

U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

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TELEPHONIC SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

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FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021

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The Commission convened via teleconference, at 2:00 p.m. EDT, Peter Kirsanow and Michael Yaki, Co-Hosts, then Norma Cantu, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT:

J. CHRISTIAN ADAMS, Commissioner

DEBO P. ADEGBILE, Commissioner

NORMA CANTU, Commissioner

GAIL HERIOT, Commissioner

STEPHEN GILCHRIST, Commissioner

PETER N. KIRSANOW, Commissioner

DAVID KLADNEY, Commissioner

MICHAEL YAKI, Commissioner

MAURO MORALES, Staff Director

DAVID GANZ, General Counsel

STAFF PRESENT:

PAMELA DUNSTON, Chief ASCD

TINALOUISE MARTIN, Director, OM

DAVID MUSSATT, Director, RPCU

COMMISSIONER ASSISTANTS PRESENT:

ALEC DEULL

ALEXANDER HEIDEMAN

JOHN K. MASHBURN

CARISSA MULDER

AMY ROYCE

THOMAS SIMUEL

IRENA VIDULOVIC

JUANA SILVERIO

A G E N D A

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P R O C E E D I N G S

2:02 p.m.

OPERATOR: Good day and welcome to the
Commission business meeting.

Today's conference is being recorded.

At this time, I would like to turn the
conference over to Co-Hosts Commissioner Michael Yaki
and Commissioner Peter Kirsanow. Please go ahead.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Thanks very much.

This is a meeting of the U.S. Commission
on Civil Rights, and it is currently 2:02 p.m. Eastern
Daylight Time, and the meeting is taking place over
the phone.

I'm Commissioner Kirsanow. I'll be co-
chairing the meeting with Commissioner Michael Yaki.

I'll now call the roll.

Commissioner Adams, are you present?

COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Present.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
Adegbile?

COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Present.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
Cantu?

COMMISSIONER CANTU: Present.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner

1 Gilchrist?

2 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Present.

3 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner

4 Heriot?

5 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm here.

6 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner

7 Kladney?

8 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Here.

9 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner Yaki?

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Here.

11 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And Kirsanow is
12 also present, and a quorum of the Commissioners is
13 present.

14 Do we have a court reporter?

15 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And the Staff

17 Director. Mauro, present?

18 MR. MORALES: I am present.

19 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Thank you.

20 All right. The meeting of the Civil

21 Rights Commission will come to order.

22 I. OMNIBUS MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER

23 NORMA CANTU TO SERVE AS CHAIR AND TO APPROVE

24 THREE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

25 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And the first item

1 on the agenda is an omnibus motion to confirm
2 Commissioner Norma Cantu as the Chair, as well as
3 making certain changes to the Commission's procedures.

4 I.D. TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER NORMA CANTU TO SERVE
5 AS USCCR CHAIR

6 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: During our April
7 16th meeting, Commissioner Cantu confirmed that, if
8 confirmed as Chair, she'll discontinue the Speaker
9 Series that was in place for a while under the
10 previous Chair, and that Commissioner Cantu will
11 always vote to maintain the Commission's tradition of
12 30 days for Commissioners' statements, 30 days for
13 rebuttals, and, if necessary, 10 days for
14 surrebuttals. So, we don't need to revisit that
15 today.

16 Therefore, I move, along with Co-Chair
17 Commissioner Yaki, that the Commission confirm Norma
18 Cantu as Chair; that the Commission adopt a Memorandum
19 of Understanding regarding the appointment of members
20 to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of
21 Advisors, and that the Commission adopt revisions to
22 Administrative Instruction 1.

23 I'll read these into the record. Be
24 patient. This will take a couple of minutes.

25 I.A. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION REGARDING

1 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COMMISSION

2 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: First, the
3 Memorandum of Understanding regarding the appointment
4 of members to the EAC Board of Advisors, Section 1.01,
5 reads:

6 "Any authority not specifically granted
7 the Commission on Civil Rights by statute or
8 regulation or Executive Order to appoint members to
9 serve on other federal entities such as advisory
10 boards, task forces, other commissions, et cetera,
11 shall be exercised by the Commission as a whole by
12 majority vote."

13 Paragraph .02. "Any authority
14 specifically granted the Staff Director of the
15 Commission on Civil Rights by statute or regulation or
16 Executive Order to appoint members to serve on other
17 federal entities such as advisory boards, tasks
18 forces, other commissions, et cetera, shall be
19 exercised by the Staff Director."

20 Paragraph .03. "Any authority
21 specifically granted the Chair of the Commission on
22 Civil Rights by statute or regulation or Executive
23 Order to appoint members to serve on other federal
24 entities such as advisory boards, task forces, other
25 commissions, et cetera, shall be exercised by the

1 Chair."

2 "Section 2.02(1). For the two
3 appointments to the U.S. Election Assistance
4 Commission, the members appointed by Democratic
5 appointees shall nominate two individuals who are
6 ready, willing, and able to serve, and the members
7 appointed by the Republican authorities shall nominate
8 two individuals who are ready, willing, and able to
9 serve."

10 Subparagraph (2). "The members appointed
11 by the Democratic authorities shall select one of the
12 two individuals nominated by the members appointed by
13 the Republican authorities, and the members appointed
14 by the Republican authorities shall select one of the
15 two individuals nominated by the members appointed by
16 the Democratic authorities."

17 Subparagraph (3). "The members selected
18 shall be placed in nomination and ratified in
19 conformance with Section 1."

20 I.B. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION ON INTERVIEWS WITH

21 EXTERNAL FACT WITNESSES

22 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Next, I'll read
23 into the record the new section of AI 1 regarding
24 witness interviews by staff. The Staff Director shall
25 ensure that this provision is codified in the

1 appropriate place of AI 1, and it reads as follows:

2 "As the staff persons arrange for
3 interviews of external fact witnesses or experts for
4 the purpose of informing writing of reports, et
5 cetera, the Commissioners will be given notice of the
6 names and titles of proposed witnesses, so that the
7 Commissioners and their Special Assistants can observe
8 the interview firsthand. The observations will help
9 the Commissioners better understand the subject
10 matters covered, and enable the Commissioner to
11 conduct and follow up with questions of the witnesses.
12 If more than one Commissioner (or Commissioner's
13 Special Assistant) representing Democratic or
14 Republican appointing authorities wishes to attend,
15 the Staff Director may limit attendance to one
16 representative from each (provided circumstances
17 clearly warrant such a limit)."

18 I.C. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION ON WITNESSES AT
19 HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS

20 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Finally, I'll read
21 into the record the revisions to AI 1.6, and that one
22 reads:

23 "Section 11. Commission Hearings.

24 ".01 The OGC is responsible for preparing
25 and holding Commission hearings. This includes

1 ensuring that the witnesses, when viewed as a whole,
2 possess sufficient policy, legal, academic, advocacy,
3 and other knowledge and experience necessary for a
4 full and balanced inquiry into the issues."

5 Paragraph .02. "To document that hearing
6 witnesses reflected varied and opposing views,
7 opinions, and perspectives, OSD completes Section III
8 of the National Office Report Checklist for Hearing
9 Reports form. By completing this form, OSD certifies
10 that the hearing included a numerical balance of
11 witnesses between opposing views, opinions and
12 perspectives or that a numerical balance could not be
13 achieved or was not appropriate in light of the
14 subject of the hearing and/or the availability of
15 credible witnesses. Section IV is completed by the
16 Staff Director before the proposed final draft report
17 and checklist are provided to the external reviewer."

18 Paragraph .03. "Staff is encouraged to
19 use various sources to gather suggestions for
20 appropriate hearing witnesses. Commissioners are the
21 primary source of suggestions for hearing witnesses.
22 Additional sources may include, but are not limited
23 to, other program offices, regional directors, and
24 appropriate external groups. If two Commissioners
25 request that staff invite a particular witness, staff

1 must invite that witness. No Commissioner may act
2 jointly to invite more than two witnesses, which
3 results in no more than 8 witnesses shall be required
4 to be invited by staff by action of the Commission.
5 Thereafter, a Commissioner or Commissioners may
6 suggest as many witnesses as they deem advisable, but
7 staff is not obligated to invite them, and staff may
8 consult additional sources to invite additional
9 witnesses for hearings."

10 Paragraph .04. We're almost there.
11 That's not part of the AI. "OGC prepares hearing
12 proposals, design or implementation plans, and
13 briefing or background books. When preparing hearing
14 proposals this office shall demonstrate a
15 consideration of varied and opposing views, opinions,
16 and perspectives. This office also verifies the
17 accuracy of transcripts, drafts hearing reports, and
18 maintains official hearing records."

19 Paragraph .05. "OGC is responsible for
20 supplying a complete and correct transcript with
21 appropriate exhibits to OSD and ASCD for publication.
22 Hearing transcripts do not require editorial review."

23 Paragraph .06. "The hearing record will
24 be kept open for a period of 30 days after the hearing
25 or as otherwise established by a majority vote of the

1 Commissioners. Any material or information placed in
2 the record during this period will be available to the
3 Commissioners upon request."

4 Paragraph "Section 12. Commission
5 Briefings."

6 Subparagraph .01. "Briefings are used by
7 the Commission to provide Commissioners and the
8 general public insight into civil rights without the
9 formality of a hearing. Any program office may be
10 assigned responsibility for conducting a briefing by
11 the Staff Director."

12 Paragraph .02. "Staff is encouraged to
13 use various sources to gather suggestions for
14 appropriate briefing witnesses. Commissioners are the
15 primary source of suggestions for briefing witnesses.
16 Additional sources may include, but are not limited
17 to, other program offices, regional directors, and
18 appropriate external groups. If two Commissioners
19 jointly request that staff invite a particular
20 witness, staff must invite that witness. No
21 Commissioner may act jointly to invite more than two
22 witnesses, which results in no more than 8 witnesses
23 shall be required to be invited by staff by action of
24 the Commission. Thereafter, a Commissioner or
25 Commissioners may suggest as many witnesses as they

1 deem advisable, but staff is not obligated to invite
2 them, and staff may consult additional sources to
3 invite additional witnesses for hearings."

4 ".03 Commissioners are provided a
5 proposed final list of briefing presenters for
6 approval. To document that the briefing witnesses
7 reflected varied and opposing views, opinions, and
8 perspectives, OSD completes Section III of the
9 National Office Report Checklist for Briefing Reports
10 form. By completing this part of the form, OSD
11 certifies that the briefing included a numerical
12 balance of witnesses between opposing views, opinions
13 and perspectives or that a numerical balance could not
14 be achieved or was not appropriate in light of the
15 subject of the briefing and/or the availability of
16 credible witnesses. Section IV of this form is
17 completed by the Staff Director before the proposed
18 final draft report and checklist is provided to the
19 external reviewer."

20 Finally, ".04 The briefing record will be
21 kept open for a period of 30 days after the briefing
22 or as otherwise established by a majority vote of the
23 Commissioners. Any material or information placed in
24 the record during this period will be available to the
25 Commissioners upon request."

1 Kirsanow now pauses for a drink of vodka.

2 (Laughter.)

3 And that's the motion. Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes, second. Adams.

5 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Okay. The floor
6 is open for discussion, and I turn it over to
7 Commissioner Yaki.

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you very much,
9 Co-Chair Kirsanow.

10 First, I have a point of clarification.
11 You had indicated that the first document that you
12 read, which was on the appointments issue, was a
13 Memorandum of Understanding, but I actually believe
14 that is an Administrative Instruction. Is that not
15 correct?

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes, that's right.

17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes. Okay. So, I
18 wanted to clarify that for the record.

19 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Secondly, for those of
21 you who were listening, the last document that
22 Commissioner Kirsanow read, Section 11.01, Section
23 11.03, Section 12.02 were the only sections of that
24 entire document that were amended. The rest remain
25 intact as current Commission policy. I just wanted to

1 clarify that for people who were listening in.

2 So, there has been a motion and a second.
3 I am first going to do a little parliamentary moving,
4 which is I think we need to first move to accept,
5 approve and amend the agenda.

6 II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: So, I am going to set
8 aside the first motion for the time being and first
9 ask, is there a motion to approve the agenda?

10 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: So moved. So moved.
11 Adams.

12 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Adams
13 moves to approve the agenda. Is there a second?

14 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Second.
15 Gilchrist.

16 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Second by Commissioner
17 Gilchrist.

18 On the motion to approve the agenda -- we
19 still have time to amend the agenda -- but on the
20 motion to approve the agenda, so we have this before
21 us, is there any discussion?

22 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Wait. I thought you
23 had to do amendments first?

24 COMMISSIONER YAKI: No. Well, I would
25 rather have the agenda approved first, and then, amend

1 the agenda. And then, we'd move on the agenda as
2 approved.

3 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I don't think that's
4 the right way to do that.

5 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, that may be, but
6 I'm going to put the extra vote in, just to make sure
7 that no one can argue that we didn't follow strict
8 rules.

9 So, on the order to approve the agenda
10 now, I'm going to call the roll.

11 Commissioner Kirsanow, since you have the
12 roll sheet, could you call the roll?

13 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Sure.

14 Commissioner Adams?

15 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
17 Adegbile?

18 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
20 Cantu?

21 COMMISSIONER CANTU: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
23 Gilchrist?

24 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner

1 Heriot?

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No.

3 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner

4 Kladney?

5 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner Yaki?

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And this is

9 Kirsanow. I say "yes," also.

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you.

11 There are 8 ayes, no objections.

12 The agenda is now before us. Is there a
13 motion to approve, to amend the agenda --

14 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I believe,
15 Commissioner Yaki, I think there were 7 ayes and 1
16 nay.

17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Oh, 1 nay. I'm sorry.
18 7 ayes, 7 yeses; 1 no.

19 Okay. Now we will take before us the
20 motion to amend the agenda to put forth an omnibus
21 motion that will approve both Commissioner, that will
22 approve Commissioner Cantu as Chair of the United
23 States Commission on Civil Rights, as well as approve
24 the three Administrative Instructions that were read
25 into the record by Commissioner Kirsanow.

1 III. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: It has been moved, it
3 has been seconded, moved by Commissioner Kirsanow,
4 seconded by Commissioner Adams.

5 Is there any discussion?

6 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Commissioner
7 Adegbile.

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Adegbile,
9 the floor is yours.

10 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Yes, I would have
11 preferred that we move item by item and not have these
12 things as an omnibus because there may be pieces that
13 are acceptable and pieces that are unacceptable; and
14 thus, it makes it hard to parse those things out.
15 Because we're proceeding in omnibus fashion, it will
16 affect my vote, though, obviously, I support
17 Commissioner Cantu in her effort to chair our
18 Commission in service of the people of the United
19 States. But the omnibus motion will have impact on
20 the way I will be voting.

21 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you,
22 Commissioner Adegbile.

23 Is there any further discussion?

24 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Dave Kladney.

25 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Kladney?

1 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: I concur with
2 Commissioner Adegbile's assessment here, and this
3 omnibus motion will affect my vote the same way.
4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you,
6 Commissioner Kladney.

7 If you can hang on just one second?
8 Is there any further discussion?

9 MR. MORALES: Staff Director Mauro Morales
10 requests permission to address the Commissioners.

11 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Without objection, I
12 will recognize Staff Director Morales.

13 MR. MORALES: Thank you, Commissioner. I
14 appreciate the time.

15 I wanted to let you know that, and all the
16 Commissioners know, that I and the Executive Committee
17 have no opinion on the AI or the MOU about
18 appointments to external commissions that the
19 Commissioners are considering.

20 I will say that the Staff Director and the
21 Executive Committee believe the proposed AIs
22 concerning OCR witness selection and witness
23 interviews -- I believe they're designated as AI 1 and
24 AI 1.6 -- inappropriately conflict with existing
25 Administrative Instructions and Commission

1 regulations. Furthermore, we believe that they
2 unreasonably create programmatic and operations
3 problems for the Commission.

4 Commissioners provided no evidence,
5 justification, or rationale for the necessity and the
6 creation of these two AIs. As a consequence, the
7 Staff Director and the Executive Committee
8 respectfully object to them and recommend that these
9 AIs be withdrawn from further consideration.

10 We thank you for your time and your
11 consideration. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Commissioner Yaki?

14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Just one second. I
15 just trying to get my phone back into where it should
16 be.

17 Thank you, Staff Director Morales.

18 Commissioner Kladney, were you speaking?

19 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes, Commissioner
20 Yaki.

21 I would like to move to sever the items
22 into individual votes.

23 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you.

24 The motion to sever is a privileged motion
25 and is not debatable or subject to a vote. So, we

1 will have to take an individual vote on each one of
2 these items.

3 However, in the discretion of the Co-
4 Chair, I'm going to take them up in the order that I
5 deem.

6 So, I'm going to first start with the AI
7 on the Administrative Instruction regarding
8 appointments by the Commission. That individual
9 Instruction is before us.

10 And, Commissioner Kirsanow, would you
11 please call the roll?

12 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I'm sorry, are we
13 voting on individual -- I'm lost as to what we're
14 voting on right now. Are we voting on a separate
15 issue or the omnibus?

16 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Well, the issue is
17 that each of these items are individual items. They
18 are put together as an omnibus. However, a
19 Commissioner -- because they were originally noticed
20 as individual items on the agenda, and the motion that
21 you put and seconded and was put on the agenda was to
22 combine them all into a single motion, a motion to
23 sever, under Robert's Rules, is a privileged motion
24 that is non-debatable and is -- well, it's self-
25 executing. The Commission has actually done that

1 before on previous occasions.

2 What I'm going to do, though, is call on
3 AIs --

4 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No, it's not self-
5 executing.

6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: It is self-executing.

7 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No, it's not.

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: And if you would
9 listen to me for a second, I am going to call the AIs
10 first prior to the vote for Commissioner Cantu as
11 Chair.

12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay.

13 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Okay?

14 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But it's not self-
15 executing. It's non-debatable. Nothing is self-
16 executing. But --

17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: But a motion to sever
18 actually --

19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- it's out of
20 order, but that's okay with me.

21 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Okay. But I will tell
22 you, under Robert's Rules, which is something I know
23 you care about, a motion to sever is self-executing.

24 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: But it's not a
25 motion, and that's --

1 COMMISSIONER YAKI: It is a motion to
2 sever.

3 Anyway, that being the case --

4 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Well, hold on. Hold
5 on. Hold on. Okay. Are you saying that we are
6 voting on the motion to sever --

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: No.

8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- or are you saying
9 we are voting on the AI?

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: We are voting on the
11 AIs. And then, we will proceed to a vote on
12 Commissioner Cantu, because the motion to sever is not
13 something that is subject to a vote. I guess you
14 would call it a request to sever, but it is one that,
15 under Robert's Rules, is --

16 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No.

17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: -- is a privilege
18 of --

19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I'm willing to let
20 this go right now, but no.

21 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Okay. Well, I would
22 disagree, and we can look it up, since you love
23 Robert's Rules so much.

24 So, Commissioner --

25 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Co-Chair Yaki, point

1 of parliamentary inquiry. It's Commissioner Adams.

2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, Commissioner
3 Adams.

4 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Could you, for the
5 record, tell us, because I can't find it, where is the
6 request to sever in Robert's Rules?

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Because if we do
9 this in the order you're saying, let's just go.

10 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Well, it's a point of
11 parliamentary inquiry. I made a point of
12 parliamentary inquiry, and I'm just asking, what is
13 the number of Robert's Rules? Just help me find it.
14 I can't find it.

15 COMMISSIONER YAKI: I'll find it, but I'll
16 find it later.

17 As the Chair, I'm exercise my call.

18 So, Commissioner Kirsanow, on
19 Administrative Instruction, Commissioner Kirsanow,
20 would you please call the roll?

21 I.A. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION REGARDING
22 APPOINTMENTS BY THE COMMISSION

23 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
24 Adams, how do you vote?

25 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
2 Adegbile?
3 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: No.
4 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
5 Cantu?
6 COMMISSIONER CANTU: Yes.
7 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
8 Gilchrist?
9 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Yes.
10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
11 Heriot?
12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.
13 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
14 Kladney?
15 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: No.
16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner Yaki?
17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.
18 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And I vote aye.
19 It is 6-to-2 aye.
20 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Thank you.
21 The Administrative Instruction on
22 Commission appointments is passed.
23 Next, we will hear or we will have a vote
24 on the Administrative Instruction on -- sorry, I have
25 to put these all in order -- on the proposed AI on

1 interviews with external fact witnesses. That was
2 read into the record by Commissioner Kirsanow.

3 I.B. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION ON INTERVIEWS WITH

4 EXTERNAL FACT WITNESSES

5 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Would you please call
6 the roll?

7 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
8 Adams?

9 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
11 Adegbile?

12 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Nay.

13 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
14 Cantu?

15 COMMISSIONER CANTU: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
17 Gilchrist?

18 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
20 Heriot?

21 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
23 Kladney?

24 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: No.

25 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner Yaki?

1 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And I vote yes.

3 The motion passes 6-to-2.

4 COMMISSIONER YAKI: The motion on the
5 Administrative Instruction on interviewing external
6 fact witnesses passes 6-to-2.

7 We will now move to the last
8 Administrative Instruction on witnesses at hearings
9 and briefings, as read by Commissioner Kirsanow.

10 I.C. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION ON WITNESSES AT
11 HEARING AND BRIEFINGS

12 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Would you please call
13 the roll?

14 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
15 Adams?

16 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
18 Adegbile?

19 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Nay.

20 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
21 Cantu?

22 COMMISSIONER CANTU: Yes.

23 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
24 Gilchrist?

25 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
2 Heriot?

3 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
5 Kladney?

6 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: No.

7 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner Yaki?

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And Kirsanow votes
10 yes.

11 Passes 6-to-2.

12 COMMISSIONER YAKI: The Administrative
13 Instruction on witnesses for briefings and hearings is
14 hereby passed.

15 Finally, we come to the motion to confirm
16 Commissioner Norma Cantu as Chair of the United States
17 Commission on Civil Rights.

18 I.D. TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER NORMA CANTU TO SERVE

19 AS USCCR CHAIR

20 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Kirsanow,
21 would you please call the roll in our last actions as
22 Co-Chairs of the Commission?

23 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Okay.

24 Commissioner Adams?

25 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

1 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
2 Adegbile?
3 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.
4 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
5 Cantu?
6 COMMISSIONER CANTU: Yes.
7 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
8 Gilchrist?
9 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Yes.
10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
11 Heriot?
12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.
13 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
14 Kladney?
15 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.
16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner Yaki?
17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.
18 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: And I vote yes.
19 The motion passes 8-to-0.
20 And, Chairperson Cantu, congratulations.
21 We'll pass the scepter to you.
22 (Applause.)
23 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you very much.
24 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Congratulations.
25 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

1 I really want to thank the White House,
2 the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Senate, the Commissioners,
3 those of you we call the "Group of Four" who were able
4 to look very seriously at these matters of process.
5 And I know that the result is one that will ultimately
6 adhere. And we did work hard together to get to this
7 place.

8 I also want to thank the Special
9 Assistants, the staff who set up this call, all our
10 staff, and your families who spared you all, so that
11 we could get the Commission's work done.

12 For those of you who are listening, this
13 is what it looks like to be respectful. This is what
14 it looks like to show that we can disagree, but do it
15 in a very professional way. And I want to thank
16 everyone on this call for providing this teachable
17 moment for our audience.

18 We have an agenda that's been amended in
19 terms of handling the first item. As a matter of
20 procedure, I want to circle back to all the
21 Commissioners.

22 III. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

23 CHAIR CANTU: Are there other items on the
24 agenda that you need addressed today?

25 (No response.)

1 Hearing none, I would ask that --

2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Wait. I'm sorry, I
3 was on mute. I was on mute, Commissioner Cantu.

4 CHAIR CANTU: Okay. I hear you. I hear
5 you. Please. That is why I offered -- this is my
6 listening, and next time I will listen longer.

7 Do we have other items on today's agenda?
8 Commissioner Yaki?

9 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Cantu, I
10 would simply say this: there are items on the agenda
11 that I think have been adequately noticed and need to
12 be addressed. However, in the interest of deferring
13 to some concerns by my colleagues, I would ask that,
14 if they are not discussed today, that they be
15 subjected to a notational vote at their earliest
16 convenience.

17 For me, especially the statement on Asian
18 American/Pacific Islander hate and the continued
19 concerns and struggles of our community with regard to
20 the uptick in hate crimes, bias, and prejudice,
21 stemming from or incited by the coronavirus pandemic,
22 is one that continues to -- I think we need to
23 reiterate to the new Administration our concerns, and
24 I would like this addressed at the earliest possible
25 convenience and by a notational vote, but I defer to

1 my colleagues who have expressed some desire to have
2 a shorter meeting today.

3 CHAIR CANTU: I'm sorry, are you making a
4 motion, Commissioner Yaki, or are you suggesting an
5 alternative way that we handle it?

6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, I was simply
7 saying that I would like it to be moved on today. And
8 so, I would like to move it. But if there is no
9 second because of concerns of time, then I would
10 simply ask the Chair, at her discretion, to put it on
11 for a notational ballot approval at her earliest
12 convenience.

13 I will formally move to take from the
14 agenda Item III.B., the statement on Asian American
15 hate, and ask for it to be approved today. If not,
16 then it be brought up at the earliest convenience by
17 the Chair for a notational vote.

18 CHAIR CANTU: We're discussing amending
19 today's agenda. So, we have a motion to discuss today
20 the Asian American statement.

21 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Kladney seconds.
22 Kladney seconds.

23 CHAIR CANTU: Discussion?

24 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Madam Chair, I'm
25 getting a little confused here.

1 CHAIR CANTU: The motion is --

2 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Is the motion about
3 whether or not we're going to discuss this or whether
4 or not we're removing it from the agenda? I'm just
5 getting confused.

6 CHAIR CANTU: We're still talking about
7 the agenda. Do we want to keep this on today's
8 agenda?

9 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: My understanding is
10 that some of my colleagues were going to offer an
11 amendment, and that works better on the agenda than it
12 does by notational vote.

13 CHAIR CANTU: Are you offering a friendly
14 amendment to a motion that's been seconded on keeping
15 it on today's agenda? Or are you agreeing --

16 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: That's just a reason
17 to vote yes or no.

18 CHAIR CANTU: Okay.

19 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I mean, if there's
20 going to be an amendment, then it's better to discuss
21 it today --

22 CHAIR CANTU: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: -- than by
24 notational vote, which doesn't lend itself to that
25 very well.

1 CHAIR CANTU: I understand that.

2 By the way, the rule on dividing a
3 question into subparts was 27.1.

4 So, any other discussion about going
5 forward with adding the Asian American statement to
6 today's agenda?

7 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Chairman Cantu,
8 Christian Adams.

9 CHAIR CANTU: Yes, Commissioner?

10 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: I don't have a strong
11 view either way. I would urge Commissioner Yaki to
12 take a look. There might be some fixes. There's some
13 typos in the document, such as I think the last
14 sentence in one of the documents, that I would have a
15 better time dealing with it if those were fixed. And
16 that may be a notational vote. I don't really have a
17 view on that because there's some typos.

18 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Okay. Thank you for
19 that consideration.

20 Look, I just want to express my view that
21 we wanted to get this thing done. I'm going to
22 withdraw my motion for the time being, since I think
23 I confused everyone. So, I am going to withdraw my
24 motion.

25 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you, Commissioner

1 Yaki.

2 Other items that -- let me see if I can
3 move this along. The rest of the items, C, D, E, were
4 part of the vote that just took place. So, I can I
5 use the discretion of the Chair to say we've already
6 dealt with those items? That would be the rebuttals,
7 Speaker Series, appointments.

8 Any objection to that?

9 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: How did we deal
10 with them, Madam Chair?

11 CHAIR CANTU: In the meeting two weeks
12 ago, I made a statement regarding the Speaker Series.
13 In today's AI, we had an AI on the
14 rebuttal/surrebuttal that passed. And on the
15 appointments, we had a vote today on the bipartisan
16 appointment that passed.

17 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We haven't dealt
18 with the Walter Williams thing.

19 CHAIR CANTU: Right. Do I hear a motion
20 to keep that on today's agenda for discussion?

21 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: It's already there.

22 CHAIR CANTU: It's already there.

23 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

24 CHAIR CANTU: It's been noticed a couple
25 of times, you're correct.

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IV. BUSINESS MEETING

CHAIR CANTU: So, at this point, I'm open to a motion and a second, so that we can have discussion on the Walter Williams memorial.

IV.A. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON STATEMENT OF

WALTER E. WILLIAMS

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Okay. I move that we adopt the Walter Williams memorial.

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Kirsanow seconds.

CHAIR CANTU: I'm sorry, who seconded?

COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Kirsanow.

CHAIR CANTU: Kirsanow.

Commissioner Heriot moves, Commissioner Kirsanow seconds.

We are in discussion.

For those who are listening, in the past the individual Commissioners have been able to submit names of persons that they intend to recognize. It is not a policymaking. It is a statement and sign of respect.

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Madam Chair?

CHAIR CANTU: Yes, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER HERIOT: If you want, I'll talk about this. But, you know, it's just we've done this routinely now. I have voted for many of these

1 when there have been people who have done significant
2 work in this area.

3 This is one that matters to me, in the
4 sense that Walter Williams is a hero of mine. And I
5 think that he's also someone that many, many people
6 think highly of.

7 I don't want to extend the meeting
8 unnecessarily. Everybody has seen this statement now
9 several times. And so, you know, I'd like to be able
10 to say a kind word on Dr. Williams' passing.

11 CHAIR CANTU: You have my condolences and
12 I offer condolences to the family.

13 Any other comments?

14 (No response.)

15 Could we do a voice vote or would you want
16 to do a roll call vote? What is your preference?

17 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Probably should do
18 a roll call, given how confusing these things are over
19 the phone.

20 CHAIR CANTU: I appreciate that.

21 Is there any further discussion? Does
22 someone want to call the question?

23 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Adams. Call the
24 question.

25 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

1 We've had a question. The question is an
2 aye vote supports the draft that has been duly
3 circulated to us to honor Professor Walter Williams.

4 I would call alphabetically.

5 Adams?

6 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

7 CHAIR CANTU: Adegbile?

8 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Nay.

9 CHAIR CANTU: Gilchrist?

10 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Yes.

11 CHAIR CANTU: Heriot?

12 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

13 CHAIR CANTU: Kirsanow?

14 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes.

15 CHAIR CANTU: Kladney?

16 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: No.

17 CHAIR CANTU: Yaki?

18 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Aye.

19 CHAIR CANTU: Cantu votes no.

20 Please note on the record, though, that,
21 as Chair, I am cautious about the process of
22 recognizing people where it's not clear, and has not
23 been clear, what our criteria have been, but I do very
24 deeply offer my condolences to those who knew the
25 Professor and I do offer my prayers to the family.

1 Can we move to the next order of business?

2 It is the item that has been noticed, the North
3 Carolina State Advisory Council.

4 It is our responsibility on the Commission
5 -- and it's a privilege to do this -- to approve --

6 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Point of order,
7 Commissioner.

8 CHAIR CANTU: Yes, please. Yes, please.

9 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Point of order, Chair
10 Cantu.

11 CHAIR CANTU: Uh-hum.

12 IV.B. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON

13 ANTI-ASIAN AMERICAN HATE

14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Yaki.

15 One, on the item on Asian American/Pacific
16 Islander hate, I saw the typo, "opposite" to
17 "opposition". Thank you, Commissioner Adams for
18 drawing that to my attention.

19 When I withdrew my motion, it was for
20 consideration -- it was in light of the idea that
21 perhaps we were going to not consider other items on
22 the agenda and move on. But if we are considering
23 other items on the agenda, then I wish that item to be
24 heard in turn as Item III.B.

25 CHAIR CANTU: Is there an objection?

1 I think fair play would be we've heard
2 from other Commissioners on their motions. So, as
3 Chair, I'm exercising my management of time.

4 We will, hopefully, get these matters done
5 pretty quickly. So, let's do our best.

6 On the Asian American statement
7 regarding --

8 COMMISSIONER YAKI: As amended.

9 CHAIR CANTU: As amended.

10 COMMISSIONER YAKI: As amended. Change
11 the word "opposite" to "opposition".

12 CHAIR CANTU: Right. Your motion was
13 seconded by?

14 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Kladney.

15 CHAIR CANTU: Kladney. Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 And discussion?

18 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Commissioner Adams.

19 CHAIR CANTU: Yes, Commissioner?

20 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Commissioner Yaki, I
21 had hoped to send a note. Take a look at that
22 sentence because it seems to be relating to the
23 previous Administration, but perhaps not.

24 COMMISSIONER YAKI: No, there's actually
25 some continued controversy on this issue, Commissioner

1 Adams.

2 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Okay.

3 COMMISSIONER YAKI: So, I would like it to
4 stand as is.

5 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: All right.

6 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Madam Chair?

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: In fact, there's been
8 some controversy as to whether it went one way or
9 backwards, or whatever. So, I think that putting our
10 position firmly is important.

11 CHAIR CANTU: Who was acting to be
12 recognized? I'm sorry. My ears --

13 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
14 Kirsanow.

15 CHAIR CANTU: Oh, thank you, Commissioner.

16 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Thank you, Madam
17 Chair.

18 I would move to amend the letter to
19 include the language to the following effect: that
20 the federal government should withhold funding to any
21 higher education institution if that institution has
22 a policy in place or engages in a practice that
23 discriminates against Asian Americans in recruitment
24 or applicant review or admissions.

25 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I second.

1 CHAIR CANTU: We have a motion --

2 COMMISSIONER YAKI: May I respond?

3 CHAIR CANTU: Yes, please.

4 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Yaki
5 responding.

6 Thank you, Commissioner Kirsanow, for that
7 amendment. I will not accept it. This is dealing
8 solely with the issue of the concerns regarding overt
9 acts of bias and hate crime, as perpetrated against
10 the Asian American community, stemming from, and
11 incited by, in my view, the pandemic. The issue that
12 you raise is one that I know that you care about, but
13 I believe is not germane to this particular issue, and
14 I ask my colleagues to oppose it.

15 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: And it has been
16 seconded.

17 CHAIR CANTU: Is there further discussion?

18 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Madam Chair?

19 CHAIR CANTU: Under the rules --

20 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Commissioner
21 Adegbile.

22 CHAIR CANTU: Yes, please. Commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: It's my
24 understanding that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
25 already creates a power for the federal government to

1 withhold funding if there are findings of
2 noncompliance with federal civil rights law. And so,
3 in my view, this suggestion adds nothing to the
4 current legal regime.

5 CHAIR CANTU: So, your contribution is
6 that the amendment is unnecessary?

7 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Yes.

8 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER YAKI: So, we need a vote on
10 the motion to amend.

11 CHAIR CANTU: Has someone called the
12 question on that motion, on the discussion on that?

13 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: There was a motion
14 and it was seconded.

15 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Adams. Call the
16 question.

17 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

18 There's been a motion to amend, seconded,
19 discussion.

20 Are you all ready to vote on the motion to
21 amend to add language regarding higher education
22 discrimination? Are you ready on that?

23 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes.

24 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

25 So, a roll call vote would be Adams,

1 please.

2 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Yes.

3 CHAIR CANTU: Adegbile?

4 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Nay.

5 CHAIR CANTU: Gilchrist?

6 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Yes.

7 CHAIR CANTU: Heriot?

8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

9 CHAIR CANTU: Kirsanow?

10 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Yes.

11 CHAIR CANTU: Kladney?

12 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: No.

13 CHAIR CANTU: And I vote no.

14 COMMISSIONER YAKI: You forgot me.

15 CHAIR CANTU: Oh, sorry. Where were you?

16 COMMISSIONER YAKI: You didn't call my

17 name.

18 CHAIR CANTU: I'm so sorry.

19 Okay. Help me out.

20 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Commissioner Yaki

21 votes no.

22 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

23 I saw your name and in my brain I thought

24 I called you. I apologize.

25 So, we have -- I vote no. So, we have

1 4-4. The motion to amend does not carry.

2 We're back to the original motion.

3 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, move to approve
4 the -- move for the vote on the full motion.

5 CHAIR CANTU: All right. A roll call
6 vote?

7 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Yes, please.

8 CHAIR CANTU: Adams?

9 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Abstain.

10 CHAIR CANTU: Adegbile?

11 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Aye.

12 CHAIR CANTU: Cantu? Well, skip me until
13 the end.

14 Gilchrist?

15 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Gilchrist
16 abstains.

17 CHAIR CANTU: Heriot?

18 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I abstain. There's
19 something that I agree with in the letter, but,
20 unfortunately, not all of it. So, I'm going to have
21 to abstain.

22 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

23 Kirsanow?

24 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Is that the famous
25 director of "Rashomon"? Or is that Commissioner

1 Kirsanow?

2 (Laughter.)

3 In any event, I'd rather be the director
4 because I think he's a lot more entertaining and more
5 important.

6 But, nonetheless, Kirsanow abstains.

7 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

8 Kladney?

9 COMMISSIONER KLADNEY: Yes.

10 CHAIR CANTU: Yaki?

11 COMMISSIONER YAKI: Curacao is actually an
12 alcohol. Kurosawa is a Japanese director.

13 (Laughter.)

14 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: It sounded like
15 Kurosawa to me.

16 (Laughter.)

17 COMMISSIONER YAKI: And Commissioner Yaki
18 votes aye.

19 CHAIR CANTU: Did I count correctly? With
20 the abstentions, the ayes have it?

21 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER ADEGBILE: Yes.

23 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you. Okay.

24 We have a little bit of time to do the
25 North Carolina State Advisory Council motion on

1 membership.

2 IV.C. DISCUSSION ON NC SAC

3 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We haven't seen the
4 list yet. So, I don't know think we can do this one.

5 CHAIR CANTU: I am sorry. Was the list in
6 the -- were emails exchanged? But you're right, I
7 don't believe that we have -- did we attach a list?

8 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: No, I haven't seen
9 one.

10 CHAIR CANTU: Okay, okay.

11 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Not the big list,
12 no.

13 CHAIR CANTU: All right.

14 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: We should do this by
15 notational vote. I think it's going to be an easy
16 one. It's just that we have to confirm who's in and
17 who's not.

18 CHAIR CANTU: And excuse me, but it's the
19 first time I've done a notational vote. Do I direct
20 the Staff Director to follow that process? Or does
21 that require a vote?

22 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: I think you can just
23 direct the Staff Director.

24 CHAIR CANTU: Okay. It's administrative,
25 finally. A short item.

1 Speaking of the Staff Director, could we
2 have a brief report on the item agenda on management
3 on operations?

4 IV.D. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

5 STAFF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6 MR. MORALES: Congratulations on becoming
7 the Chair, Madam Chair.

8 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

9 MR. MORALES: In the interest of time, I
10 have nothing further to add, other than is already
11 contained in the report that was submitted to
12 Commissioners. As always, I remain available to
13 discuss any particular matter with a Commissioner.

14 And I thank you.

15 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you.

16 Normally, there would be an item called
17 New Business, but, in the interest of letting everyone
18 enjoy their family and go back to their other work,
19 are there any other matters before we entertain a
20 motion to adjourn?

21 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: Commissioner
22 Kurosawa here, or Kirsanow.

23 (Laughter.)

24 CHAIR CANTU: Kirsanow.

25 (Laughter.)

1 COMMISSIONER KIRSANOW: I just want to
2 thank Chairperson Cantu and congratulate her for being
3 Chair. I'm looking forward to many more meetings with
4 you as Chair.

5 CHAIR CANTU: I am looking forward to
6 that, too -- thank you -- and to seeing you ultimately
7 in person.

8 I understand Commissioner Adams will be
9 having a one-year anniversary of his appointment next
10 week and he's never seen the rest of you folks in
11 person. So, these are unusual times that we're
12 conducting business. But I'm optimistic, given the
13 good faith shown in these conversations and the good
14 faith shown as you all help this country through
15 difficult times.

16 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: Chairwoman Canto,
17 Stephen Gilchrist here.

18 CHAIR CANTU: Yes?

19 COMMISSIONER GILCHRIST: I just wanted to
20 thank, also, Commissioner Kirsanow, Commissioner
21 Heriot, Commissioner Yaki, and yourself for the good-
22 faith effort that you guys put into the negotiations
23 for the Commission. I am very pleased at the work
24 that you've come up with, and certainly, we look
25 forward to your tenure as our Chair. So, we look

1 forward to working with you for sure.

2 CHAIR CANTU: I appreciate that.

3 Normally, when three new Commissioners
4 show up, there would be a like a face-to-face retreat.
5 There's a lot of conversations about how we look to
6 each other to work together. We all had to have those
7 kinds of conversations with a small group of four, and
8 that group of four does deserve to be congratulated
9 for helping us answer our questions about how we will
10 be respectful of everyone's points of view and how we
11 will incorporate and listen to each other's ideas.

12 So, thank you very much, Commissioner
13 Adams and Gilchrist.

14 Anyone else for the good of the order?

15 COMMISSIONER HERIOT: Just congratulations
16 from me.

17 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you. Thank you, and
18 I will pop a virtual bottle of champagne.

19 (Laughter.)

20 COMMISSIONER ADAMS: Don't get virtually
21 drunk.

22 (Laughter.)

23 CHAIR CANTU: Thank you all for having a
24 wonderful sense of humor, and I'm really looking
25 forward to our time together.

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Special Business Meeting

Before: USCCR

Date: 04-30-21

Place: teleconference

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Court Reporter

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