your leadership has helped move the
17 Commission forward.

18 So on behalf on the staff and myself, we
19 thank you for your service to the country and to the
20 Commission.

21 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: Well, thank you
22 all. I feel like I've died, but I'm still around.

23 (Laughter.)

24 COMMISSIONER NARASAKI: I will still be
25 haunting all of you appropriately. I do want to

1 acknowledge, I do have one more hearing, so I will be
2 around to bug you for a couple more weeks. But I very
3 much appreciate Madam Chair's words, since I won't
4 have an opportunity to speak at the hearing.

5 I want to particularly recognize Mauro
6 Morales as the Staff Director and all of the staff,
7 General Counsel, OCRE, operations, the State Advisory
8 Committee staff. I'm very, very proud of the work
9 that all of you have done and the sacrifices that all
10 of you make to help make sure that the most vulnerable
11 voices are heard and that our country continues to
12 move to, live up to its ideals.

13 And I want to really thank the Staff
14 Director in particular, because when he came onboard,
15 we were a bit in chaos. And he has managed very
16 difficult decisions, dealt with a very limited budget,
17 and really helped to restore the foundation of the
18 Commission.

19 I want to also acknowledge the leadership
20 of the chair and my fellow Commissioners with whom I
21 sparred and enjoyed sparring. Because I know that
22 it's because we all passionately believe in what
23 America can be and should be.

24 And I also want to thank all of the
25 special assistants with whom I've worked. I admire

1 you greatly and look forward to seeing your future
2 careers as you all move on as well. And to Jason
3 Lagria, my former special assistant, and he's focused,
4 he has come on in the heat of fire to help to take me
5 to the finish line.

6 And particular comments to the Vice Chair,
7 because as you know, we started together as newbies
8 and have a special bond. And I admire her greatly.
9 And I won't be around to be able to give my remarks
10 when she leaves in a few weeks. So thank you all. It
11 meant a lot to me, your very kind and generous words.

12 CHAIRMAN LHAMON: Thank you, Commissioner
13 Narasaki. And I look forward to one last complete
14 briefing with you before we actually have to say an
15 actual goodbye.

16 If there is nothing further, I hereby
17 adjourn this meeting at 10:28 a.m. Eastern time.
18 Thank you all.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 went off the record at 10:28 a.m.)
21
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25

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Business Meeting

Before: US CCR

Date: 11-08-19

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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