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STATE OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
BEING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024
AT THE LASALLE BUILDING
617 North Third Street, FLOOR 1, LABELLE ROOM
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

REPORTED BY: KELLY S. PERRIN, C.C.R.

COURT REPORTERS OF LOUISIANA - A VERITEXT COMPANY
9522 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 217
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809
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1	I N D E X	1	WESLEY BLAKE WHEELIS (ABSENT)
2	PAGE	2	STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
3	CAPTION	1	ROBIN PORTER
4	APPEARANCES	3-5	ANNE G. VILLA
5	PROCEEDINGS	6	DEBORAH SIMMONS
6	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	146	FRANK FAVALORO
7			KRISTIN CHENG JOHNSON
8			HUD USIE
9			TRAVIS ROSENBERG
10			JOYCE METOYER
11			STEPHANIE LE GRANGE
12			TEDRA CHEATHAM
13			MICHAELA ADEGBE
14			BRENDA GUESS
15			LIZ MCCAIN
16			SHAWN WELCOME
17			LETICIA JOHNSON
18			JOLEASIA CAMPBELL
19			PERRY JOHNSON
20			GABE NECULA
21			MARK LORANDO
22			
23			
24			
25			
		Page 2	Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:	1	APPEARANCES CONTINUED:
2	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	2	SPEAKERS FROM THE PUBLIC:
3	CHAIRMAN JERALD JONES	3	MATTHEW SACKS, PRESIDENT/OWNER, AMPIRICAL
4	RONNIE SLONE	4	SOLUTIONS, LLC
5	REPRESENTATIVE DARYL A. DESHOTEL (ABSENT)	5	PAM FLUCKE, CEO OF FINANCE, AMPIRICAL SOLUTIONS,
6	STUART A. MOSS	6	LLC
7	KYLE D. RUCKERT, DESIGNEE FOR GOVERNOR	7	RODNEY BRAXTON, SOUTHERN STRATEGY GROUP LOUISIANA
8	SECRETARY SUSAN BONNETT BOURGEOIS	8	PAUL SCOTT HALE, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION,
9	MICHAEL J. TANNER	9	FORMOSA PLASTICS CORPORATION, LOUISIANA
10	LETICIA A. "LETTI" LOWE-ARDOIN	10	ROGER BAGWELL, CEO, BAGWELL ENERGY SERVICES, INC.
11	MAYOR DAVID H. TOUPS	11	KYLE BUCKLEY, INCENTIVE SPECIALIST, ST. TAMMANY
12	NAHEEM "GEORGE" NASSAR, JR.	12	CORPORATION
13	MARSHALL J. SIMIEN, JR.	13	DAVID HEXT, SITE MANAGER, INDORAMA VENTURES
14	JOHN D. AUSTIN	14	OLEFINS, LLC
15	BARRY M. MELE	15	ASHLEY CHAPMAN, INDORAMA VENTURES OLEFINS, LLC
16	CHARLES "ROBBY" MILLER, JR.	16	
17	REPRESENTATIVE JULIE EMERSON	17	
18	DAVID B. DOSS	18	
19	SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL	19	
20	RONALD W. REMEDIES	20	
21	KYLE P. POLOZOLA	21	
22	DAVID M. AMOSS	22	
23	SCOTT A. NIEMEYER (ABSENT)	23	
24	SENATOR BETH MIZELL (ABSENT)	24	REPORTED BY:
25	ERWIN G. THOMPSON, III (ABSENT)	25	KELLY S. PERRIN, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
		Page 3	Page 5

1 PROCEEDINGS
2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
3 Good morning. It's good to see everyone
4 this morning at the first meeting of 2024 for
5 the Board of Commerce and Industry. For those
6 of you who attend these meetings, the people
7 up here, there's a lot of new faces and that's
8 exciting for all of us because we all get to
9 figure out how to dance this dance together.
10 And so it's good to have you here this morning
11 and I'm going to call the meeting to order.
12 I want to especially recognize the new
13 members of the Board. I'm going to apologize
14 in advance, because as I try to work through
15 the agenda, over the course of the next few
16 months, I'll learn each of your names and
17 faces. Today, I'm going to be real bad at it.
18 So I'm going to apologize in advance, but
19 please be patient with me.
20 If you have any questions or if you have
21 a point you want to make, just raise your
22 hand, let me know, and we'll get that done. I
23 know a couple of you have talked to me about
24 needing to recuse yourself from certain items.
25 When we get to that item, just raise your hand

1 and let me know and we'll make sure that goes
2 on the record.
3 So I also want to introduce, if everybody
4 hasn't met her, our new Secretary of LED,
5 Susan Bourgeois. We're excited to have her
6 sitting on the Board with us; and the
7 Governor's Representative, Mr. Kyle Ruckert,
8 it's great to have him here as well. They're
9 not any more important than the rest of the
10 Board Members, but they -- well, they kind of
11 are. So but it's -- we've got a lot of work
12 to do. The February meeting was postponed or
13 actually did not happen due to lack of quorum,
14 and we've made up for it in space today, so
15 I'm excited to have everybody here today.
16 With that, the meeting is called to
17 order. Let's call the roll so we make sure we
18 have a quorum.
19 MS. SIMMONS:
20 Good morning, everyone.
21 Stuart Moss?
22 MR. MOSS:
23 Here.
24 MS. SIMMONS:
25 Mayor David Toups?

1 MAYOR TOUPS:
2 Present.
3 MS. SIMMONS:
4 David Amoss?
5 MR. AMOSS:
6 Here.
7 MS. SIMMONS:
8 John Austin.
9 MR. AUSTIN:
10 Here.
11 MS. SIMMONS:
12 David Doss?
13 MR. DOSS:
14 Here.
15 MS. SIMMONS:
16 Barry Mele?
17 MR. MELE:
18 Present.
19 MS. SIMMONS:
20 Scott Niemeyer?
21 (No response.)
22 MS. SIMMONS:
23 Representative Daryl Deshotel?
24 (No response.)
25 MS. SIMMONS:

1 Senator Franklin Foil?
2 SENATOR FOIL:
3 Here.
4 MS. SIMMONS:
5 Kyle Polozola?
6 MR. POLOZOLA:
7 Here.
8 MS. SIMMONS:
9 I'm sorry if I mispronounce your names.
10 Gerald Jones?
11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
12 Present.
13 MS. SIMMONS:
14 Ronald Remedies?
15 MR. REMEDIES:
16 Here.
17 MS. SIMMONS:
18 Senator Beth Mizell?
19 (No response.)
20 MS. SIMMONS:
21 Representative Julie Emerson?
22 (No response.)
23 MS. SIMMONS:
24 Michael Tanner?
25 MR. TANNER:

1 Here.
2 MS. SIMMONS:
3 Secretary Susan Bourgeois?
4 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
5 Here.
6 MS. SIMMONS:
7 George Nassar?
8 MR. NASSAR:
9 Present.
10 MS. SIMMONS:
11 Erwin Thompson, III?
12 (No response.)
13 MS. SIMMONS:
14 Marshall Simien?
15 MR. SIMIEN:
16 Here.
17 MS. SIMMONS:
18 Ronnie Slone?
19 MR. SLONE:
20 Present.
21 MS. SIMMONS:
22 Wesley Blake Wheelis?
23 (No response.)
24 MS. SIMMONS:
25 Letti Ardoin?

Page 10

1 Program. Ms. Adegbe, would you walk us
2 through that, please, ma'am?
3 MS. ADEGBE:
4 Good morning.
5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
6 Good morning.
7 MS. ARDOIN:
8 There are nine new applications:
9 20210454 1,4 Group, Inc., Ascension Parish;
10 20210507 Alliance Compressors, LLC,
11 Natchitoches Parish; 20220090 C-Dive, LLC,
12 Terrebonne Parish; 20210633, Goex Industries,
13 LLC, Webster Parish; 20210388 Haynes
14 International Inc., Bienville Parish; 20210573
15 Louisiana Spirits, LLC, Jefferson Davis
16 Parish; 20220181 NuStar Equipment, LLC,
17 Lafayette Parish; 20210458 PCS Nitrogen
18 Fertilizer, LP, Ascension Parish; 20210612
19 Southland Steel Fabricators, Inc., St. Helena
20 Parish.
21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
22 Thank you, ma'am. Again, for the benefit
23 of the Board, our practice is to handle these
24 in globo and that will actually have one
25 motion to approve or disapprove all. If there

Page 12

1 MS. ARDOIN:
2 Here.
3 MS. SIMMONS:
4 Charles "Robby" Miller?
5 MR. MILLER:
6 Here.
7 MS. SIMMONS:
8 Kyle Ruckert?
9 MR. RUCKERT:
10 Here.
11 MS. SIMMONS:
12 We have a quorum.
13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
14 Thank you, ma'am. Board Members, you
15 have received a copy of the minutes from the
16 December 6th, 2024 (sic) meeting. Are there
17 any objections to adopting those minutes?
18 Hearing no objections, all in favor, say
19 aye.
20 ALL:
21 Aye.
22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
23 Any opposed?
24 There being none, the motion carries.
25 That will move us to the Quality Jobs

Page 11

1 are any that you want to pull out and handle
2 individually, we can certainly do that. Just
3 let me know that you want to do that.
4 With that, I'll entertain a motion on
5 these.
6 MR. POLOZOLA:
7 Mr. Chairman?
8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
9 Yes, sir?
10 MR. POLOZOLA:
11 Let me note my recusal in the matter
12 20210633, 20210458, and 20210612.
13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
14 Do you -- were you able to pick that up?
15 STENOGRAPHER:
16 (Nods.)
17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
18 Mr. Polozola, I'm just making sure that
19 our stenographer was able to --
20 MR. POLOZOLA:
21 I'll grab the mic.
22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
23 Yeah, that's Mr. Polozola will be
24 recusing himself from three matters. Go
25 ahead, Kyle.

Page 13

1 MR. POLOZOLA:
 2 20210633, 20210458, and 20210612.
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 Okay. He will be recusing himself,
 5 meaning he will participate in any
 6 deliberations or the votes on those matters.
 7 Anything else before we entertain a motion?
 8 Is there a motion on these matters?
 9 Motion from Mr. Simien. Second from
 10 Mr. Moss to approve.
 11 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 12 Hearing none, any comments from the
 13 public?
 14 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 15 ALL:
 16 Aye.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 Any opposed?
 19 There is none. The motion carries.
 20 Next?
 21 MS. ADEGBE:
 22 There are four Renewal Applications:
 23 20180061 Align Technologies, Corp, Orleans
 24 Parish; 20170421 American Sugar Refining,
 25 Inc., St. Bernard Parish; 20190024 RedGuard,

1 public?
 2 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 3 ALL:
 4 Aye.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 Any opposition?
 7 There is none. The motion carries.
 8 Yes, ma'am?
 9 MS. ADEGBE:
 10 There is one Late Renewal, 20170637,
 11 Ampirical Solutions, LLC, St. Tammany Parish,
 12 Contract effective date, 1/6/2018; initial
 13 contract expiration, 1/5/23; late renewal
 14 request date, 12/15/2023.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 For the benefit of the Board and the
 17 public, any time we have late renewals, there
 18 are penalty opportunities for the Board to
 19 impose; the idea being that these are
 20 important benefits, the company should be --
 21 should value these benefits, and when the
 22 renewal time comes, they should be submitting
 23 them in a timely fashion. In some of these
 24 programs, those penalties are set forth by the
 25 rules. In some, they are not.

1 LLC, Iberia Parish; 20180261, Shintech
 2 Louisiana, LLC, Iberville Parish.
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 Do we have any motions on this? Motion
 5 from Mr. Nassar to approve. Second from
 6 Mr. Moss.
 7 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 8 Hearing none, any comments?
 9 I'm sorry. Mr. Polozola? Y'all, we will
 10 learn that we all will envy Mr. Polozola's
 11 client list as we work through the agenda
 12 today. Mr. Polozola, you have a recusal.
 13 MR. POLOZOLA:
 14 2020 -- I'm sorry, 20180261.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 Align Technologies, Corp?
 17 MR. POLOZOLA:
 18 It's Shintech Louisiana.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Oh, Shintech, I'm sorry. Forgive me.
 21 20180261 Shintech. All right. We've got a
 22 recusal. Do we have -- we have a motion and
 23 a second to approve. Any comments from the
 24 Board or questions from the Board?
 25 There being none, any comments from the

1 The Quality Jobs Program, they are not
 2 set by rule. They are purely optional for the
 3 Board. You will see in your agenda under
 4 options of the Board, you can approve the
 5 five-year renewal without penalty, you can
 6 approve with a penalty, or you can deny the
 7 request for renewal altogether. Not that it
 8 matters necessarily, but the custom of the
 9 Board has been that for every year or portion
 10 of the year that the renewal application is
 11 late, there is a one-year penalty for the
 12 benefit, but that is entirely up to this Board
 13 if you want to move forward.
 14 Do I have a motion?
 15 Mr. Simien?
 16 MR. SIMIEN:
 17 Given the date that they actually renew,
 18 I move for renewal without penalty.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 We have a motion to approve without
 21 penalty.
 22 MR. MOSS:
 23 Second.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 I have a second from Mr. Moss.

1 Yes, sir, Mr. Mele?
 2 MR. MELE:
 3 Was there a reason stated for the late
 4 renewal and why they filed so late?
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 That's a fair question. Do we have a
 7 representative here from Ampirical Solutions?
 8 Have a seat right here, please. If
 9 you'll pull the microphone to you so that the
 10 stenographer can pick up. State your name and
 11 your position with the company.
 12 MR. SACKS:
 13 Good morning. Matthew Sacks, President
 14 and owner of Ampirical Solutions and Pam
 15 Flucke here, our CEO of Finance.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Great. Thank you. So, obviously, we
 18 have a late renewal, almost a year late, but
 19 what is the basis -- what was the reason for
 20 it?
 21 MR. SACKS:
 22 No good reason. Simply didn't see in the
 23 contract any kind of renewal terms. Had our
 24 head down. We have been blessed by the
 25 Quality Jobs Program and with great hiring

Page 18

1 results, and there was no trigger or an alert.
 2 It also comes at a time of year when we're in
 3 tax audit and all that in the first quarter of
 4 the year, and it simply flew under the radar
 5 and we missed it.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 Got it.
 8 Yes, sir?
 9 MR. MILLER:
 10 So you said it was a real success to your
 11 business. Can you talk more about the jobs
 12 you created?
 13 MR. SACKS:
 14 Certainly can. So 2017 was a baseline
 15 year. So in 2018, first year, we started
 16 counting the net new hires. We had -- from
 17 that baseline of over \$10 million in payroll,
 18 we've added another \$13.6 million in payroll
 19 of net jobs that qualify. So from 2018
 20 through '22, 18, 27, 32, 47, and 85 net new
 21 hires each of those successive years, so 209
 22 total new hires.
 23 MR. MILLER:
 24 And that payroll amount was what?
 25 MR. SACKS:

Page 19

1 The additional payroll, \$13 million, over
 2 \$13 million. And that doesn't include another
 3 \$4 million in additional baseline payroll.
 4 That's not a part of the net new as we
 5 replaced people that fell off the baseline
 6 with higher wages.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Any other comments or questions from the
 9 Board?
 10 Ms. Secretary?
 11 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 12 Yeah, I would just like to address,
 13 moving forward, our Department is going to pay
 14 much closer attention to that on your behalf
 15 as well. Ultimately, it is your
 16 responsibility clearly.
 17 MR. SACKS:
 18 So are we.
 19 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 20 Not sure what the process for the last
 21 eight years has been. But moving forward, we
 22 will make sure that at least an email or some
 23 type of trigger goes out so oversights will be
 24 less likely.
 25 MR. SACKS:

Page 20

1 We're tracking better too.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 Generally, that's one -- and just to be
 4 full transparency, one reason that the Board
 5 adopted, started adopting penalties is because
 6 it was at least the Board's impression that
 7 the companies didn't see any real need to meet
 8 because there were no penalties for late
 9 renewals, so it became a bookkeeping
 10 difficulty for us. And we were -- and so the
 11 logic of the Board at the time was, why are we
 12 putting more work on the staff when, in fact,
 13 these programs are valuable and y'all need to
 14 be valuing them as much as we do.
 15 So I appreciate it. I think you guys
 16 have got a great story to tell. Obviously,
 17 the company has been successful and I
 18 congratulate you for that.
 19 MR. SACKS:
 20 Thank you.
 21 MS. FLUCKE:
 22 Thank you.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Right now, we have a motion and a second
 25 to approve the renewal without penalty. Is

Page 21

1 there any further discussion or questions?
 2 Any other comments from the public?
 3 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 4 ALL:
 5 Aye.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 Is there any opposition?
 8 Hearing none, the motion carries.
 9 MR. SACKS:
 10 Thank you.
 11 MS. FLUCKE:
 12 Thank you.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Thank you for your contributions to the
 15 State.
 16 MR. SACKS:
 17 Of course.
 18 MS. ADEGBE:
 19 There are two Change of Project Physical
 20 Locations: 20200423, Aqueos Corporation,
 21 previous address, 231 Highway 96, Broussard,
 22 Louisiana 70518, previous parish, Lafayette;
 23 new address, 1186 Petroleum Parkway,
 24 Broussard, Louisiana 70518, Lafayette Parish;
 25 20140927, Centene Management Company,

Page 22

1 LLC, 2000 Covington Center, Covington,
 2 Louisiana 70433, St. Tammany Paris; new
 3 address, 144 New Camellia Boulevard,
 4 Covington, Louisiana 70433, St. Tammany
 5 Parish.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 Ms. Adegbe, correct me if I overly
 8 simplify this, but for the Board's
 9 edification, this is simply an attempt to
 10 change the mailing address and notice address
 11 for the company. It's for all intents and
 12 purposes of bookkeeping and administrative
 13 issues, is that reasonably correct,
 14 Ms. Adegbe?
 15 MS. ADEGBE:
 16 This is their project site, so they move
 17 their operations from one location to another
 18 location.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Obviously, there's more than a simple
 21 address change then.
 22 MS. ADEGBE:
 23 Yes, sir.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 See, it takes a village to raise -- and

Page 23

1 I've been doing this a few times, but thank
 2 you. Thank you for the correction, but thank
 3 you for the explanation as well, Ms. Adegbe.
 4 All right. Do we have a motion to
 5 approve these changes?
 6 We have a motion from Mr. Nassar. Second
 7 from Mr. Moss.
 8 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 9 There being none, any comments from the
 10 public?
 11 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 12 ALL:
 13 Aye.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 Any opposition?
 16 There being none, the motion carries.
 17 MS. ADEGBE:
 18 There are four Full Transfer of Ownership
 19 to New Company: 20190206, current company,
 20 Calcasieu Pass Operations, LLC, formerly
 21 Venture Global LNG, Inc.; new company,
 22 Calcasieu Pass Operations, LLC, Cameron
 23 Parish; 20200246, JM Test Systems, Inc.; new
 24 company name, JM Test Systems, LLC, East Baton
 25 Rouge Parish; 20200068 REG Geismar, LLC; new

Page 24

1 company name, Chevron USA, Inc., Ascension
 2 Parish; 20200253 Venture Global LNG, Inc.; new
 3 company name, Plaquemines LNG Operations, LLC,
 4 Plaquemines Parish.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 I'm going to ask for a motion to defer
 7 two of these matters, that being 20190206,
 8 Calcasieu Pass Operations, LLC, formerly
 9 Venture Global LNG, Inc. as well as numbers
 10 2020253, Venture Global LNG, Inc. I'm going
 11 to ask to defer those to the next meeting.
 12 I have a motion from Mr. Nassar. Second
 13 from Mr. Slone.
 14 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 15 Hearing none, any comments from the
 16 public?
 17 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 18 ALL:
 19 Aye.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Any opposition?
 22 There being none, that motion carries.
 23 Those items will be considered at the next
 24 meeting.
 25 Now we have the two remaining projects.

Page 25

1 Do we have a motion to approve these transfer
 2 of ownership?
 3 Motion from Mayor Toups. Second from
 4 Secretary Bourgeois.
 5 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 6 Hearing none, any comments from the
 7 public?
 8 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 9 ALL:
 10 Aye.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Any opposition?
 13 There being none, the motion carries.
 14 MS. ADEGBE:
 15 One Change of Affiliates/Owners:
 16 20200068 REG Geismar, LLC, Ascension Parish;
 17 old affiliates and LLC members, Renewable
 18 Energy Group, Inc.; new affiliates and LLC
 19 members, Renewable Energy Group, Inc. and REG
 20 Geismar, LLC.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 Okay. Do we have a motion to change?
 23 Motion from Mr. Moss. Second from Mr. Nassar.
 24 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 25 Any comments from the public?

Page 26

1 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 2 ALL:
 3 Aye.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Any opposition?
 6 There is none, the motion carries.
 7 MS. ADEGBE:
 8 This concludes Quality Jobs.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 Thank you, Ms. Adegbe. Appreciate your
 11 help.
 12 MS. ADEGBE:
 13 Thank you.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 As Mr. Rosenberg comes to the table, I
 16 just want to make a comment. I know for,
 17 whenever I first started serving on this
 18 Board, we would go through these and it
 19 appeared as though there's nothing but a
 20 rubber stamp going on. I want to disabuse you
 21 of that notion in as much as what this really
 22 represents, that behind the scenes, both the
 23 applicants and the staff have been doing their
 24 jobs. If they are doing their jobs, our Board
 25 meetings ought to be fairly straightforward

Page 27

1 and clean.
 2 It is, we are here to step in when one or
 3 both of those people are not doing their jobs,
 4 and we don't want to break ties or make
 5 decisions that clarify what's going on. And
 6 so I don't want anybody to think that this is
 7 simply nobody's paying attention. The reality
 8 is, these applications are coming to us and
 9 the staff has already done their homework and
 10 are recommending approval because they have
 11 dotted the I's and crossed the T's. Is that
 12 fair?
 13 Great. Thank you.
 14 Mr. Rosenberg, walk us through
 15 Restoration Tax Abatement, please.
 16 MR. ROSENBERG:
 17 Good morning.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Good morning.
 20 MR. ROSENBERG:
 21 There are three new applications:
 22 20210560, 1015 Canal, LLC in Orleans Parish;
 23 20230350, Layton Properties, LLC, Ouachita
 24 Parish; and 20230315 for Robert Farris in St.
 25 Tammany Parish.

Page 28

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Great. Thank you, sir. And, again,
 3 further explanation, the Restoration Tax
 4 Abatement Program is, constitutionally, the
 5 locals already have said grace over these
 6 matters as set forth in the constitution and
 7 they have approved these before they ever come
 8 to LED.
 9 So with that, I would entertain a motion
 10 to approve. Motion from Mr. Nassar. Second
 11 from Mr. Mele.
 12 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 13 There being none, any comments from the
 14 public?
 15 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 16 ALL:
 17 Aye.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Any opposition?
 20 There being none, the motion carries.
 21 MR. ROSENBERG:
 22 There are three Renewal Applications:
 23 20170018 for Georgia Tucker, LLC in Ouachita
 24 Parish; 20141093 for Hall Downtown, LLC in
 25 Ouachita Parish; and 20161898 for Third Floor

Page 29

1 Properties in Ouachita Parish.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 Do we have a motion to approve? Motion
 4 from Mayor Toups. Second from Mr. Moss.
 5 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 6 Hearing none, any comments from the
 7 public?
 8 There being none, the motion -- all in
 9 favor, say aye.
 10 ALL:
 11 Aye.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Any opposition?
 14 There being none, the motion carries.
 15 MR. ROSENBERG:
 16 There is one Full Transfer of Ownership
 17 to new company request for Contract Number
 18 20151972. Former owner is Gibraltar
 19 Management Company, LLC, and the new owner is
 20 Ardendale Oaks Apartments, LLC in East Baton
 21 Rouge Parish.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Do we have a motion on this Transfer of
 24 Ownership? We have a motion from Secretary
 25 Bourgeois, a second from Mr. Slone.

Page 30

1 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 2 Hearing none, any comments from the
 3 public?
 4 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 5 ALL:
 6 Aye.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Any opposition?
 9 There is none. The motion carries.
 10 MR. ROSENBERG:
 11 That concludes the RTA agenda.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Thank you, Mr. Rosenberg.
 14 Good morning, Ms. Metoyer.
 15 MS. METOYER:
 16 Good morning. There are 16 new EZ
 17 Applications: 20230307, Acadiana Waste
 18 Services, Lafayette Parish; 20151318 Cajun
 19 Industries, LLC, East Baton Rouge Parish;
 20 20190166, Community Care Center of Covington,
 21 LLC, St. Tammany Parish; 20210025, Good Job,
 22 Incorporated, Lafourche Parish; 20200057,
 23 Landmark Heritage, LLC, East Baton Rouge
 24 Parish; 20190330 NMC Operating Company, LLC,
 25 East Baton Rouge Parish; 20210100, Noble

Page 31

1 Plastics, LLC, St. Landry Parish; 20210101,
 2 Noble Plastics, LLC, St. Landry Parish;
 3 20200296 Ochsner Clinic Foundation, Ascension
 4 Parish; 20210318, Ochsner Clinic Foundation,
 5 Jefferson Parish; 20210320, Ochsner Clinic
 6 Foundation, East Baton Rouge Parish; 20210274,
 7 Phillips 66 Company, Calcasieu Parish;
 8 20200167, Southwest Louisiana Hospital
 9 Association, Calcasieu Parish; 20210496,
 10 Sterling Place, LLC, East Baton Rouge Parish;
 11 20190133, Willis Knighton Medical Center,
 12 Incorporated, Caddo Parish; and 20200447,
 13 Willis Knighton Medical Center, Incorporated,
 14 Bossier Parish.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 Okay. Again, we will handle these in
 17 globo, unless anyone wants to carry any one
 18 individually?
 19 MR. POLOZOLA:
 20 Mr. Chairman?
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 We have, Mr. Polozola?
 23 MR. POLOZOLA:
 24 I just want a recusal for 20151318, Cajun
 25 Industries; and 20210274, Phillips 66.

Page 32

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Mr. Polozola will be recusing himself
 3 from Cajun Industries, LLC and Phillips 66
 4 applications. All right. Any motion? We
 5 have a motion from Mr. Moss to approve. We
 6 have a second?
 7 MR. NASSAR:
 8 Second.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 Second from Mr. Nassar. Any questions or
 11 comments from the Board?
 12 Hearing none, any comments from the
 13 public?
 14 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 15 ALL:
 16 Aye.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 Any opposition?
 19 There is none. The motion carries.
 20 Go right ahead.
 21 MS. METOYER:
 22 There are six Terminations:
 23 20190101, Baton Rouge Dental Associates,
 24 LLC, East Baton Rouge Parish, the existing
 25 contract is 5/16/19 to 5/15/2024. The

Page 33

1 requested term date is 5/15/2022. The program
 2 requirements have been met. No additional
 3 jobs are anticipated.
 4 20200137, E. Drew Clement DDS, LLC,
 5 Lafourche Parish, the existing contract is
 6 4/10/20 to 4/9/2025. The requested term date
 7 is 4/9/2023. The program requirements have
 8 been met. No additional jobs anticipated.
 9 20190152, Kenner Dental Associates, LLC,
 10 Jefferson Parish. Existing contract, 5/16/19
 11 to 5/15/2024. The requested term date is
 12 5/15/2022. The program requirements have been
 13 met. No additional jobs are anticipated.
 14 202000 -- no, 20200109, Metaplate
 15 Galvanizing, LP, Jefferson Davis Parish, the
 16 existing contract is 3/12/20 to 3/11/2025. The
 17 requested term date is 9/12/2022. The program
 18 requirements have been met. No additional
 19 jobs are anticipated.
 20 20190093, Neighbors, LLC, Ouachita
 21 Parish, existing contract is 4/26/19 to
 22 4/25/2024. The requested term date is
 23 10/31/21. The program requirements have been
 24 met. No additional jobs are anticipated.
 25 And 20180327, Ochsner Clinic Foundation,

Page 34

1 Jefferson Parish, the existing contract is
 2 8/30 of '18 to 8/29 of 2023. The requested
 3 term date is 8/29 of '22. And the program
 4 requirements have been met. No additional
 5 jobs are anticipated.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 All right. Do we have a motion to
 8 approve these Terminations? I have a motion
 9 from Ms. Ardoin. A second from Mayor Toups.
 10 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 11 Hearing none, any comments from the
 12 public?
 13 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 14 ALL:
 15 Aye.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Any opposition?
 18 There being none, the motion carries.
 19 MS. METOYER:
 20 And I have one Special.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 Go right ahead.
 23 MS. METOYER:
 24 Okay. The U.S. Census Bureau recently
 25 released the 2020 Census appointment results

Page 35

1 in accordance with La. R.S. 51:1784.
 2 Louisiana Economic Development uses federal
 3 denial census data in qualifying the bottom 40
 4 percent of block groups in the State as
 5 Enterprise Zones, based on per capita income,
 6 unemployment, and percentage of residents
 7 receiving public assistance.
 8 In accordance with La. R.S. 51:1785, LED
 9 designates the updated qualified block group
 10 within the State every 10 years using the
 11 federal census data. An update to the list of
 12 eligible tracts in each jurisdiction for the
 13 Enterprise Zone Incentive Program administered
 14 by LED is required. As a part of this update,
 15 local governments are invited to approve the
 16 Enterprise Zones in their jurisdiction. After
 17 an initial outreach and several followup with
 18 the local governments, LED now seeks Board
 19 approval of the 2020 EZ Enterprise Zone
 20 designation for the following parishes listed
 21 below.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Okay. Stop right there. I don't want
 24 you to read the next --
 25 MS. METOYER:

Page 36

1 No, I don't want to.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 Okay. Board members, you have in your
 4 packets pages 12 to 59 represent these
 5 Enterprise Zone blocks. Again, the local
 6 governments have had opportunity for input and
 7 this is the recommendations from the staff
 8 based on the census information. We only have
 9 to do this once every 10 years. You're lucky
 10 enough to deal with it today.
 11 So I would entertain a motion to approve.
 12 Motion from Mr. Simien. Second from Mr. Moss.
 13 Any questions or comments from the
 14 public -- excuse me, from the Board?
 15 There being none, any comments from the
 16 public?
 17 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 18 ALL:
 19 Aye.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Any opposition?
 22 There being none, the motion carries.
 23 MS. METOYER:
 24 That concludes EZ.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 37

1 Thank you so much.
 2 MS. METOYER:
 3 Thank you.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 All right. Let's move into the
 6 Industrial Tax Exemption Programs.
 7 MS. CHENG:
 8 Good morning.
 9 MR. USIE:
 10 Good morning.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Good morning. Who is up first?
 13 MS. CHENG:
 14 We have 13 Post Executive Order 2018
 15 Rules and New Applications.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Okay. Let's stop there and make sure
 18 we're level set. Over the course of the last
 19 eight years, this Board had to learn to work
 20 through about three different sets of ITEP
 21 Rules because we had ITEP contracts that were
 22 in place prior to the Executive Order that
 23 Governor Edwards implemented in 2016. Then,
 24 the Board tried to implement that EO by rule
 25 in adopting rules in 2017. Unfortunately,

Page 38

1 those rules were not as crisp as they needed
 2 to be, and we did a reboot in 2018.
 3 So we had Pre EO Applications, we had
 4 2017 Rule Applications, and we had 2018 Rule
 5 Applications. And, oh, by the way, we're
 6 about to go through another rule making. But
 7 what that does is, is that we divide the
 8 agenda based upon which set of rules these
 9 applications are under. And that means the
 10 staff and the applicants, they have to
 11 understand three different sets of rules based
 12 on where the program fits.
 13 So it seems a little complex. I think
 14 we've gotten it down to where it moves
 15 relatively smoothly. But by all means, if you
 16 have any questions or you don't understand
 17 where we are, and when we get into ITEP,
 18 there's no such thing as a stupid question
 19 unless you ask it twice. Okay. Fair enough?
 20 So we can move forward now. So these are --
 21 MS. CHENG:
 22 2018.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 -- 2018 Rules, meaning we have no
 25 applications right now for anything Pre EO.

Page 39

1 MS. CHENG:
 2 No, sir.
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 Is that correct?
 5 MS. CHENG:
 6 That's correct.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Okay. Great. Or 2017 for that matter.
 9 MS. CHENG:
 10 No, not on this agenda.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Perfect. Excellent. Move forward.
 13 MS. CHENG:
 14 And, sorry, this is for the record, I'm
 15 Kristen Cheng.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Thank you, Kristen Cheng. I didn't call
 18 you by name. Forgive me.
 19 MS. CHENG:
 20 We have 20200450, Allen's Electric Motor
 21 Service, Inc., Caddo Parish; 20220056-A, Ash
 22 Industries, Inc., Lafayette Parish;
 23 20200094-B, Aurorium Denham Springs, LLC,
 24 Livingston Parish; 20220302, Bienville Lumber
 25 Company, LLC, Bienville Parish; 20230434,

Page 40

1 Boise Cascade Wood Products, LLC, Allen
 2 Parish; 20230410, CORTEC, LLC, West Baton
 3 Rouge Parish; 20230414 CORTEC Properties, LLC,
 4 West Baton Rouge Parish; 20190394, Honeywell
 5 International, Inc., East Baton Rouge Parish;
 6 20230205, Howell Foundry, LLC, West Feliciana
 7 Parish; 20210121-A, LACC, LLC, U.S., Calcasieu
 8 Parish; 20220394, Mcllhenny Company, Iberia
 9 Parish; 20200049-C, Supreme Rice, LLC, Acadia
 10 Parish; and 20220512, TSRC Specialty
 11 Materials, LLC, Iberville Parish.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Okay. Mr. Polozola?
 14 MR. POLOZOLA:
 15 Just recusal of 20190394, Honeywell.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 20190394, Honeywell, Mr. Polozola will be
 18 recusing himself from consideration of that
 19 matter.
 20 Do we have a motion? A motion to approve
 21 from Mr. Moss. Second from Mr. Slone.
 22 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 23 Note, just one thing I want everybody to
 24 note, especially on 2022394 Mcllhenny Company,
 25 I want to note the double asterisks, there was

Page 41

1 a late application here. And under our rules
 2 presently, if the application is submitted
 3 after the following deadline, the term
 4 exemption available under an additional
 5 contract renewal shall be reduced by one year
 6 for each year or portion thereof that the
 7 application is late. So as I said earlier,
 8 this is one of those situations where the
 9 penalty is baked into the regulations.
 10 So if we approve the McIlhenny Company
 11 application, there will be a -- is it a
 12 one-year?
 13 MS. CHENG:
 14 Yes, sir, it's one year off of the
 15 initial contract.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 So instead of having a five-year initial
 18 contract, they would have a four-year initial
 19 contract. Okay. But carrying forward with
 20 that logic, Ms. Cheng, if they get to the
 21 renewal, they will be considered after four
 22 years?
 23 MS. CHENG:
 24 That's correct.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 42

1 Okay. Very good. Any other questions or
 2 comments from the Board?
 3 There being none, any comments from the
 4 public?
 5 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 6 ALL:
 7 Aye.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 Any opposition?
 10 There being none, the motion carries.
 11 MS. CHENG:
 12 We have 11 Pre EO Timely Renewals.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 What are they?
 15 MS. CHENG:
 16 20161534-A, Cabot Corporation, St. Mary
 17 Parish; 20130429-B-PT, Cameron LNG, LLC,
 18 Calcasieu Parish; 20130429-C, Cameron LNG,
 19 LLC, Cameron Parish; 20140816, Equilon
 20 Enterprises, LLC, St. Charles Parish;
 21 20141601, Marathon Petroleum Company, LP, St.
 22 John the Baptist Parish; 20152030-A Marathon
 23 Petroleum Company, LP, St. John the Baptist
 24 Parish; 20150945-A, Shell Chemical Company,
 25 LP, Ascension Parish; 20161458, Shell Chemical

Page 43

1 Company, LP, St. Charles Parish; 20150910-A,
 2 Shintech Louisiana, LLC, Iberville Parish;
 3 20161478-A, Shintech Louisiana, LLC, West
 4 Baton Rouge Parish; and 20131233, Zatarain's,
 5 Jefferson Parish.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 Mr. Polozola?
 8 MR. POLOZOLA:
 9 Mr. Chairman, basically everything on
 10 this docket except Cabot Corporation and
 11 Zatarain's.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Except which one?
 14 MR. POLOZOLA:
 15 Cabot Corporation and Zatarain's.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 All right. So Mr. Polozola is going to
 18 recuse himself from all matters with the
 19 exception of Cabot Corporation and Zatarain's.
 20 Maybe next year, you -- I'm sorry. Just
 21 jealousy, just pure jealousy is all it is.
 22 All right. Do we have a motion?
 23 Mr. Miller?
 24 MR. MILLER:
 25 Question.

Page 44

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Okay.
 3 MR. MILLER:
 4 Wait on a motion?
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 Let's have a motion and then we'll ask
 7 the question.
 8 Yes, sir?
 9 MR. RUCKERT:
 10 Approve in globo.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Okay. We have a motion from Mr. Ruckert
 13 to approve in globo. Do we have a second?
 14 Second from Mayor Toups.
 15 Yes, sir, Mr. Miller?
 16 MR. MILLER:
 17 I just want to get some clarity just to
 18 make sure I remember this properly. Even
 19 though those applications are 2013, '16, '14,
 20 the actual exemption doesn't start 'til the
 21 project goes on the rolls. So some of these
 22 projects could have been started in '13, but
 23 not actually go on the rolls 'til '17, '18,
 24 '19. And, therefore, the five years starts
 25 then and their renewal starts five years after

Page 45

1 that.
2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
3 The --
4 MR. MILLER:
5 There's more than ten years after some of
6 these applications began.
7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
8 Right. The advance, they file the
9 advance and then the projects proceed through
10 engineering, construction, that sort of thing.
11 And once the 10-year or the 5-year does not
12 start running until they're actually --
13 MR. MILLER:
14 Could be on the books.
15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
16 -- on the books.
17 MR. MILLER:
18 Could be on the books.
19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
20 Actually, the assets are placed in
21 service, I think is the appropriate term.
22 MS. CHENG:
23 Operational use.
24 MR. MILLER:
25 Operational use.

Page 46

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
2 Thank you.
3 MR. MILLER:
4 Okay. Thank you. I just wanted to make
5 sure.
6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
7 So that's the reason that it looks like
8 it's more than 10 years. Good question.
9 Any other questions or comments from the
10 Board?
11 Hearing none, any comments from the
12 public?
13 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
14 ALL:
15 Aye.
16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
17 Any opposition?
18 There being none, the motion carries.
19 MS. CHENG:
20 We have one Pre EO Late Renewal and
21 that's 20161409, Linde, Inc. in Ascension
22 Parish. Their initial contract expired 12/31
23 of 2022 and they filed their late renewal on
24 9/28/2023.
25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 47

1 Great. And we have, we've had two people
2 that have signed to speak on the matter of
3 Linde. Mr. Braxton, you want to come forward,
4 and Mr. -- or Ms. Hardy.
5 MR. AUSTIN:
6 Mr. Chairman, I need to recuse myself.
7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
8 Yes, Mr. Austin will be recusing himself
9 from consideration of this Linde late renewal.
10 All right. Mr. Braxton, state your name
11 and your position with the company, please.
12 MR. BRAXTON:
13 Sure. My name is Rodney Braxton, I am
14 with Southern Strategy Group Louisiana and we
15 represent Linde. Appreciate the opportunity
16 to be here today. And, you know, rather than
17 get into our issue, if somebody was going to
18 make a motion, I don't want to cloud it up.
19 But I know earlier, we had a little similar
20 situation and they asked what was the problem.
21 And so in late 2022, Linde was going
22 through a transition, someone who was over
23 this particular, had this responsibility, left
24 the company, and it was at the same time we
25 were consolidating some of the partners that

Page 48

1 would take this over. And this simply slipped
2 through the cracks, and that's legitimately
3 what happened.
4 We have complied with every aspect of the
5 contract. We have done forms exactly as we
6 promised to do, promised when the contract was
7 signed. And so we would just ask forgiveness,
8 quite frankly, because it certainly wasn't
9 intentional. It was an oversight.
10 And I know, Mr. Chairman, you probably
11 remember we had a similar issue in October
12 because we've only -- there were two involved
13 in this, and so we want to be transparent.
14 This is the other one, I think I mentioned in
15 October there was another one. This is it.
16 And we were fortunate to get that one approved
17 and renewed and, hopefully, we get the same
18 results here today.
19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
20 Yeah. Just a question, before -- I
21 didn't realize it was October, but we approved
22 you without penalty at that time?
23 MR. BRAXTON:
24 That is correct.
25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 49

1 And I guess that's what you are asking
 2 for?
 3 MR. BRAXTON:
 4 That's exactly what I'm asking for again.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 Okay. With that explanation, is there a
 7 motion?
 8 MR. MOSS:
 9 I move approval.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 We have a motion from Mr. Moss to approve
 12 the late renewal without penalty and a second
 13 from Mr. Slone.
 14 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 15 Any questions for Mr. Braxton or Ms. Hardy?
 16 Hearing none, any comments from the
 17 public?
 18 There being none, all in favor of
 19 approving the renewal without penalty, say
 20 aye.
 21 ALL:
 22 Aye.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Any opposition?
 25 There being none, the motion carries.

Page 50

1 MR. BRAXTON:
 2 Thank you very much.
 3 MS. CHENG:
 4 We have one Timely Post EO 2017 Rules
 5 Renewal. It's 20161576-B, Louisiana Sugar
 6 Refining, LLC in St. James Parish.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 All right. They are simply up for a
 9 renewal. Do we have a motion? We have a
 10 motion from Mr. Nassar to approve. Second
 11 from Mr. Slone.
 12 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 13 There being none, any comments from the
 14 public?
 15 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 16 ALL:
 17 Aye.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Any opposition?
 20 There is none. The motion carries.
 21 MS. CHENG:
 22 We have 11 Timely Post EO 2018 Rules
 23 Renewals: 20180001, C&C Marine and Repair,
 24 LLC, Plaquemines Parish; 20180045, Hunt Forest
 25 Products, LLC, Grant Parish; 20180123,

Page 51

1 International Mezzo Technologies, Inc., East
 2 Baton Rouge Parish; 20180087-A, LaSalle Lumber
 3 Company, LLC, LaSalle Parish; 20190093,
 4 Neighbors, LLC, Ouachita Parish; 20161850,
 5 Packing Corporation of America, Beauregard
 6 Parish; 20170296 Packaging Corporation of
 7 America, Beauregard Parish; 20170297,
 8 Packaging Corporation of America, Beauregard
 9 Parish; 20180226, Sterling Sugars, LLC, St.
 10 Mary Parish; 20170587, Stuller, Inc.,
 11 Lafayette Parish; and 20170205, Westlake
 12 Vinyls Company, LP in Ascension Parish.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Do we have a motion to approve these
 15 Renewals? Mr. Doss, motion from Mr. Doss.
 16 Second by Mr. Moss.
 17 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 18 There being none, any comments from the
 19 public?
 20 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 21 ALL:
 22 Aye.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Any opposition?
 25 There being none, the motion carries.

Page 52

1 MR. USIE:
 2 Next, we have two Change In Name Only:
 3 Bercen, Inc., a division of Cranston
 4 Printworks Corporate Company, 20150240,
 5 changing their name to Aurorium Denham
 6 Springs, LLC in Livingston Parish; and CF
 7 Industries Nitrogen, LLC, 20200433, changing
 8 their name to CF Industries Clean Energy, LLC
 9 in Ascension Parish.
 10 MR. NASSAR:
 11 So moved.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 We have a motion from Mr. Nassar to
 14 approve these Change In Names. Second from
 15 Mayor Toups.
 16 Questions or comments from the Board?
 17 Hearing none, any comments from the
 18 public?
 19 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 20 ALL:
 21 Aye.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Any opposition?
 24 There is none. The motion carries.
 25 MR. USIE:

Page 53

1 Next, we have two Change In Location
 2 Only: Shell Chemical Company, LP, 20141578-A,
 3 previous location, 16122 River Road, Norco,
 4 Louisiana 70079 in St. Charles Parish; new
 5 location, 15536 River Road, Norco, Louisiana
 6 70079 in St. Charles Parish.
 7 And St. James Solar, LLC, 20180145,
 8 previous location coordinates 29.97593,
 9 -90.73313 Vacherie, Louisiana 70090, St. James
 10 Parish; new location, 2561 Back Quarters
 11 Street, Vacherie, Louisiana 70090 in St. James
 12 Parish.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Do we have a motion to approve these
 15 Change In Locations? We have a motion from
 16 Ms. Ardoin. Second from Mr. Slone.
 17 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 18 There being none, any comments from the
 19 public?
 20 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 21 ALL:
 22 Aye.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Any opposition?
 25 There is none. The motion carries.

Page 54

1 MR. USIE:
 2 Next, we have seven Transfers of
 3 Contracts: Chalmette Refining, LLC, 20210277,
 4 new owner, St. Bernard Renewables, LLC in St.
 5 Bernard Parish; Dow Chemical Company,
 6 20140993, new owner, Dow Hydrocarbons &
 7 Resources, LLC, West Baton Rouge Parish; MC US
 8 3, LLC, 20150356-PT2, new owner, LANXESS
 9 Corporation, St. Charles Parish; and Union
 10 Carbide Corporation, Contracts 20140991,
 11 20141263, 20141263-A, and 20151589, new owner,
 12 Dow Hydrocarbons & Resources, LLC in St.
 13 Charles Parish.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 All right. Do we have a motion to
 16 approve these Transfers?
 17 Motion from Mayor Touns. Second from
 18 Secretary Bourgeois.
 19 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 20 Hearing none, any comments from the
 21 public?
 22 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 23 ALL:
 24 Ayes by all.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 55

1 Any opposition?
 2 There is none. The motion carries.
 3 And I've just been handed a note that we
 4 do not have a video stream of this meeting.
 5 For those who are attempting to video stream,
 6 you've probably figured that out by now, but
 7 I'll make that as a part of the record. Thank
 8 you.
 9 MR. USIE:
 10 Next, we have two Partial Transfers of
 11 Contract: The first is Cortec, LLC,
 12 20180030-A. Cortec, LLC is retaining
 13 \$2,134,632 in property and Cortec Properties,
 14 LLC is receiving \$1,375,851 in property, and
 15 this is in West Baton Rouge Parish.
 16 And then Cortec, LLC, 20180072-A, Cortec,
 17 LLC is retaining \$1,188,136 in property and
 18 Cortec Properties, LLC is receiving \$4,614,691
 19 in property, and this is in Terrebonne Parish.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Do we have a motion to approve these
 22 Partial Transfers?
 23 Motion from Mr. Nassar. Second from
 24 Mayor Touns.
 25 Any questions or comments?

Page 56

1 MR. MELE:
 2 Could someone elaborate on why
 3 (inaudible) Transfer?
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Fair question. Explain, Mr. Usie, what
 6 these kind of transfers are about.
 7 MR. USIE:
 8 We performed a site inspection and it was
 9 discovered that it was incorrectly recorded
 10 when they initially applied, that the building
 11 portion of their project was owned by Cortec
 12 Properties and the machinery and equipment
 13 should stay as Cortec, LLC, so they're just
 14 correcting it.
 15 MR. MELE:
 16 Is that a common occurrence for when this
 17 type of transfer takes place?
 18 MR. USIE:
 19 Not very common, no.
 20 MS. CHENG:
 21 It's because contracts have to be company
 22 specific, site specific. So without this
 23 transfer, Cortec Properties doesn't have a
 24 contract in their name to exempt those assets.
 25 MR. MELE:

Page 57

1 So the Board doesn't see this
 2 (inaudible)?
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 Mr. Mele, would you pull the mic closer
 5 to you.
 6 MR. MELE:
 7 The Board doesn't see such things that
 8 often, unless the site's, the site specific
 9 issue.
 10 MS. CHENG:
 11 Or if a company is selling assets,
 12 changing ownership, that's --
 13 MR. MELE:
 14 Gotcha.
 15 MS. CHENG:
 16 -- the other times you would see it.
 17 MR. MELE:
 18 I see.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 One of the things we will see commonly is
 21 a building or land will be owned by one
 22 company, the machinery and everything else is
 23 owned by another, and you'll see two
 24 separate -- and what will be interesting about
 25 that, the land will produce no jobs, the

Page 58

1 machinery will produce 112. And that's a
 2 disconnect for some people to start realizing
 3 it's a -- it's usually a financing mechanism
 4 and how the financing is set up.
 5 MR. USIE:
 6 And Cortec is on the new applications for
 7 this agenda the correct way, one application
 8 for the machinery and equipment and another
 9 one for the building. These are just the old
 10 ones that they are correcting.
 11 MR. MELE:
 12 Okay.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Good questions. Great. Any other
 15 questions or comments from the Board?
 16 Any comments from the public?
 17 We do have a motion and a second,
 18 correct. Great.
 19 All in favor, say aye.
 20 ALL:
 21 Aye.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Any opposition?
 24 There being none, the motion carries.
 25 MR. USIE:

Page 59

1 Next, we have a Cancellation of J&R
 2 Juneau, LLC, 20190029 in Bossier Parish. LED
 3 requests cancellation upon being informed by
 4 the Parish Assessor of 100 percent of taxes
 5 being billed and paid for the first year of
 6 exemption, the 2020 year. Per Section 517(B)
 7 of ITEP Rules, the establishment is not
 8 eligible for the exemption.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 Okay. I'll ask Ms. Porter to come
 11 forward, please. Ms. Porter is the Board of
 12 Commerce and Industry's attorney. I try not
 13 to be an attorney because she's better at it
 14 than I am.
 15 MS. PORTER:
 16 Good morning.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 So I'm going to ask you to kind of walk
 19 us through this, Ms. Porter, so that the Board
 20 can be clear on what this is about.
 21 MS. PORTER:
 22 Well, Hud, if you can give just a little
 23 background, what happened with J&R Juneau,
 24 just -- and then I can go through what legally
 25 is required.

Page 60

1 MR. USIE:
 2 It was discovered through non-compliance
 3 discussion, they were found non-complaint for
 4 the 2022 project year for this contract. And
 5 during those discussions, it was uncovered
 6 that 100 percent of the property taxes was
 7 paid in the very first year of exemption.
 8 Staff confirmed that with the Assessor that it
 9 was billed and it was paid through -- so
 10 through those conversations, we brought it to
 11 the attention of Ms. Porter. And based on
 12 ITEP Rules, if at a bare minimum, if the
 13 company is billed and the Assessor and the
 14 locals don't agree to remove it from the rolls
 15 if an exemption is granted, they're ineligible
 16 for the program. So that's why it's here.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 So the concept -- and, again, correct me
 19 if I'm wrong here. The concept is, is that
 20 once the taxes have been paid, we're not going
 21 to be asking the locals to disgorge that
 22 payment back to the company; is that
 23 effectively --
 24 MS. PORTER:
 25 That's --

Page 61

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 -- the theory behind the Rule?
 3 MS. PORTER:
 4 That's correct. What happens, if you
 5 look at it twofold, one, you look at if the
 6 property is issued or listed on the taxable
 7 roll, it is deemed ineligible, so that's just
 8 number one. However, Section 517(B) provides
 9 at least an option if taxes have not been
 10 paid, property listed on the roll, it's still
 11 deemed ineligible whether taxes, regardless of
 12 whether taxes are paid or not. However,
 13 517(B) provides that if you get the consent of
 14 the Assessor and the locals in order to agree
 15 to place the property back on the tax rolls if
 16 the taxes have not been paid, then the company
 17 will be granted a tax exemption.
 18 So you don't have that if the taxes have
 19 been paid and the taxes are on -- and the
 20 property is on tax rolls.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 So in effect, in effect, if a company --
 23 and I'm trying to make this a learning
 24 exercise and an object lesson if nothing else.
 25 MS. PORTER:

Page 62

1 Yes.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 If a company learns that what they
 4 believe should be tax exempt property is
 5 placed for some reason on the tax rolls, it
 6 becomes incumbent upon them to approach the
 7 Assessors and the locals and have that removed
 8 from the tax rolls prior to payment.
 9 MS. PORTER:
 10 That's correct. You shouldn't have --
 11 you shouldn't have -- you shouldn't pay it.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Right, shouldn't.
 14 MS. PORTER:
 15 Uh-huh.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 And the difficulty, I think, and
 18 Ms. Ardoin, I'm not a CPA and neither have I
 19 played one on TV, but it's my understanding
 20 that a lot of times the default decision is
 21 let's pay and protest and we'll argue about
 22 it.
 23 MS. PORTER:
 24 True.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 63

1 That's not a good idea either.
 2 MS. PORTER:
 3 Not a good idea.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 So the better move is to go to the Tax
 6 Assessor and ask the locals to remove it from
 7 the -- and, generally, as I appreciate what a
 8 lot of times happens, it depends on what time
 9 of the year these things happen. You know,
 10 the tax rolls are, I think, formalized in late
 11 fall'ish. And if there -- if the company does
 12 not yet have a contract backing the Governor's
 13 office, Mr. Ruckert, it's important to get
 14 those contracts --
 15 MS. PORTER:
 16 It's important to get those turned in,
 17 yes.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 If they're not turned in quickly, there's
 20 consequences that go along with that. But if
 21 the -- a lot of times, we see this sort of
 22 scenario arriving toward the end of the year,
 23 they have not yet gotten a signed contract,
 24 the Tax Assessor has no way of knowing, and
 25 things happen.

Page 64

1 So, Mr. Remedies?
 2 MR. REMEDIES:
 3 If the property --
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Get the mic closer, please.
 6 MR. REMEDIES:
 7 If the property then goes to the tax sale
 8 and the taxes are paid at the Sheriff's Sale,
 9 what happens to the property at that point?
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 Well, we're not talking about a Sheriff's
 12 Sale situation.
 13 MS. PORTER:
 14 No.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 This is just a matter of putting it on
 17 the tax rolls for the payment of taxes.
 18 MR. REMEDIES:
 19 Oh.
 20 MS. PORTER:
 21 For the ad valorem payment of taxes; not
 22 a Sheriff's Sale.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Yeah.
 25 MS. CHENG:

Page 65

1 When they have an ITEP contract open on
 2 the exempt rolls.
 3 MR. REMEDIES:
 4 Yes.
 5 MS. CHENG:
 6 So this one was put on the tax rolls and
 7 they paid.
 8 MR. REMEDIES:
 9 Okay. I guess I -- if the taxes are not
 10 paid out of protest over a period of time,
 11 they would -- the asset would be sold at
 12 Sheriff's Sale; right?
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Well, and again, stop me, staff, if I'm
 15 wrong here. If they did not pay the taxes and
 16 they went to the Tax Assessor and went to the
 17 locals and they refused to take it to put it
 18 on the exempt rolls and they said, no, we're
 19 keeping it on the taxable rolls, then they
 20 have no choice than to deal with that.
 21 With -- that's a -- that's a --
 22 MS. PORTER:
 23 Local.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 -- taxpayer and a Tax Assessor, local

1 Right. So, again, this came about from
 2 conversations about the company being
 3 non-compliant for jobs and payroll in 2022.
 4 And when that was discussed and the locals
 5 were notified, the locals gave us
 6 recommendations to cancel the contract; so,
 7 hence, them not being able to get the locals
 8 and Assessor to take it off the rolls, off the
 9 taxable rolls.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 Okay. Just so I can explain to the
 12 Board, and this has become a great object
 13 lesson on so many different levels. To
 14 further complicate J&R Juneau, if you flip
 15 over a couple of pages to the compliance
 16 section of your agenda, you -- right at the
 17 first line, you have AW Chesterton Company.
 18 Well, AW, as I explained earlier, some have a
 19 single project under two different contracts;
 20 because, one, they own a certain part of the
 21 assets; the other one, they own another set of
 22 the assets. In this situation, we've got the
 23 project is simply non-compliant.
 24 MS. PORTER:
 25 Correct.

1 government problem. And the consequence from
 2 the way the rules are written on it now, the
 3 consequence of that is they're no longer
 4 eligible for the program, for the ITEP
 5 Program.
 6 MR. REMEDIES:
 7 Thank you.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 Mr. Polozola?
 10 MR. POLOZOLA:
 11 Ms. Porter, what is the company's
 12 position on this issue?
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Do we have someone here from J&R Juneau?
 15 Apparently not. Okay. Ms. Porter, if
 16 you know, say so; if not, say so.
 17 MS. PORTER:
 18 My understanding is that they understand,
 19 correct me if I'm wrong, they understand that
 20 taxes were paid and they are okay with that,
 21 and the Assessor is okay with it. They're not
 22 even looking for a reimbursement, but there is
 23 some stuff behind it because it has come up
 24 and they are delinquent as well.
 25 MR. USIE:

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 And so we're going to deal with J&R
 3 Juneau 2.0 in just a few minutes --
 4 MS. PORTER:
 5 In just a few minutes.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 -- on that part of the agenda. So at the
 8 end of the day, I want people, I want the
 9 Board to understand that there's reasons for
 10 the rule. And the main reason for the rule is
 11 that once those taxes are paid, we cannot go
 12 back to the locals and force them to pay back
 13 the money that was paid. So once the payment
 14 is made, it becomes incredible incumbent upon
 15 the company to exercise whatever authority or
 16 whatever political will they have at their
 17 local government to get a property taken off
 18 the tax exempt -- I mean the tax rolls if they
 19 don't belong there.
 20 MS. PORTER:
 21 Correct.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 That's their responsibility to do that.
 24 We, the State, cannot force local government
 25 to do that. We have no -- we have no bullet

1 in our belt to make that happen. So this is
 2 an object lesson about six different levels.
 3 All right. Is that clear as mud to
 4 everybody? All right. Mr. Mele?
 5 MR. MELE:
 6 So they are non-compliant, but also on
 7 meeting the requirements.
 8 MR. USIE:
 9 So J&R Juneau owns the building portion
 10 of the project. AW Chesterton, as you'll see
 11 later as non-compliant, owns the machinery and
 12 equipment, but they share a job and payroll
 13 reporting. It has been brought as a
 14 cancellation because 2020 occurred way before
 15 the 2022 non-compliance, so that's why it's
 16 being shown as a cancellation rather than
 17 non-compliant.
 18 MR. MELE:
 19 And they're not here this morning.
 20 MS. PORTER:
 21 No, they're not here.
 22 MR. USIE:
 23 They are not here.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 Mr. Miller?

Page 70

1 MR. MILLER:
 2 It's not just one year, so the contract
 3 is canceled for good. There's no coming back
 4 for eight years or nine years or --
 5 MS. PORTER:
 6 That's correct.
 7 MR. MILLER:
 8 Once it's on the rolls and taxes are
 9 paid, it's off --
 10 MS. PORTER:
 11 Done.
 12 MR. MILLER:
 13 -- from then on.
 14 MS. PORTER:
 15 Right.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 And that's a significant issue. And this
 18 is a big deal, guys, I mean I don't want to
 19 make any bones about it. And it comes back to
 20 the general philosophy of when there's late
 21 renewals, when there's late applications, a
 22 whole lot of bad dominoes start falling. And
 23 it's incumbent upon the applicants and the
 24 companies to make sure that they are diligent
 25 in following the rules.

Page 71

1 Because once taxes get paid or once
 2 applications aren't managed in a timely
 3 fashion, things happen back home with the Tax
 4 Assessor that has real serious implications.
 5 So we're not just trying to -- we're not
 6 trying to just make examples of people. No,
 7 this isn't, you know, stockade up here. We're
 8 just trying to make sure that the companies
 9 recognize that there's diligence. Because
 10 when the dominoes start falling, it's a bad
 11 day. Okay. Is that fair?
 12 All right. Do we have --
 13 MR. MILLER:
 14 Can I make a motion to cancel or do we
 15 have one?
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 I'm, frankly, not clear on whether we
 18 have a -- do we have a motion yet,
 19 Ms. Simmons?
 20 MS. SIMMONS:
 21 No.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Okay. We do not have a motion.
 24 Mr. Motion from -- motion from Mr. Miller
 25 being to cancel the contract. We have a

Page 72

1 motion to cancel. Second from Mr. Nassar.
 2 Any comments or questions from the Board?
 3 Any further comments or questions?
 4 Any comments from the public?
 5 There is none. All in favor, say aye.
 6 ALL:
 7 Aye.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 Any opposition?
 10 There is none. The motion carries.
 11 Special Requests?
 12 MR. USIE:
 13 Next, we have one Special Request for
 14 Taminco US, LLC, Contract 20180142. Taminco
 15 US, LLC is requesting to amend their existing
 16 Exhibit A agreement for Contract 2018142 to
 17 lower the required number of retained jobs to
 18 106 to 100.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 I'm going to ask that we defer this
 21 matter until the next meeting. I believe
 22 we've had some conversations with the
 23 applicant and I think there is a path forward
 24 here to do what needs to be done, but I want
 25 to be sure that we don't create any unintended

Page 73

1 consequences. So there's going to be a
 2 discussion between staff and Taminco between
 3 now and the next meeting, and we'll bring this
 4 matter up there if that's all right.
 5 I would entertain a motion to defer. A
 6 motion from Mr. Moss. Second from Mr. Nassar.
 7 Any questions or comments?
 8 There being none, any comments from the
 9 public?
 10 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 11 ALL:
 12 Aye.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Any opposition?
 15 The matter is deferred.
 16 MR. USIE:
 17 Next, we have another Special Request for
 18 Formosa Plastics Corporation, Louisiana,
 19 Contract 20190225. Formosa Plastics is
 20 requesting to amend their existing Exhibit A
 21 agreement for Contract 20190225 to add an
 22 additional year to the two-year period allowed
 23 to commence operation.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 Do we have someone here from Formosa?

Page 74

1 Can you please come up? While they are coming
 2 forward, this is not Formosa in St. James
 3 Parish.
 4 MR. POLOZOLA:
 5 Mr. Chairman, I have to recuse.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 And Mr. Polozola will be recusing himself
 8 in deliberation or action on this matter.
 9 MR. AUSTIN:
 10 Mr. Chairman, I need to recuse as well.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 And Mr. Austin will be recusing himself
 13 as well.
 14 All right. Please state your name and
 15 position for the company.
 16 MR. HALE:
 17 My name is Paul Scott Hale, I am the
 18 Director of Administration for the Formosa
 19 Plastics Corporation, Louisiana.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Great. Thank you for being here this
 22 morning. Tells us what's happened here and
 23 what you need.
 24 MR. HALE:
 25 Well, Mr. Chairman, Madam Secretary, and

Page 75

1 Board Members, I appreciate the opportunity to
 2 come here and discuss this request here, and I
 3 can give a laundry list of different reasons
 4 and valid reasons of why the things have taken
 5 place since we first filed our front-end
 6 application or front-end contract, we actually
 7 executed that contract, front-end contract
 8 back in August of 2019. I don't want to sound
 9 like a bunch of excuses, so I've got a list of
 10 five different things.
 11 Some of those, this Board has heard
 12 before here. Certainly, COVID over this
 13 period of time was something that took place,
 14 raw materials in the global supply chain issue
 15 were there, manpower issues, and even weather
 16 played a roll over this period of time into
 17 the completion of this project. The Board has
 18 heard other similarly-situated companies come
 19 here and espouse these reasons before, but I
 20 can go into detail on those things if you'd
 21 like, but I'd like to certainly focus on one
 22 area that was unique to Formosa Plastics.
 23 And that was our FRP, Fiber Reinforced
 24 Tank Manufacturer received from the U.S.
 25 Defense Priorities and Allocations Systems

Page 76

1 what they call a rated order. And,
 2 essentially, what that means is the federal
 3 government stopped and appropriated the full
 4 production capabilities of that company that
 5 was producing our fiber reinforced tanks for
 6 something that they chose as being more in the
 7 national interest than producing the tanks for
 8 our project.
 9 As such, we have received or they were in
 10 the midst of producing five tanks at that
 11 time. We did actually receive those five
 12 tanks, but they were not allowed to work on
 13 anything else until they had completed this
 14 rated order. So deliveries that were supposed
 15 to have taken place in August of 2022 were not
 16 received until 10 months later in June of
 17 2023.
 18 And that's mirrored several times over
 19 with material availability and that type of
 20 thing. Things just got kicked down the road
 21 post-COVID, things had shut down. People took
 22 a while to come back up. Manpower
 23 requirements, as other companies in the area
 24 came out of COVID. They decided, well, it's
 25 time for us to start working on our delayed

Page 77

1 projects that we had during the COVID period
 2 too, so manpower became quite an issue or
 3 whatever in this area, especially for skilled
 4 labor.
 5 I could go through those issues or
 6 whatever, some details on those, but I think
 7 y'all have heard some of these before. That
 8 last one there is definitely unique to
 9 Formosa.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 Many of these Board Members have not
 12 heard some of those things, but if I may, let
 13 me lay some context. When these contracts are
 14 negotiated between the applicant and the State
 15 of Louisiana for ITEP, they basically agree
 16 upon some milestones, when construction will
 17 begin, when operations will begin. And
 18 there's even built into the contract a
 19 two-year grace period if you don't -- if you
 20 don't get it because things happen.
 21 And when you're -- used to, when we were
 22 building \$250 million projects, things happen.
 23 Well, when you're building a billion-dollar
 24 facility, things really happen, you know. And
 25 what we've seen since 2020, frankly, between

Page 78

1 supply chain issues, workforce issues that all
 2 of us in our companies have had to deal with
 3 in one shape or form, these kind of requests
 4 have not been unusual, frankly.
 5 We've seen a number of them in the past,
 6 well, since COVID basically. And so I think
 7 what you're saying reams true from the
 8 standpoint about supply chain, workforce, and
 9 you simply have not been able to meet within
 10 what you thought was going to be a good
 11 construction timeline turned out to stuff
 12 happened.
 13 MR. HALE:
 14 Yes, sir. We took a guess back in 2019
 15 when we'd be finished, and we chose 2022, and
 16 we didn't make 2022. And within the two-year
 17 grace period would have brought us into April
 18 30th of 2024. And we determined last year,
 19 we're not going to make that date anyway. So
 20 we started the process in order to ask for
 21 this request.
 22 I do have some bright spots along these
 23 lines or whatever for the Board. And that is,
 24 our original contract was originally to have
 25 15 new jobs and create \$1.165 million in new

Page 79

1 payroll. It looks like right now, as of the
 2 end of 2023, 12/31/2023, we've actually
 3 created 14 -- or excuse me, 24 direct new
 4 jobs, so an additional nine new jobs than we
 5 had originally anticipated with payroll, new
 6 eligible wages up through that date of almost
 7 \$3 million. So we are exceeding what we had
 8 originally contemplated in that contract as
 9 well.
 10 Also, we had looked at \$332 million of
 11 investment at the onset of this. And I can
 12 tell you, we're probably over 357 already and
 13 probably looking at being north of
 14 \$400 million by the time that this all hits
 15 the books.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Thank you for that update as well. With
 18 that, we would entertain a motion. We have a
 19 motion from Mr. Moss to approve this special
 20 request. We have a second? Second from
 21 Mr. Mele.
 22 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 23 Yes, sir?
 24 MR. AMOSS:
 25 If you wouldn't mind, give us an updated

Page 80

1 schedule and how you're doing, so that if we
 2 would be extending to April 30th of 2025 for
 3 commercial operations, how do you feel about
 4 that date and any margin of safety between
 5 here and there?
 6 MR. HALE:
 7 Yes, sir. We were pushing hard to get
 8 done by the end of last year and weren't going
 9 to make it. So we said, well, we want 2024 to
 10 be our first contract year. So it's our full
 11 intention at this time to have all of our
 12 assets hit the tax rolls by the end of this
 13 year.
 14 MR. AMOSS:
 15 Thank you.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Any other questions or comments?
 18 Hearing none, any comments from the
 19 public?
 20 There being none, all in favor of
 21 granting the special request, say aye.
 22 ALL:
 23 Aye.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 Any opposition?

Page 81

1 There being none, the motion carries.
 2 MR. HALE:
 3 Thank you.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Thank you for your investment in the
 6 state.
 7 MR. HALE:
 8 Yes, sir.
 9 MR. USIE:
 10 Next, we have Non-Compliant Contract
 11 following the 2018 ITEP Rules.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Okay. Before we get into it, I'm going
 14 to, again, set the table just a little bit
 15 here. The most compliance issues that we've
 16 had with ITEP falls essentially into two
 17 categories -- three: They didn't meet the
 18 jobs requirements that was set up under the
 19 last eight years of Administration, they
 20 didn't meet the payroll requirement that was
 21 set up in the last eight years of
 22 Administration, or they didn't file timely; is
 23 that essentially correct?
 24 MR. USIE:
 25 Correct.

Page 82

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Thank you. When we find these
 3 noncompliant issues, the staff notifies the
 4 local governments that this has happened and
 5 we ask the local government to tell us, what
 6 you think. It's only a recommendation, it's
 7 not binding on the Board, but the local
 8 government can tell us. Much to my chagrin,
 9 about 60 to 70 percent of the local government
 10 says, we defer to the Board. And you will
 11 hear from me, as the last Board got tired of
 12 hearing from me, when local government said
 13 they wanted to be in this process, I expect
 14 them to be in it. And they choose to opt out
 15 when the going gets tough, then that means
 16 they don't care whether we apply a penalty or
 17 not due to noncompliance. But that's just me,
 18 I'm just one vote, but that's the way I will
 19 vote every time when I see, defer to the
 20 Board.
 21 In this situation, so all the
 22 noncompliances are all about jobs, payroll, or
 23 didn't file timely. And the way the agenda
 24 table is set up, it will tell you at the index
 25 whether the local government deferred to the

Page 83

1 Board or wants to terminate or reduce the term
 2 or whatever their recommendation is that the
 3 staff has basically set up a code for you.
 4 You have to kind of understand the others.
 5 But once you do, it will be easier to work
 6 through these.
 7 So with that, I just wanted to kind of
 8 level set where we are and how we're doing.
 9 Go ahead, Mr. Usie.
 10 MR. USIE:
 11 We have one contract, Number 20190070 for
 12 AW Chesterton Company in Bossier Parish that
 13 is noncompliant for the 2022 reporting period.
 14 The Exhibit A agreement for the contract
 15 required the company create and maintain 14
 16 new jobs with \$910,000 in payroll. The actual
 17 jobs created was two with \$155,817 in payroll.
 18 The Parish submitted a resolution
 19 recommending to terminate the contract due to
 20 noncompliance for the 2022 project year. The
 21 School Board submitted a resolution
 22 recommending to terminate the ITEP Contract
 23 retroactive to the beginning of the contract
 24 due to noncompliance for project year '22.
 25 And the Sheriff and the City did not respond

Page 84

1 with recommendations.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 So we have noncompliance with the two,
 4 the only two entities where there was an ITEP
 5 Contract in place recommending termination.
 6 Again, this is J&R Juneau 2.0, this is the
 7 second portion of that, as we discussed
 8 earlier.
 9 So we have a motion from Mr. Nassar to
 10 terminate the contract. We have a second from
 11 Mr. Mele.
 12 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 13 Hearing none, any comments from the
 14 public?
 15 There being none, all in favor, say aye.
 16 ALL:
 17 Aye.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Any opposition?
 20 There being none, the motion carries.
 21 MS. CHENG:
 22 We have two contracts: 20180323-A and
 23 20180323-B for Bagwell Energy Services in
 24 Iberia Parish. They're noncompliant for the
 25 reporting periods of 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Page 85

1 The Exhibit A for both the contracts required
 2 the company create and maintain 40 jobs with
 3 \$2.8 million in payroll for project year 2020.
 4 The actual jobs created and maintained for
 5 project year 2020 was seven jobs with \$276,950
 6 in payroll.
 7 For project year 2021, the Exhibit A
 8 required 60 jobs with \$4.2 million in payroll.
 9 The actual jobs created and maintained in
 10 project year 2021 was 16 jobs with \$435,628 in
 11 payroll.
 12 And for project year 2022, the Exhibit A
 13 required 90 jobs with \$6.3 million in payroll.
 14 The actual jobs created for project year 2022
 15 was 16 jobs with \$848,796 in payroll.
 16 The Parish submitted three resolutions
 17 stating to recommend to the Louisiana Board of
 18 Commerce and Industry for deferral of any
 19 decision or actually for noncompliance for
 20 project year 2020 by Bagwell Energy Service
 21 ITEP Contract 20180323-A to recommend to the
 22 Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry for
 23 deferral of any decision or action for
 24 noncompliance for project year 2020 by Bagwell
 25 for ITEP Contract 20180323-B and to recommend

Page 86

1 to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and
 2 Industry for deferral to the Board on any
 3 decision or action for noncompliance by
 4 Bagwell Energy Services for ITEP Contracts
 5 20180323-A and 20180323-B for the project
 6 years of 2021 and 2022.
 7 The School Board submitted a resolution
 8 to recommend that the tax exemption regarding
 9 said contract be entirely eliminated and that
 10 Bagwell Energy Services begin paying the full
 11 amount of all taxes owed to the Iberia Parish
 12 School Board beginning with tax year 2023.
 13 The Board further reserves all rights to
 14 collect the amount of taxes that were exempted
 15 for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.
 16 The Sheriff originally denied the
 17 exemption, so he was not requested to provide
 18 a recommendation.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Okay. So we have a situation where we
 21 have the noncompliances and we're going to
 22 hear from the company representative here in
 23 just a moment. The Parish has deferred to the
 24 Board. The School Board has recommended
 25 termination of the contract.

Page 87

1 So would you state your name and your
 2 position with the company, please?
 3 MR. BAGWELL:
 4 Yes, sir. I'm Roger Bagwell, I'm the CEO
 5 of Bagwell Energy Services.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 All right. Tell us what's been happening
 8 here.
 9 MR. BAGWELL:
 10 Well --
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Sit closer to the mic.
 13 MR. BAGWELL:
 14 I'm sorry. It's pretty much the same
 15 story, you know. When we made the assumptions
 16 on the number of people to be hired going
 17 forward, we were pretty aggressive. You know,
 18 COVID hit, you know, we were looking at the
 19 LNG plants, the carbon capture, the wind
 20 turbine mills was supposed to be coming in and
 21 you know, P and A and all these companies and
 22 projects going forward pretty much stalled,
 23 you know. So we really had a tough couple of
 24 three years there with COVID. And it's just
 25 now really starting to pick back up.

Page 88

1 Naturally, we did not meet our numbers.
 2 We were about 50 percent of what we said we
 3 would do, which in consideration, I thought
 4 that was pretty good. Most of the
 5 intermediate sized contractors like us in the
 6 area actually went out of business. There's
 7 about five large companies in our area that
 8 really went out of business on COVID. Some of
 9 them, I'm sure you, Dynamic, Omega, CPE, all
 10 these companies are now gone. We were able to
 11 make it through it, but it was tough, you
 12 know.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 First of all, what is it you manufacture?
 15 MR. BAGWELL:
 16 We are a welding fabrication company. We
 17 do construction and also offshore contractor.
 18 We do sand blasting, painting, welding,
 19 hydro-testing, we build ASME vessels, welding
 20 and piping and packages for the oil field.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 And how long have you been in business?
 23 MR. BAGWELL:
 24 Well, I was -- I've been a staple of the
 25 community in Delcrambre -- and we're out of

Page 89

1 Delcrambre. And, you know, we started Bagwell
 2 Brothers back in '80, 1980. We sold it to the
 3 Shaw Group in '97. I was still in the oil
 4 field for about 15 years and we ended up
 5 starting Bagwell Energy and we ended up buying
 6 the facility back from Chicago Bridge and
 7 Iron, which bought it from Shaw. So I've been
 8 in the area for a long time. I've been
 9 Bagwell Energy now since 2014.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 And, generally, how many employees do you
 12 maintain on the payroll?
 13 MR. BAGWELL:
 14 Well, right now, we're about 135. You
 15 know, typically, we've ran, you know, and
 16 during COVID, we were probably half that. I
 17 think, let me see, 2020, we were like 65
 18 people. And, you know, we were able to
 19 maintain -- we didn't -- it was tough during
 20 that time, but we tried to keep our people
 21 because that's the most valuable asset.
 22 So we've been there a long time and we've
 23 always been a community, you know, part of the
 24 community there. And we feel like, you know,
 25 we went through some tough times and I don't

Page 90

1 think it's not just us, but everybody has been
 2 in the same boat. And I understand the local
 3 government, they're in a bind with their
 4 taxes, they want the taxes, you know, but it's
 5 kind of like we're in a situation where, you
 6 know, it hurts us at this point based on the
 7 way everything's been, you know.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 So since we've come out of COVID, how has
 10 it -- how has hiring been getting you the
 11 workforce you need in order to meet your
 12 customer needs?
 13 MR. BAGWELL:
 14 Well, it's been tough to get the good
 15 people. You know, good people are hard to
 16 find, you know, experienced welders, fitters,
 17 you know. A lot of them left, a lot of them
 18 went to the, you know, putting up the
 19 windmills all over the country. And, you
 20 know, we've been able to gradually get some
 21 back.
 22 We've got a training program. We're
 23 training new kids now to be -- and we've
 24 invested pretty heavily in high tech equipment
 25 with welding equipment and cutting equipment

Page 91

1 and, you know, we're training new -- these
 2 younger kids to be able to do that type of
 3 work. And, you know, we've been there a long
 4 time and we plan on being there a long time.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 Do you believe you'll be able to
 7 ultimately reach the payroll or employee
 8 numbers?
 9 MR. BAGWELL:
 10 Well, you know, in all reality, I would
 11 love to be able to reassess the numbers. We
 12 were real aggressive when we came in on this
 13 deal and we had a lot of confidence that we
 14 were going to be able to meet our numbers.
 15 The world is totally different now. I think
 16 we will be able to grow. I just don't know if
 17 we'll be able to grow at the pace that we
 18 originally said we could in 2019.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Who are your customers?
 21 MR. BAGWELL:
 22 I deal with Chevron, Hess, Oxy, a lot of
 23 the smaller ones, Arena, Renaissance, a lot of
 24 the local contractors. We work for
 25 Haliburton, Weatherford. We build a lot of

Page 92

1 their equipment. CETCO, a lot these companies
 2 that build equipment, we build their vessels
 3 and their piping.
 4 And so we deal with a lot of the people
 5 in our area. So, you know, in reality, we
 6 really blanket the whole energy industry.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Okay. Thank you. Thank you for that.
 9 MR. BAGWELL:
 10 Yes, sir.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 And in my world, I just want to know what
 13 your -- what it looks like from your side of
 14 the table, because --
 15 MR. BAGWELL:
 16 I think it looks better, but it's been
 17 tough.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 I understand. I understand.
 20 MR. BAGWELL:
 21 If you look at the Port of Iberia, it's
 22 almost like a ghost town compared to what it
 23 used to be. We're in the Twin Parish Port,
 24 which is a small port right there on the
 25 Delcrambre Canal and, you know, I think we --

Page 93

1 we're growing and we're still there and, you
2 know, we've got a pretty nice operation, one
3 of the nicest fabrication facilities in south
4 Louisiana.
5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
6 All right.
7 MR. NASSAR:
8 Ask a question.
9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
10 Okay. I figured we might expose some
11 questions, so let's -- I'm going to not follow
12 parliamentary procedure, but I'm going to let
13 the questions precede -- because I think that
14 may help inform and what the motion ought to
15 be. Mr. Nassar first, then we'll come over
16 here.
17 MR. NASSAR:
18 Did you meet with the school board
19 members or --
20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
21 Bring your -- Mr. Nassar, bring your mic
22 closer.
23 MR. NASSAR:
24 Did you meet with the school board
25 president and superintendent before?

Page 94

1 MR. BAGWELL:
2 I have talked with them. At the last
3 meeting they had, I wanted to be there, but I
4 had prior obligations in Houston and I wasn't
5 able to make it. But, yeah, I have talked to
6 the guys over there, yes, sir. They kind of
7 like, you know, they didn't really want to
8 penalize us but, you know, they're in a bind.
9 You know, they're -- unfortunately, they need
10 money, you know.
11 MR. NASSAR:
12 Because the way it looks, the Sheriff did
13 not -- he denied the initial exemption,
14 correct, the Sheriff?
15 MR. BAGWELL:
16 Yes, sir. And I mean it was pretty much
17 the same thing, you know, they were tight and
18 he just pretty much said, look, I just can't
19 afford to give anybody an exemption. So I did
20 meet with them.
21 MR. NASSAR:
22 And the Police Jury, they deferred to the
23 Board on this matter; right?
24 MR. BAGWELL:
25 (Nods.)

Page 95

1 MR. NASSAR:
2 So I'm kind of torn on this one to be
3 honest with you --
4 MR. BAGWELL:
5 Yes, sir.
6 MR. NASSAR:
7 -- because the locals have weighed in it,
8 but I feel your pain. I worked in
9 construction in my early years and I worked in
10 the industry for 38 years.
11 MR. BAGWELL:
12 Well, I agree with you, I'm kind of torn
13 too. I wish I could just pay these guys what
14 I probably owe them, but I mean, you know,
15 we're in the same boat, you know, as they are.
16 And, you know, it's just a matter of who needs
17 it the worst, I guess.
18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
19 Mr. Mele?
20 MR. MELE:
21 Help me understand -- thank you for
22 showing up this morning to answer these
23 questions.
24 MR. BAGWELL:
25 Yes, sir.

Page 96

1 MR. MELE:
2 You said that you felt you only met 50
3 percent of your obligation.
4 MR. BAGWELL:
5 Yes, sir.
6 MR. MELE:
7 How does that -- from what I'm looking at
8 right here, what does that compute? I'm
9 looking at salaries and I'm looking at both in
10 actual jobs and required, 50 percent of what?
11 MR. BAGWELL:
12 Well, I'm saying we probably hired about
13 50 percent of the number of people that we
14 said we would hire.
15 MR. MELE:
16 Okay. The -- in your business, I heard
17 oil fabrication in the oil field but also in
18 solar panels.
19 MR. BAGWELL:
20 I'm sorry?
21 MR. MELE:
22 Windmills or solar panels?
23 MR. BAGWELL:
24 Well, I mean one of our -- one of our --
25 one thing that we did when we agreed that what

Page 97

1 we were going to hire, we really thought the
 2 wind turbine business would be coming to south
 3 Louisiana. I've been hearing for five, ten
 4 years, we're going to start doing this, we're
 5 going to start expanding into the wind
 6 turbines, you know, offshore platforms to be
 7 able to put these windmills on. You know, the
 8 LNG plant, when the COVID hit, a lot of the
 9 permits got slowed down and a lot of that, we
 10 do a lot of the LNG work, but a lot of the big
 11 projects have been postponed for several years
 12 now.
 13 MR. MELE:
 14 Right.
 15 MR. BAGWELL:
 16 So I mean a lot of the things that we
 17 looked at that, we thought were going to be
 18 very aggressive in our area to be able to hire
 19 people hasn't come about. So haven't been
 20 able to -- you know, it just hadn't been as
 21 aggressively -- you know, these projects just
 22 haven't come around like we thought they
 23 would. I think they eventually will. But,
 24 you know, it's been three years since COVID,
 25 '20, '21, '22, and really just now seeing a

Page 98

1 lot of the larger oil companies starting to do
 2 some of these larger projects. So, you know,
 3 naturally, we weren't able to meet our
 4 numbers.
 5 MS. CHENG:
 6 Mr. Mele, this may help you understand
 7 the numbers a little bit better, they do have
 8 to still maintain their baseline number of
 9 jobs for hire before the project started, so
 10 he may have hired more than 16 or 7 that
 11 you're seeing on the agenda. But if he lost
 12 anyone off the baseline, he would have to
 13 backfill those jobs before any new jobs would
 14 count.
 15 MR. MELE:
 16 Understood. Thank you.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 Thank you. Mr. Remedies?
 19 MR. REMEDIES:
 20 Yes, this question is for staff, would
 21 50 percent or what he's saying they actually
 22 have on payroll, would he have qualified for
 23 the program if he had used that number in his
 24 projections?
 25 MS. CHENG:

Page 99

1 What he was required was the 40, 60, and
 2 90. With those payrolls, I don't see the
 3 numbers that they actually created would be
 4 50 percent of.
 5 MR. REMEDIES:
 6 Yes, but he's saying that he had to --
 7 he's hired about 50 percent of --
 8 MS. CHENG:
 9 But that's what I'm saying, you have to
 10 meet the baseline.
 11 MR. REMEDIES:
 12 Okay. Yeah.
 13 MR. BAGWELL:
 14 Yeah, you have --
 15 MR. REMEDIES:
 16 No, I understand that. I was just asking
 17 if he had projected 50 percent --
 18 MS. CHENG:
 19 So you're saying half of 90 would be 45
 20 and --
 21 MR. REMEDIES:
 22 If he had placed that on his application,
 23 would he have been eligible for this program?
 24 MS. CHENG:
 25 Sure. It's whatever they are.

Page 100

1 MR. REMEDIES:
 2 Okay. I'm just trying to understand the
 3 program.
 4 MS. CHENG:
 5 Right. The job requirements are what the
 6 company is committing to. That's not
 7 necessarily -- it's not --
 8 MR. REMEDIES:
 9 I understand.
 10 MS. CHENG:
 11 -- ever numbers that LED requires them to
 12 create. That's what they are saying they're
 13 comfortable with committing to at the time of
 14 application.
 15 MR. REMEDIES:
 16 Okay. Thank you. And this other
 17 question, I guess, would be for the Chair. Is
 18 it normal practice that the Board vote and
 19 allow a school board to go back on a business
 20 owner for several years for the taxes that
 21 they were exempt from?
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 That's outside our providence at this
 24 point, but I --
 25 MR. REMEDIES:

Page 101

1 Because in their request, it sounded like
 2 they were asking for that, and that may not be
 3 something that we could approve.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 I think that is something that they are
 6 intending, perhaps intending to do, but that's
 7 outside this Board's --
 8 MR. REMEDIES:
 9 Okay.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 That's between them and their lawyers.
 12 MR. REMEDIES:
 13 Okay. Thank you.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 Fair question though. Yes, sir?
 16 MR. AMOSS:
 17 Also for staff, so just wanted to
 18 clarify, the benefit taken so far is roughly
 19 \$20,000 per year, '20, '21, '22, and there's
 20 an additional two years, '23 and '24 of the
 21 original contract; is that correct?
 22 MS. CHENG:
 23 Right, it's around 20 per year.
 24 MR. AMOSS:
 25 Okay. And then to follow up, so just to

Page 102

1 clarify, we have no option at this Board to
 2 split what's been taken to date and what is
 3 future benefit?
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 No. No. What -- where we are -- I mean
 6 our option is in noncompliance. And any time
 7 you have a noncompliant situation is, really,
 8 the sword's, the arrow's in our quiver, if you
 9 will, is we can reduce the number of years
 10 that are left in the contract. And that's,
 11 essentially, it. That's -- I mean, I'm going
 12 through my mind trying to checklist if there's
 13 other things we can do or we can ignore all
 14 together or we can cancel the contract.
 15 I mean cancel -- if you have an egregious
 16 situation, I don't, to my knowledge, to my
 17 recollection, I don't believe we've ever
 18 canceled a contract, not since I've been here
 19 at least. But, usually, the response is
 20 cutting back on the number of remaining years
 21 in the contract; am I -- Ms. Cheng, Mr. Usie,
 22 am I right?
 23 MS. CHENG:
 24 I think we have terminated if that was
 25 the recommendation of the locals.

Page 103

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Oh, okay. Yeah, you're correct, correct,
 3 a hundred percent right. I'm -- we --
 4 MS. CHENG:
 5 I'm thinking if it's been deferred to
 6 Board, the Board --
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 If it is deferred to the Board, we've not
 9 terminated. If the locals wanted to terminate
 10 it, we have generally followed that.
 11 Ms. Bourgeois?
 12 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 13 Yeah. Staff, is there any noncompliance
 14 issues other than the jobs and payroll
 15 requirement? Is the capital investment
 16 compliant?
 17 MS. CHENG:
 18 Oh, there's not really a capital
 19 investment requirement. They did, I believe,
 20 meet the -- they completed the project and did
 21 meet what they intended to spend, yes.
 22 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 23 Yes.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 I'm going to say something so politically

Page 104

1 incorrect, and I apologize ahead of time. Now
 2 you have to listen, we've never had compliance
 3 issues until jobs and payroll got added to the
 4 contract requirements. And as a result, when
 5 the EO is implemented, we will no longer have
 6 jobs and payroll. And, you know, it may take
 7 a few years, but we will not have compliance
 8 issues at some point.
 9 And this -- and this -- and I'm going to
 10 say this too, the reason for that is that,
 11 just as Mr. Bagwell, just as Formosa, just as
 12 many other companies that have come before us
 13 to sit in 2019 and say, okay, when I get this
 14 project going, the market and the business
 15 climate and the workforce is going to be there
 16 so I can hire 20 people; but to be able to
 17 look in the crystal ball and now, now we say,
 18 okay, you had a hurricane, you had COVID, you
 19 could have, you know, whatever next disaster
 20 comes along, but somehow we can see in advance
 21 and know how we can do that. Or an even
 22 better example is, or I'm going to invent a
 23 new widget in my factory that says I no longer
 24 need three employees, I can do it with one
 25 employee.

Page 105

1 Because as Henry Ford has taught us that
 2 manufacturing is always looking how to make
 3 more widgets with fewer people, always. And
 4 when we have a public policy that says we've
 5 got to maintain jobs and payroll when
 6 manufacturing is trying to cut jobs and
 7 payroll, because that is what manufacturing
 8 does, you've got policy and reality are not
 9 aligned. And so I'm, frankly, grateful that
 10 we have come to a point where we are going to
 11 go back to what the business and industry
 12 reality really is and get rid of the jobs and
 13 payroll requirement all together. But I'm
 14 sorry that doesn't help you today,
 15 Mr. Bagwell, but that's -- got that off my
 16 chest, I won't ever say it again.
 17 But in any event, now we have a situation
 18 here where we have a Police Jury has deferred
 19 to the Board. And, again, in my mind, that
 20 means that they don't care, so that's a --
 21 that means no penalty. You can -- it is
 22 possible for us to grant no penalty for the
 23 Police Jury portion of the ad valorem but
 24 still terminate the contract for the school
 25 board. That's an option if that's something

Page 106

1 the Board wants to do.
 2 MR. NASSAR:
 3 That's a motion I would like to make.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 So to be --
 6 MR. NASSAR:
 7 The reason is because, as you said
 8 earlier, you know, we ask the locals to get
 9 involved. The locals are now involved and
 10 this is under no Executive Order. So that's
 11 my motion that we terminate the exemption for
 12 the School Board. And as you said, the Police
 13 Jury defer to the Board. So it would be, the
 14 Board would have to include in that motion
 15 that we don't terminate the exemption for the
 16 Police Jury. The Sheriff has already denied
 17 the exemption originally.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Okay. So we have a motion to terminate
 20 the School Board's portion of the contract,
 21 keep the Parish portion of the contract. Do I
 22 have a second to that motion?
 23 MAYOR TOUPS:
 24 I'll second.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 107

1 Second from Mayor Toups.
 2 Any other questions or comments from the
 3 Board? Mr. Mele?
 4 MR. MELE:
 5 Modification of from day forward, I know
 6 that was brought up that there may be some --
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Modifying the contract all together,
 9 Ms. Cheng?
 10 MS. CHENG:
 11 There is an option to go to the locals --
 12 well, at this point, it would just be the
 13 Police Jury, and request that they amend their
 14 Exhibit A for lower job creation and payroll
 15 creation numbers and, hopefully, they would be
 16 able to meet it at that point if the locals
 17 agreed to it.
 18 MR. MELE:
 19 But that would make it more problematic
 20 for approval.
 21 MS. CHENG:
 22 Oh, no, when we -- that would have to go
 23 to the locals first.
 24 MR. MELE:
 25 Okay.

Page 108

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 And I -- Mr. Bagwell, what -- I think
 3 what is being suggested is, as you look at
 4 your realistic jobs and payroll numbers for
 5 the balance of the ITEP Program, you may want
 6 to consider going back out to the Police Jury
 7 and saying, listen, instead of 40 jobs and
 8 \$2.8 million in salary, putting what may be
 9 now a more realistic number.
 10 MR. BAGWELL:
 11 Right.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 And there may be something, and I can't
 14 speak for the Police Jury, but what would
 15 happen, mechanically, is that you would go to
 16 them. If they approve it, it would come back
 17 to us. We would amend your contract and you
 18 may forego potentially future noncompliance
 19 issues.
 20 MR. BAGWELL:
 21 Yeah. We did have a discussion about
 22 that with the Parish and they were pretty much
 23 in agreement with us. So I guess we'll have
 24 to go back to them.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 109

1 That may be something worth considering.
2 MR. BAGWELL:
3 Okay.
4 MR. MILLER:
5 If we --
6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
7 Mr. Miller?
8 MR. MILLER:
9 We're going to do that? Does that -- if
10 we vote on it the way it's been presented,
11 does that stop him from being able to go --
12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
13 No.
14 MR. MILLER:
15 -- forward?
16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
17 No.
18 MS. CHENG:
19 No, because y'all would still be letting
20 the Parish portion of the exemption go forward
21 if the motion was just --
22 MR. MILLER:
23 What if he went to the School Board
24 though and did the same thing?
25 MS. CHENG:

Page 110

1 Well, he can't because it would be
2 terminated at this point.
3 MR. MILLER:
4 He would --
5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
6 Yeah, he would not be able to go to the
7 School Board.
8 MS. CHENG:
9 Right.
10 MR. MILLER:
11 If we go forward. If we defer it and
12 give him time to go back to the School Board
13 and go back to the Police Jury, he's got to
14 'til October-ish 'til the tax rolls close.
15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
16 I love out-of-the-box thinking,
17 Mr. Miller. So where you're going is, rather
18 than taking any action on this matter today,
19 defer it to at least the next meeting, giving
20 Mr. Bagwell an opportunity to go speak to the
21 School Board and the Parish and see if they
22 would agree to a modification, and there may
23 be a negotiated resolution of whatever you
24 have.
25 MR. BAGWELL:

Page 111

1 Right.
2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
3 And that way, our next meeting is not
4 until June, the latter part of June. So that
5 gives you some time. And if it works out,
6 great; if it doesn't, I think you've sensed
7 the sentiment of this Board today.
8 MR. BAGWELL:
9 Yeah, and I understand. I appreciate
10 that. That might give me a little time to go
11 give them some options and work it out with
12 them. That would be -- that would be great.
13 MR. MILLER:
14 And as a point to that, all of our
15 actions during the year, we talked about
16 earlier, that if it goes on tax rolls and you
17 pay the bill, we're out of the question.
18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
19 Exactly.
20 MR. BAGWELL:
21 Yeah, it's done.
22 MR. MILLER:
23 All of our decisions, if they could be
24 made all the way up 'til it goes on the tax
25 rolls and you pay the bill.

Page 112

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
2 Good point.
3 MR. MILLER:
4 So, you know, there's no rush for us to
5 do it today.
6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
7 Okay. Procedurally, Mr. Nassar --
8 MR. NASSAR:
9 I will withdraw my motion.
10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
11 Withdraw your motion. And the second?
12 MAYOR TOUPS:
13 I'll withdraw.
14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
15 And Mr. Mayor Toups will withdraw his
16 second. Mr. Miller will make a substitute
17 motion that --
18 MR. MILLER:
19 We defer.
20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
21 -- to defer the matter until the June
22 meeting. I think that's a great solution. A
23 second from Mr. Simien.
24 Any other questions or comments from the
25 Board?

Page 113

1 Any comments from the public?
2 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
3 ALL:
4 Aye.
5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
6 Any opposition?
7 There being none, the motion carries.
8 MR. BAGWELL:
9 Thank you, sir.
10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
11 Good luck, Mr. Bagwell.
12 MR. BAGWELL:
13 Thank you.
14 MR. USIE:
15 Next, we have one contract: 20170588 for
16 Dependable Glass Works in St. Tammany Parish
17 that is noncompliant with the 2022 reporting
18 period. The Exhibit A for the contract
19 requires the company create and maintain four
20 jobs with \$120,000 in payroll. The actual
21 jobs and payroll created for 2022 was zero.
22 The Parish and the City did not respond
23 with recommendations. The School Board and
24 the Sheriff both submitted recommendations
25 stating to defer the matter to the Board.

Page 114

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
2 Okay. Do we have someone here from
3 Dependable Glass Works?
4 MR. BUCKLEY:
5 Hello, my name is actually Kyle Buckley
6 and I'm the incentive specialist for St.
7 Tammany Corporation, which is the economic
8 development organization for St. Tammany
9 Parish. Dependable Glass is a smaller company
10 and the nature of that and them being in the
11 middle of tax season and whatnot, they were
12 not able to spare an employee to attend the
13 meeting today, but they have provided a letter
14 and they asked that I have it read into the
15 records.
16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
17 Okay. Go right ahead.
18 MR. BUCKLEY:
19 To the Members of the Board of Commerce
20 and Industry, my name is Tosha Jakes, I'm the
21 Finance Manager of Dependable Glass Works, a
22 historic glass manufacturing company located
23 in downtown Covington, Louisiana. I apologize
24 for being unable to attend the meeting today
25 to discuss the annual compliance for

Page 115

1 Industrial Tax Exemption Program. This
2 program has provided great assistance to our
3 company and we are grateful for the
4 opportunity to participate in previous years.
5 However, since we first applied for this
6 program, we have faced several unforeseen
7 challenges that have made it difficult to not
8 only create the new jobs that we originally
9 intended but also maintain the existing
10 workforce.
11 We are a comparatively small company
12 (indiscernible) to compete in our industry.
13 Finding and retaining qualified workers is a
14 major difficulty that we are constantly having
15 to address. As such, and in looking at
16 current projections, we do not expect to be in
17 compliance in 2023 or subsequent years. We do
18 not wish to continually to go before our
19 locals, who have been very understanding to
20 date, and ask for their patience when we know
21 there's no solution on the horizon.
22 We are currently at the last year of the
23 initial five-year term of our ITEP contract.
24 Our understanding is that we have the option
25 to renew for an additional five years. We

Page 116

1 would like to request that no penalty be
2 applied for 2022 and that our contract be
3 canceled future years rather than moving
4 forward with our five-year renewal. To
5 clarify, we are requesting that the contract
6 be canceled effective 12/31/2022.
7 Please know that we are grateful for the
8 opportunity to participate in the initial term
9 of this contract. And though this project may
10 seem small compared to some of the other ITEPs
11 on today's agenda, the abatement provided made
12 a critical difference in the early days of
13 this expansion. We are also thankful for the
14 patience of our local governing bodies, this
15 Board, and our local economic development
16 office, who have helped us navigate this
17 process as best we could given the
18 circumstances. Sincerely, Tosha Jakes,
19 Financial Manager, Dependable Glass Works.
20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
21 So as I appreciate it, they do not intend
22 to continue in the program following the
23 initial five-year term; is that -- is that
24 correct?
25 MR. BUCKLEY:

Page 117

1 That's correct.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 Now, you guys, help me out procedurally.
 4 They've essentially asked for a cancellation.
 5 Do we -- is that a matter for another Board
 6 meeting or can we act on that today?
 7 MR. USIE:
 8 So it's my understanding that they're
 9 asking for a cancellation because it would be
 10 for four years. So if it was canceled
 11 effective 12/31/2022, that would give them a
 12 four-year contract. If the renewal wasn't due
 13 until the end of 2023, they did, they chose
 14 not to renew it. So if they just let it
 15 expire and just didn't file a renewal late,
 16 then they would still have compliance due for
 17 2023 upcoming in 2024. So they don't want to
 18 have to submit compliance for 2023.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Okay.
 21 MR. USIE:
 22 Which is why they're requesting to cancel
 23 it backdated and have 2022 be the last year
 24 they're responsible for.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 118

1 Ms. Cheng, you have something you want to
 2 say?
 3 MS. CHENG:
 4 No.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 Okay. I thought you were reaching for
 7 the mic. So I guess my question is, can we
 8 cancel their contract effective now in this
 9 meeting?
 10 MR. USIE:
 11 Yes.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Okay. And that cancellation would be
 14 effective what date?
 15 MR. USIE:
 16 They're requesting 12/31/2022.
 17 MR. BUCKLEY:
 18 That's correct.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Essentially, bypassing any compliance
 21 issues?
 22 MR. USIE:
 23 Correct, because if they just let it
 24 expire and not renew it, it would
 25 automatically expire 12/31/2023.

Page 119

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Got it.
 3 MR. USIE:
 4 But that 2023 compliance would be for
 5 this year and they would have to go back to
 6 their locals if they know they're already
 7 noncompliant.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 I understand. What happens with the
 10 taxes that were not paid for 2022 and 2023?
 11 MR. USIE:
 12 It would just be 2023 --
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Just 2023.
 15 MR. USIE:
 16 -- taxes.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 So have they considered that they're -- I
 19 mean that, obviously, 2023 taxes are probably
 20 past due by now or have they -- or I guess
 21 they haven't --
 22 MS. CHENG:
 23 I don't --
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 -- been placed on the rolls?

Page 120

1 MS. CHENG:
 2 I was going to say, I don't know whether
 3 the Assessor would have placed them on the
 4 rolls since they technically have a contract.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 You're right. You're right. They
 7 haven't been on the rolls, they're not past
 8 due. The Tax Assessor would have to put them
 9 on the rolls and then the 2023 tax rolls, and
 10 then send a tax bill, and then they would have
 11 to pay it. Okay.
 12 Okay. All right. Well, with that, do we
 13 have a motion? Mr. Polozola? We have a
 14 motion, Mr. Polozola, to terminate with an
 15 effective date of 12/31/22; is that accurate?
 16 MR. POLOZOLA:
 17 Yes, sir.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 All right. Do we have a second to that
 20 motion? We have a second from Mr. Moss. And
 21 I've got to say, that is the most creative
 22 approach to -- but and I'm not being -- I'm
 23 not being pejorative. I mean when you
 24 recognize that you're in over your head and
 25 that the projections were wrong and you're not

Page 121

1 going to be able to, you know, at some point
 2 in time, you have to decide and say, okay,
 3 it's time to say, okay, this was a good run,
 4 but we've done the best we can do. So I
 5 respect that. I respect that, so okay.
 6 MR. BUCKLEY:
 7 Thank you.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 So we have a motion and second to
 10 terminate effective December 31, 2022.
 11 Any other comments or questions from the
 12 Board?
 13 There being none, any comments from the
 14 public?
 15 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 16 ALL:
 17 Aye.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Any opposition?
 20 There being none, the motion carries.
 21 Thank you very much.
 22 MR. BUCKLEY:
 23 Thank you.
 24 MR. USIE:
 25 Next, we have two contracts: 20180403

Page 122

1 and 20180403-A for Indorama Ventures Olefins,
 2 LLC in Calcasieu Parish that are both
 3 noncompliant for the 2022 reporting period.
 4 The Exhibit A agreement for both contracts
 5 requires the company create and maintain five
 6 jobs with \$150,000 in payroll. The actual
 7 jobs and payroll created and maintained was
 8 zero.
 9 The Police Jury submitted a resolution
 10 recommending for each contract to reduce the
 11 term by one year. The School Board issued a
 12 resolution recommending for each contract to
 13 reduce the exemption percentage from
 14 80 percent to 40 percent for the remaining
 15 agreement terms previously granted to
 16 Indorama. And the Sheriff did not respond
 17 with a recommendation.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 All right. You're here representing
 20 Indorama?
 21 MR. HEXT:
 22 Yes, sir.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 State your name and your position with
 25 the company, please.

Page 123

1 MR. HEXT:
 2 I'm David Hext. I'm the Site Manager for
 3 Indorama Ventures, Westlake.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Okay. Tell us what's happened here.
 6 MR. HEXT:
 7 First, I want to say we are in compliance
 8 and have submitted our full compliance for
 9 2023, so we won't need to appear in the
 10 future. We fell behind on our hiring. The
 11 job positions are existing and have existed,
 12 we just were unable to fill all of those jobs,
 13 and we have attrition and losses. So we
 14 struggled through COVID where we fell behind.
 15 And then hiring out of that is a very
 16 competitive job market in the Westlake, Lake
 17 Charles area for experienced qualified
 18 operators.
 19 We hired, in 2023, we've on boarded 25
 20 employees at an average salary of \$100,000.
 21 So we've done a mass hiring to fill existing
 22 jobs that we had in our organizational
 23 structure.
 24 The request we have is that we not be
 25 penalized. We've worked very hard to get in

Page 124

1 compliance. We employ, you know, with our
 2 home workers and our resident contractors,
 3 200-plus employees are working there every
 4 day. We represent a million-dollar investment
 5 in that area. We have planned infrastructure
 6 and room for growth. We paid \$25 million in
 7 expenses to Louisiana local and state
 8 businesses last year with the associated taxes
 9 that go along with those expenses for us.
 10 So, you know, we've partnered with SOWELA
 11 to get co-ops in to get those experienced
 12 operators. We've worked with McNeese on
 13 technical professionals. We've worked with LA
 14 Job Works. And it's just been a struggle to
 15 get in, you know, qualified -- you know, it's
 16 a highly-hazardous industry, so getting
 17 qualified chemical operators is a challenge.
 18 We're trading them back and forth with all the
 19 local players, the LNGs, the Sasols, and
 20 LyondellBasells, you know.
 21 We've raised our pay in 2023 to be a
 22 top-tier payer in the area. We've done
 23 retention bonuses for our chemical operators
 24 for consecutive years. We're one of the top
 25 payers in the area. We've got employees back

Page 125

1 from other -- you know, worked for us, left,
 2 and we brought them back because we're a
 3 preferred employer in the area or they think
 4 we are. So we've done a lot of work to really
 5 get these people back.
 6 The site has improved immensely in the
 7 last two years in reliability and
 8 environmental health and safety. We just have
 9 done a lot of work in the area of reliability
 10 and resiliency. The company continues to
 11 invest in us.
 12 And so we brought an old Oxy Chem asset
 13 that was down for 15 years, we brought it back
 14 from the dead and we've got 200-plus people
 15 working every day, contractors coming in. We
 16 have a big turnaround coming up this year, you
 17 know, that will bring another, you know,
 18 \$25 million into the spin. So I think we have
 19 a great story. And these tax exemptions are
 20 generous and they're very helpful to us.
 21 We, in 2023, was our first year of being
 22 positive (indiscernible). So, you know, we're
 23 not -- you know, you think, oh, they're making
 24 tons of money; no, we're not. We're still
 25 struggling to bring up a 15-year-old plant and

Page 126

1 it is vastly improved and the performance is
 2 really good right now. And we're starting to
 3 see some of that back, but these tax
 4 incentives have really helped us and will
 5 continue to help us as we invest and continue
 6 to improve the site.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Thank you. Thank you for that. That's
 9 helpful information. And -- I'm sorry.
 10 MR. MOSS:
 11 I have letters and have been contacted by
 12 the Police Jury and by the School Board
 13 requesting that a one-year reduction from both
 14 entities be submitted to the Board. So I make
 15 a motion to reduce it by one year.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 We have a motion to reduce by one year.
 18 Before I take your motion, can we handle the
 19 other questions; is that all right?
 20 MR. MOSS:
 21 Sure.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Mr. Miller?
 24 MR. MILLER:
 25 Sir, I may have missed it in the open, if

Page 127

1 you could repeat it, if needed. So this
 2 contract was to restart an old plant or it was
 3 in addition to what y'all were already doing?
 4 Kind of tell me what you do now. How many
 5 jobs do you already have? What's your payroll
 6 already? What's your capital investment --
 7 MR. HEXT:
 8 So --
 9 MR. MILLER:
 10 Outside of this contract.
 11 MR. HEXT:
 12 Outside of this contract, the site
 13 itself, the investment is a little over a
 14 billion dollars. Our internal head count,
 15 what I'd call our company head count is open
 16 jobs on our roll are about 144. We have an
 17 additional 60-plus resident contractors
 18 through Turner, Triad, and other industries in
 19 our area that work there every day for us.
 20 And so it's, you know --
 21 MR. MILLER:
 22 That is payroll for those 200 people,
 23 about? What?
 24 MR. HEXT:
 25 You --

Page 128

1 MR. MILLER:
 2 Roughly.
 3 MR. HEXT:
 4 I have my person with all the background
 5 numbers here.
 6 MR. CHAPMAN:
 7 Well, I just, roughly a hundred thousand
 8 per job, so over \$15 million for the --
 9 MR. MILLER:
 10 I was just -- okay. Thank you.
 11 MR. CHAPMAN:
 12 Is that right?
 13 MR. HEXT:
 14 Yeah, it's over a hundred thousand
 15 average salary.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Mr. Doss?
 18 MR. DOSS:
 19 Yes. And I may have missed it if you've
 20 said anything, but have you met with Police
 21 Jury and the School Board, and can you tell us
 22 a little bit about those meetings from your
 23 standpoint?
 24 MR. HEXT:
 25 We have met with the -- you know, we went

Page 129

1 before their board meetings and I gave a
 2 similar plea to them and, you know, it was
 3 just a very close vote. It was a mixed group
 4 in both groups, you know. There were some
 5 that were supportive and some that weren't.
 6 And this was kind of a -- their recommendation
 7 at the end of that discussion.
 8 You know, we also tried to meet with some
 9 of them and others outside of those before,
 10 you know, to lay some groundwork before to try
 11 to tell them about our company and invited
 12 them for tours and things of that nature to
 13 get more familiar with us, but we still --
 14 they made the recommendation.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 Any other questions or comments?
 17 So we have a motion from Mr. Moss to
 18 reduce -- to keep the contract but reduce the
 19 term by one year for both, that is for both
 20 the Police Jury and the School Board?
 21 MR. MOSS:
 22 Yes, sir.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 So we have a motion from Mr. Moss.
 25 Second from Mr. Nassar.

1 with \$6,516,297 in payroll. The actual jobs
 2 created was 84 jobs with \$5,782,694 in
 3 payroll.
 4 The Parish recommends that the Louisiana
 5 Board of Commerce and Industry adopt no
 6 remedial action for the alleged violations.
 7 The School Board submitted a recommendation
 8 stating: Our Board voted to take no action
 9 against Louisiana Sugar Cane for their
 10 noncompliance with the ITEP exemptions. And
 11 The Sheriff submitted a letter stating: I
 12 have made the decision to make no action and
 13 enforce no penalties for these violations. I
 14 trust that the Board will respect and approve
 15 my request.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 All right. Given the recommendations
 18 from local government, do I have a motion?
 19 Motion, Mr. Simien --
 20 MR. SIMIEN:
 21 Motion to take no action.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 -- to take no action. Second from Mayor
 24 Toups. Any questions or comments from the
 25 Board?

1 Any other questions or comments from the
 2 Board?
 3 Any comments from the public?
 4 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 5 ALL:
 6 Aye.
 7 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 8 Any opposition?
 9 There being none, the motion carries.
 10 MR. HEXT:
 11 Thank you.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Thank you, sir. And thank you for
 14 keeping that plant alive.
 15 MR. USIE:
 16 Next, we have two contracts: 20170492-B
 17 and 20170492-C, for Louisiana Sugar Cane
 18 Cooperative, Inc. in St. Martin Parish that
 19 are both noncompliant for the 2022 reporting
 20 period. The Exhibit A for Contract 20170492-B
 21 requires the company retain 116 jobs with
 22 \$7,671,336 at payroll. The actual jobs
 23 retained was 106 with \$6,401,668 in payroll.
 24 The Exhibit A agreement for Contract
 25 20170492-C requires the company retain 84 jobs

1 Hearing none, any comments from the
 2 public?
 3 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 4 ALL:
 5 Aye.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 Any opposition?
 8 There being none, the motion carries.
 9 MR. USIE:
 10 Last, we have one contract: 20180110 for
 11 Service Machine & Supply, Inc. in Lafayette
 12 Parish that's noncompliant for the 2022
 13 reporting period. The Exhibit A agreement for
 14 the contract requires the company create and
 15 maintain two jobs with \$100,000 in payroll.
 16 The actual jobs created was four jobs with
 17 \$138,001.32 in payroll. The compliance
 18 reporting was due April 30th, 2023, but was
 19 not received until May 2nd, 2023. The filing
 20 is noncompliant for being late only.
 21 The Parish denied the initial exemption
 22 at the time of application, so it does not
 23 apply in this situation. And no responses
 24 were received from the School Board or the
 25 Sheriff.

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 I'm going to entertain a motion to take
 3 no action. I have a motion from Mayor --
 4 excuse me, from Secretary Bourgeois. Second
 5 from Mayor Toups. Any questions or comments
 6 from the Board?
 7 Hearing none, any comments from the
 8 public?
 9 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
 10 ALL:
 11 Aye.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Any opposition?
 14 There is none. The motion carries. Kind
 15 of makes that rubber stamp stuff look kind of
 16 good now, doesn't it, huh?
 17 All right. Next on the agenda, we have a
 18 motion from -- I think, Secretary Bourgeois,
 19 are you going to make this motion?
 20 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 21 (Nods.)
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 All right. I'll defer to Ms. Bourgeois.
 24 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 25 Give me a minute. Upon consideration

Page 134

1 that the Louisiana Constitution provides in
 2 Article 7, Section 21(F) that the State Board
 3 of Commerce and Industry, with the approval of
 4 the Governor, enter into contracts for the
 5 exemption from ad valorem taxes of a new
 6 manufacturing establishment or an addition to
 7 an existing manufacturing establishment, on
 8 such terms and conditions as the Board, with
 9 the approval of the Governor, deems in the
 10 best interest of the State. By virtue of this
 11 provision, this Board is solely authorized to
 12 administer the granting, subject to the
 13 approval of the Governor, of the Industrial
 14 Tax Exemption and, pursuant to that end, this
 15 Board, with the assistance of the Louisiana
 16 Department of Economic Development established
 17 the Industrial Tax Exemption Program and has
 18 formulated and promulgated Rules for ITEP that
 19 promote the best interests of the State. In
 20 consultation with LED ITEP administrators and
 21 supervisors, I make the following motion with
 22 regard to the Board's establishment of a Rules
 23 Committee and the publication of an emergency
 24 ITEP Rule pursuant to the emergency provisions
 25 of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Page 135

1 Number one, following the leadership of
 2 Governor Jeff Landry, particularly his
 3 issuance of Executive Order JML 24-23 setting
 4 forth terms and conditions that he has
 5 determined represent the best interests of the
 6 State for his consideration of ITEP contract
 7 approvals by this Board, the Board of Commerce
 8 and Industry will consider criteria set forth
 9 in its rules for purposes of determining what
 10 is in the best interest of the State for
 11 consideration of ITEP contracts, and establish
 12 a Rules Committee for the revision of its
 13 rules to align with the Executive Order JML
 14 24-23 and to address by rule what it deems
 15 necessary for ITEP applicants.
 16 Number two, the Rules Committee shall
 17 consist of three or more Board members
 18 appointed by the Chair. The Committee shall
 19 have and exercise the authority of the Board
 20 in the revision of its rules, but all
 21 revisions shall be subject to approval by the
 22 Board -- of the Board rather.
 23 Number three, a considerable delay in the
 24 revision ITEP rules to align with Executive
 25 Order JML 24-23 will adversely impact the

Page 136

1 effective administration of the ITE Program
 2 rendering delayed access by qualified
 3 applicants, and resulting in an adverse
 4 financial impact on local governing
 5 authorities, the State, the Department,
 6 Louisiana businesses and taxpayers.
 7 Number four, by virtue of the
 8 aforementioned, the Board, in formulating and
 9 promulgating rules for ITEP that promote the
 10 best interests of the State renders necessary
 11 a publication of an emergency ITEP Rule
 12 pursuant to the emergency provisions of the
 13 Administrative Procedures Act.
 14 And Number five, all as specifically set
 15 forth herein, I hereby enter this motion into
 16 the record and move that this motion be
 17 adopted by the Board for the publication of an
 18 emergency ITEP Rule, and the creation of the
 19 Rules Committee for the promulgation of ITEP
 20 rules to align with Executive Order JML 24-23,
 21 and to address by rule what it deems necessary
 22 for ITEP applicants.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 So we have a motion from Secretary
 25 Bourgeois to --

Page 137

1 MR. MILLER:
 2 Second.
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 Second from Mr. Miller. Again, to lay
 5 some context, we've all heard about the
 6 Executive Order. The difficulty with the
 7 Executive Order is that, ultimately, the staff
 8 has to deal with rules. And right now, we
 9 don't have rules that align with the Executive
 10 Order. So the purpose of the emergency rule
 11 is to give staff guidelines in which they can
 12 advance the applications that have been filed
 13 since the date of the Executive Order in
 14 February until now.
 15 We have 30-something advances that have
 16 essentially been sitting in limbo because
 17 staff, they had a Governor telling them one
 18 thing and the rules telling them something
 19 else. So this emergency rule will effectively
 20 put into effect the items that the Governor
 21 contained in the Executive Order.
 22 And then, simultaneously, or better
 23 stated, on a parallel course with the
 24 emergency rule, we will establish a Rules
 25 Committee which will develop a new set of ITEP

Page 138

1 Rules that, frankly, will consider not only
 2 the Executive Order items, but we're going to
 3 look at the whole program. And we're going to
 4 try to streamline it, make it something that
 5 is workable and, frankly, recognizes what
 6 business in 2024 looks like.
 7 And, hopefully, going forward, as the
 8 Secretary will say, we want to go from a
 9 but --
 10 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 11 A "no but" to a "yes and" attitude.
 12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 13 Yes, a "no but", but to a "yes and"
 14 attitude with LED. We hope these rules will
 15 ultimately reflect that. Is that a fair
 16 assessment?
 17 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 18 Yes, Mr. Chairman.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 All right. So we have a motion and a
 21 second to enact the Emergency Rule and to
 22 create the Rules Committee. All in favor, say
 23 aye.
 24 ALL:
 25 Aye.

Page 139

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Any opposition?
 3 There being none, any -- I should have
 4 asked for comments from the public? Feel
 5 free, if there's any comments from the public,
 6 we can reconsider the vote.
 7 There is no comment from the public. The
 8 vote stands.
 9 Now with that, I'm going to appoint the
 10 Rules Committee. I'm going to be on that
 11 Committee and will serve as Chair. Mr. Kyle
 12 Polozola, when he's not recusing himself, will
 13 find time to serve on the Board. Mr. Robby
 14 Miller is going to serve on the Board and
 15 Ms. Letti Ardoin is going to serve on that
 16 Board.
 17 We are going to try to meet as soon as
 18 possible. Those meetings will be subject to
 19 Open Meetings Rules and will be subject to the
 20 Public Records Act, so we will be studious in
 21 complying with all of that. From the Chair's
 22 perspective, I can't speak for the Committee
 23 yet, but from Chair's perspective, we're going
 24 to be rather aggressive and try to move to
 25 have a set of rules to this Board by its

Page 140

1 August meeting. I hope to be able to give you
 2 an idea in June how what kind of progress
 3 we're making, but they will come to you,
 4 hopefully, that quickly.
 5 We have a lot of many miles to go before
 6 we sleep, before we get from here to there
 7 though. But we thank the Governor for his
 8 recognition of the need for these actions, and
 9 we thank you Secretary Bourgeois for your
 10 leadership in getting us to this point, and we
 11 will try to carry it the rest of the way. Any
 12 other comments concerning the Emergency Rule
 13 or the Rules Committee?
 14 Any questions, comments otherwise?
 15 Hearing none, Election of Officers.
 16 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 17 Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Go ahead.
 20 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 21 That you would serve, again, continue to
 22 serve, whatever the proper vernacular, as our
 23 Chair, as our very effective Chair, and that
 24 Robby Miller serve as our Vice Chair of this
 25 Board.

Page 141

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
2 All right. Do we have other nominations,
3 please?
4 There being none, do we have a second to
5 the motion?
6 MR. SLONE:
7 Second.
8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
9 A second from Mr. Slone. Any other --
10 any questions or comments from the Board?
11 There being none, any comments from the
12 public?
13 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.
14 ALL:
15 Aye.
16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
17 Any opposition?
18 There is none, the motion carries.
19 That brings us to the end of our first
20 Board of Commerce and Industry meeting with
21 this Board with the exception of comments from
22 our Secretary, we look forward to this every
23 meeting because the Secretary always gives us
24 an idea of what's going on in her world.
25 Thank you.

Page 142

1 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
2 That would have been good preparation for
3 me. I'm really grateful, not only to the
4 Members of this Board who have -- who are
5 willing to serve. And as you can all tell
6 from our deliberations this morning, it's
7 important work, right. It's important work to
8 make sure that we are creating a program that
9 works for business and industry in this state
10 and, more importantly, a culture in this state
11 that we are in fact open for business and we
12 want to make it easy and promote people's
13 ability to be successful here to make a
14 living, to build successful companies, and to
15 invest in our state.
16 And so from a philosophical perspective,
17 that is what you will hear from me as the
18 Secretary in our Department moving forward.
19 And I'm just very grateful to all of you for
20 your service in this work.
21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
22 Thank you, Secretary Bourgeois.
23 Anything else for the good of the order
24 today? Anything from anyone?
25 Then, we will entertain a motion to

Page 143

1 adjourn. Motion from Mr. Simien. Second from
2 Mr. Nassar. All in favor, say aye.
3 ALL:
4 Aye.
5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
6 We are adjourned. We will see you in
7 June. Thank you, All.
8 (WHEREUPON, THE MEETING ADJOURNED.)
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Page 144

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2 I, KELLY S. PERRIN, a Certified Court
3 Reporter, Certificate #23035, in good standing with
4 the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom
5 this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the
6 foregoing 144 pages;
7 That this testimony was reported by me in
8 stenographic machine shorthand by Computer-Aided
9 Transcription, transcribed by me or under my
10 personal direction and supervision, and is a true
11 and correct transcript to the best of my ability
12 and understanding;
13 That the transcript has been prepared in
14 compliance with transcript format guidelines
15 required by statute or by rules of the Board, that
16 I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on
17 contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana
18 Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules
19 and advisory opinions of the Board; that I am not
20 of counsel nor related to any person participating
21 in this cause and am in no way interested in the
22 outcome of this event.
23
24
25

Page 145

1 This certification is valid only for a
2 transcript accompanied by my handwritten or digital
3 signature and the image of my State-authorized seal
4 on this page.

5 Signed:

6

7 KELLY S. PERRIN,CCR

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Page 146

&	12/31/22	105:16	20161850 52:4
& 1:5 55:6,12 133:11	121:15	20,000 102:19	20161898 29:25
1	120,000 114:20	200 125:3	2017 19:14
1 1:8 2:3	13 20:1,2 38:14 45:22	126:14 128:22	38:25 39:4
1,188,136 56:17	13.6 19:18	2000 23:1	40:8 51:4
1,375,851 56:14	135 90:14	2013 45:19	20170018 29:23
1,4 12:9	138,001.32	20130429 43:17	20170205 52:11
1.165 79:25	133:17	43:18	20170296 52:6
1/5/23 16:13	14 45:19 80:3	20131233 44:4	20170297 52:7
1/6/2018 16:12	84:15	2014 90:9	20170421 14:24
10 19:17 36:10	1434 145:18	20140816 43:19	20170492
37:9 46:11	144 23:3	20140927 22:25	131:16,17,20
47:8 77:16	128:16 145:6	20140991 55:10	131:25
10/31/21 34:23	146 2:6	20140993 55:6	20170587 52:10
100 60:4 61:6	15 79:25 90:4	20141093 29:24	20170588
73:18	126:13,25	20141263 55:11	114:15
100,000 124:20	129:8	55:11	20170637 16:10
133:15	150,000 123:6	20141578 54:2	2018 19:15,19
1015 28:22	155,817 84:17	20141601 43:21	38:14 39:2,4
106 73:18	15536 54:5	20150240 53:4	39:22,24 51:22
131:23	16 31:16 45:19	20150356 55:8	82:11
11 43:12 51:22	86:10,15 99:10	20150910 44:1	20180001 51:23
112 59:1	16122 54:3	20150945 43:24	20180030 56:12
116 131:21	17 45:23	20151318 31:18	20180045 51:24
1186 22:23	18 19:20 35:2	32:24	20180061 14:23
12 37:4	45:23	20151589 55:11	20180072 56:16
12/15/2023	19 45:24	20151972 30:18	20180087 52:2
16:14	1980 90:2	20152030 43:22	20180110
12/31 47:22	2	2016 38:23	133:10
12/31/2022	2,134,632 56:13	20161409 47:21	20180123 51:25
117:6 118:11	2.0 69:3 85:6	20161458 43:25	20180142 73:14
119:16	2.8 86:3 109:8	20161478 44:3	20180145 54:7
12/31/2023	20 98:25	20161534 43:16	20180226 52:9
80:2 119:25	102:19,23	20161576 51:5	20180261 15:1
			15:14,21

[20180323 - 2nd]

<p>20180323 85:22 85:23 86:21,25 87:5,5 20180327 34:25 20180403 122:25 123:1 2018142 73:16 2019 76:8 79:14 92:18 105:13 20190024 14:25 20190029 60:2 20190070 84:11 20190093 34:20 52:3 20190101 33:23 20190133 32:11 20190152 34:9 20190166 31:20 20190206 24:19 25:7 20190225 74:19 74:21 20190330 31:24 20190394 41:4 41:15,17 2020 15:14 35:25 36:19 60:6 70:14 78:25 85:25 86:3,5,20,24 87:15 90:17 202000 34:14 20200049 41:9</p>	<p>20200057 31:22 20200068 24:25 26:16 20200094 40:23 20200109 34:14 20200137 34:4 20200167 32:8 20200246 24:23 20200253 25:2 20200296 32:3 20200423 22:20 20200433 53:7 20200447 32:12 20200450 40:20 2020253 25:10 2021 85:25 86:7,10 87:6 87:15 20210025 31:21 20210100 31:25 20210101 32:1 20210121 41:7 20210274 32:6 32:25 20210277 55:3 20210318 32:4 20210320 32:5 20210388 12:13 20210454 12:9 20210458 12:17 13:12 14:2 20210496 32:9 20210507 12:10 20210560 28:22</p>	<p>20210573 12:14 20210612 12:18 13:12 14:2 20210633 12:12 13:12 14:2 2022 47:23 48:21 61:4 68:3 70:15 77:15 79:15,16 84:13,20 85:25 86:12,14 87:6 87:15 114:17 114:21 117:2 118:23 120:10 122:10 123:3 131:19 133:12 20220056 40:21 20220090 12:11 20220181 12:16 20220302 40:24 20220394 41:8 20220512 41:10 2022394 41:24 2023 35:2 77:17 80:2 87:12 116:17 118:13,17,18 120:4,10,12,14 120:19 121:9 124:9,19 125:21 126:21 133:18,19 20230205 41:6 20230307 31:17</p>	<p>20230315 28:24 20230350 28:23 20230410 41:2 20230414 41:3 20230434 40:25 2024 1:6 6:4 11:16 79:18 81:9 118:17 139:6 2025 81:2 209 19:21 21 98:25 102:19 135:2 217 1:18 22 19:20 35:3 84:24 98:25 102:19 23 102:20 23035 145:3 231 22:21 24 1:6 80:3 102:20 24-23 136:3,14 136:25 137:20 25 124:19 125:6 126:18 250 78:22 2561 54:10 27 19:20 276,950 86:5 29.97593 54:8 2nd 133:19</p>
---	--	---	--

[3 - actual]

3	5/15/2022 34:1 34:12 5/15/2024 33:25 34:11 5/16/19 33:25 34:10 50 89:2 97:2,10 97:13 99:21 100:4,7,17 517 60:6 62:8 62:13 51:1784 36:1 51:1785 36:8 59 37:4	70433 23:2,4 70518 22:22,24 70809 1:19	95:5 98:7,18 98:20 99:3 105:16 108:16 110:11 111:6 115:12 122:1 141:1 absent 3:5,23 3:24,25 4:1 acadia 41:9 acadiana 31:17 access 137:2 accompanied 146:2 accordance 36:1,8 accurate 121:15 act 118:6 135:25 137:13 140:20 acted 145:16 action 75:8 86:23 87:3 111:18 132:6,8 132:12,21,23 134:3 actions 112:15 141:8 actual 45:20 84:16 86:4,9 86:14 97:10 114:20 123:6 131:22 132:1 133:16
3 55:8 80:7 3-5 2:4 3/112025 34:16 3/12/20 34:16 30 138:15 30th 79:18 81:2 133:18 31 122:10 32 19:20 332 80:10 357 80:12 38 96:10	6 6 2:5 6,401,668 131:23 6,516,297 132:1 6.3 86:13 60 83:9 86:8 100:1 128:17 617 1:8 65 90:17 66 32:7,25 33:3 6th 11:16	8 8/29 35:2,3 8/30 35:2 80 90:2 123:14 84 131:25 132:2 848,796 86:15 85 19:20	
4	7 7 99:10 135:2 7,671,336 131:22 70 83:9 70079 54:4,6 70090 54:9,11	9 9/12/2022 34:17 9/28/2023 47:24 90 86:13 100:2 100:19 90.73313 54:9 910,000 84:16 9522 1:18 96 22:21 97 90:3	
4 20:3 4,614,691 56:18 4.2 86:8 4/10/20 34:6 4/25/2024 34:22 4/26/19 34:21 4/9/2023 34:7 4/9/2025 34:6 40 36:3 86:2 100:1 109:7 123:14 400 80:14 435,628 86:10 45 100:19 47 19:20	7	a abatement 28:15 29:4 117:11 ability 143:13 145:11 able 13:14,19 68:7 79:9 89:10 90:18 91:20 92:2,6 92:11,14,16,17	
5			
5 46:11 5,782,694 132:2			

[actually - apologize]

<p>actually 7:13 12:24 17:17 45:23 46:12,20 76:6 77:11 80:2 86:19 89:6 99:21 100:3 115:5 ad 65:21 106:23 135:5 add 74:21 added 19:18 105:3 addition 128:3 135:6 additional 20:1 20:3 34:2,8,13 34:18,24 35:4 42:4 74:22 80:4 102:20 116:25 128:17 address 20:12 22:21,23 23:3 23:10,10,21 116:15 136:14 137:21 adegbe 4:13 12:1,3 14:21 16:9 22:18 23:7,14,15,22 24:3,17 26:14 27:7,10,12 adjourn 144:1 adjourned 144:6,8</p>	<p>administer 135:12 administered 36:13 administration 5:8 75:18 82:19,22 137:1 administrative 23:12 135:25 137:13 administrators 135:20 adopt 132:5 adopted 21:5 137:17 adopting 11:17 21:5 38:25 advance 6:14 6:18 46:8,9 105:20 138:12 advances 138:15 adverse 137:3 adversely 136:25 advisory 145:19 affiliates 26:15 26:17,18 afford 95:19 aforemention... 137:8 agenda 6:15 15:11 17:3 31:11 39:8</p>	<p>40:10 59:7 68:16 69:7 83:23 99:11 117:11 134:17 aggressive 88:17 92:12 98:18 140:24 aggressively 98:21 agree 61:14 62:14 78:15 96:12 111:22 agreed 97:25 108:17 agreement 73:16 74:21 84:14 109:23 123:4,15 131:24 133:13 ahead 13:25 33:20 35:22 84:9 105:1 115:17 141:19 aided 145:8 alert 19:1 align 14:23 15:16 136:13 136:24 137:20 138:9 aligned 106:9 alive 131:14 alleged 132:6 allen 41:1 allen's 40:20</p>	<p>alliance 12:10 allocations 76:25 allow 101:19 allowed 74:22 77:12 altogether 17:7 amend 73:15 74:20 108:13 109:17 america 52:5,7 52:8 american 14:24 amoss 3:22 8:4 8:5 80:24 81:14 102:16 102:24 amount 19:24 87:11,14 ampirical 5:3,5 16:11 18:7,14 anne 4:4 annual 115:25 answer 96:22 anticipated 34:3,8,13,19,24 35:5 80:5 anybody 28:6 95:19 anyway 79:19 apartments 30:20 apologize 6:13 6:18 105:1 115:23</p>
---	--	---	---

[apparently - attention]

<p>apparently 67:15</p> <p>appear 124:9</p> <p>appearances 2:4 3:1 5:1</p> <p>appeared 27:19</p> <p>applicant 73:23 78:14</p> <p>applicants 27:23 39:10 71:23 136:15 137:3,22</p> <p>application 17:10 42:1,2,7 42:11 59:7 76:6 100:22 101:14 133:22</p> <p>applications 12:8 14:22 28:8,21 29:22 31:17 33:4 38:15 39:3,4,5 39:9,25 45:19 46:6 59:6 71:21 72:2 138:12</p> <p>applied 57:10 116:5 117:2</p> <p>apply 83:16 133:23</p> <p>appoint 140:9</p> <p>appointed 136:18</p> <p>appointment 35:25</p>	<p>appreciate 21:15 27:10 48:15 64:7 76:1 112:9 117:21</p> <p>approach 63:6 121:22</p> <p>appropriate 46:21</p> <p>appropriated 77:3</p> <p>approval 28:10 36:19 50:9 108:20 135:3,9 135:13 136:21</p> <p>approvals 136:7</p> <p>approve 12:25 14:10 15:5,23 17:4,6,20 21:25 24:5 26:1 29:10 30:3 33:5 35:8 36:15 37:11 41:20 42:10 45:10,13 50:11 51:10 52:14 53:14 54:14 55:16 56:21 80:19 102:3 109:16 132:14</p> <p>approved 29:7 49:16,21</p> <p>approving 50:19</p>	<p>april 1:6 79:17 81:2 133:18</p> <p>aqueous 22:20</p> <p>ardendale 30:20</p> <p>ardoin 3:10 10:25 11:1 12:7 35:9 54:16 63:18 140:15</p> <p>area 76:22 77:23 78:3 89:6,7 90:8 93:5 98:18 124:17 125:5 125:22,25 126:3,9 128:19</p> <p>arena 92:23</p> <p>argue 63:21</p> <p>arriving 64:22</p> <p>arrow's 103:8</p> <p>article 135:2 145:18</p> <p>ascension 12:9 12:18 25:1 26:16 32:3 43:25 47:21 52:12 53:9</p> <p>ash 40:21</p> <p>ashley 5:15</p> <p>asked 48:20 115:14 118:4 140:4</p> <p>asking 50:1,4 61:21 100:16</p>	<p>102:2 118:9</p> <p>asme 89:19</p> <p>aspect 49:4</p> <p>assessment 139:16</p> <p>assessor 60:4 61:8,13 62:14 64:6,24 66:16 66:25 67:21 68:8 72:4 121:3,8</p> <p>assessors 63:7</p> <p>asset 66:11 90:21 126:12</p> <p>assets 46:20 57:24 58:11 68:21,22 81:12</p> <p>assistance 36:7 116:2 135:15</p> <p>associated 125:8</p> <p>associates 33:23 34:9</p> <p>association 32:9</p> <p>assumptions 88:15</p> <p>asterisks 41:25</p> <p>attempt 23:9</p> <p>attempting 56:5</p> <p>attend 6:6 115:12,24</p> <p>attention 20:14 28:7 61:11</p>
---	--	--	---

[attitude - belt]

<p>attitude 139:11 139:14 attorney 60:12 60:13 attrition 124:13 audit 19:3 august 76:8 77:15 141:1 aurorium 40:23 53:5 austin 3:14 8:8 8:9 48:5,8 75:9 75:12 authorities 137:5 authority 69:15 136:19 authorized 135:11 146:3 automatically 119:25 availability 77:19 available 42:4 avenue 1:18 average 124:20 129:15 aw 68:17,18 70:10 84:12 aye 11:19,21 14:14,16 16:2 16:4 22:3,5 24:11,13 25:17 25:19 26:8,10</p>	<p>27:1,3 29:15 29:17 30:9,11 31:4,6 33:14 33:16 35:13,15 37:17,19 43:5 43:7 47:13,15 50:20,22 51:15 51:17 52:20,22 53:19,21 54:20 54:22 55:22 59:19,21 73:5 73:7 74:10,12 81:21,23 85:15 85:17 114:2,4 122:15,17 131:4,6 133:3 133:5 134:9,11 139:23,25 142:13,15 144:2,4 ayes 55:24 b b 3:18 40:23 43:17 51:5 60:6 62:8,13 85:23 86:25 87:5 131:16,20 back 54:10 61:22 62:15 69:12,12 71:3 71:19 72:3 76:8 77:22 79:14 88:25 90:2,6 91:21 101:19 103:20</p>	<p>106:11 109:6 109:16,24 111:12,13 120:5 125:18 125:25 126:2,5 126:13 127:3 backdated 118:23 backfill 99:13 background 60:23 129:4 backing 64:12 bad 6:17 71:22 72:10 bagwell 5:10 5:10 85:23 86:20,24 87:4 87:10 88:3,4,5 88:9,13 89:15 89:23 90:1,5,9 90:13 91:13 92:9,21 93:9 93:15,20 95:1 95:15,24 96:4 96:11,24 97:4 97:11,19,23 98:15 100:13 105:11 106:15 109:2,10,20 110:2 111:20 111:25 112:8 112:20 114:8 114:11,12 baked 42:9</p>	<p>balance 109:5 ball 105:17 baptist 43:22 43:23 bare 61:12 barry 3:15 8:16 based 36:5 37:8 39:8,11 61:11 91:6 baseline 19:14 19:17 20:3,5 99:8,12 100:10 basically 44:9 78:15 79:6 84:3 basis 18:19 baton 1:9,19 24:24 30:20 31:19,23,25 32:6,10 33:23 33:24 41:2,4,5 44:4 52:2 55:7 56:15 beauregard 52:5,7,8 began 46:6 beginning 84:23 87:12 behalf 20:14 believe 63:4 73:21 92:6 103:17 104:19 belong 69:19 belt 70:1</p>
---	--	---	---

[benefit - brought]

<p>benefit 12:22 16:16 17:12 102:18 103:3 benefits 16:20 16:21 bercen 53:3 bernard 14:25 55:4,5 best 117:17 122:4 135:10 135:19 136:5 136:10 137:10 145:11 beth 3:24 9:18 better 21:1 60:13 64:5 93:16 99:7 105:22 138:22 bienville 12:14 40:24,25 big 71:18 98:10 126:16 bill 112:17,25 121:10 billed 60:5 61:9 61:13 billion 78:23 128:14 bind 91:3 95:8 binding 83:7 bit 82:14 99:7 129:22 blake 4:1 10:22 blanket 93:6</p>	<p>blasting 89:18 blessed 18:24 block 36:4,9 blocks 37:5 board 1:5 3:2 6:5,13 7:6,10 11:14 12:23 14:11 15:7,24 15:24 16:16,18 17:3,4,9,12 20:9 21:4,11 24:8 25:14 26:5,24 27:18 27:24 29:12 30:5 31:1 33:11 35:10 36:18 37:3,14 38:19,24 41:22 43:2 47:10 50:14 51:12 52:17 53:16 54:17 55:19 58:1,7 59:15 60:11,19 68:12 69:9 73:2 76:1 76:11,17 78:11 79:23 80:22 83:7,10,11,20 84:1,21 85:12 86:17,22 87:1 87:2,7,12,13,24 87:24 94:18,24 95:23 101:18 101:19 103:1 104:6,6,8</p>	<p>106:19,25 107:1,12,13,14 108:3 110:23 111:7,12,21 112:7 113:25 114:23,25 115:19 117:15 118:5 122:12 123:11 127:12 127:14 129:21 130:1,20 131:2 132:5,7,8,14,25 133:24 134:6 135:2,8,11,15 136:7,7,17,19 136:22,22 137:8,17 140:13,14,16 140:25 141:25 142:10,20,21 143:4 145:15 145:19 board's 21:6 23:8 102:7 107:20 135:22 boarded 124:19 boat 91:2 96:15 bodies 117:14 boise 41:1 bones 71:19 bonnett 3:8 bonuses 125:23 bookkeeping 21:9 23:12</p>	<p>books 46:14,16 46:18 80:15 bossier 32:14 60:2 84:12 bottom 36:3 bought 90:7 boulevard 23:3 bourgeois 3:8 7:5 10:3,4 20:11,19 26:4 30:25 55:18 104:11,12,22 134:4,18,20,23 134:24 137:25 139:10,17 141:9,16,20 143:1,22 box 111:16 braxton 5:7 48:3,10,12,13 49:23 50:3,15 51:1 break 28:4 brenda 4:14 bridge 90:6 bright 79:22 bring 74:3 94:21,21 126:17,25 brings 142:19 brookline 1:18 brothers 90:2 brought 61:10 70:13 79:17 108:6 126:2,12</p>
---	---	--	--

[brought - chairman]

<p>126:13 broussard 22:21,24 buckley 5:11 115:4,5,18 117:25 119:17 122:6,22 build 89:19 92:25 93:2,2 143:14 building 1:7 57:10 58:21 59:9 70:9 78:22,23 built 78:18 bullet 69:25 bunch 76:9 bureau 35:24 business 19:11 89:6,8,22 97:16 98:2 101:19 105:14 106:11 139:6 143:9,11 businesses 125:8 137:6 buying 90:5 bypassing 119:20</p>	<p>c.c.r. 1:12 cabot 43:16 44:10,15,19 caddo 32:12 40:21 cajun 31:18 32:24 33:3 calcasieu 24:20 24:22 25:8 32:7,9 41:7 43:18 123:2 calendar 1:20 call 6:11 7:17 40:17 77:1 128:15 called 7:16 camellia 23:3 cameron 24:22 43:17,18,19 campbell 4:18 canal 28:22 93:25 cancel 68:6 72:14,25 73:1 103:14,15 118:22 119:8 canceled 71:3 103:18 117:3,6 118:10 cancellation 60:1,3 70:14 70:16 118:4,9 119:13 cane 131:17 132:9</p>	<p>capabilities 77:4 capita 36:5 capital 104:15 104:18 128:6 caption 2:3 capture 88:19 carbide 55:10 carbon 88:19 care 31:20 83:16 106:20 carries 11:24 14:19 16:7 22:8 24:16 25:22 26:13 27:6 29:20 30:14 31:9 33:19 35:18 37:22 43:10 47:18 50:25 51:20 52:25 53:24 54:25 56:2 59:24 73:10 82:1 85:20 114:7 122:20 131:9 133:8 134:14 142:18 carry 32:17 141:11 carrying 42:19 cascade 41:1 categories 82:17</p>	<p>cause 145:21 ccr 146:7 census 35:24,25 36:3,11 37:8 centene 22:25 center 23:1 31:20 32:11,13 ceo 5:5,10 18:15 88:4 certain 6:24 68:20 certainly 13:2 19:14 49:8 76:12,21 certificate 2:6 145:3 certification 146:1 certified 5:25 145:2 certify 145:5 cetco 93:1 cf 53:6,8 chagrin 83:8 chain 76:14 79:1,8 chair 101:17 136:18 140:11 141:23,23,24 chair's 140:21 140:23 chairman 3:3 6:2 9:11 11:13 11:22 12:5,21 13:7,8,13,17,22</p>
c			
<p>c 6:1 12:11 41:9 43:18 131:17 131:25 145:1,1 c&c 51:23</p>			

[chairman - chicago]

14:3,17 15:3 15:15,19 16:5 16:15 17:19,24 18:5,16 19:6 20:7 21:2,23 22:6,13 23:6 23:19,24 24:14 25:5,20 26:11 26:21 27:4,9 27:14 28:18 29:1,18 30:2 30:12,22 31:7 31:12 32:15,20 32:21 33:1,9 33:17 35:6,16 35:21 36:22 37:2,20,25 38:4,11,16 39:23 40:3,7 40:11,16 41:12 41:16 42:16,25 43:8,13 44:6,9 44:12,16 45:1 45:5,11 46:2,7 46:15,19 47:1 47:6,16,25 48:6,7 49:10 49:19,25 50:5 50:10,23 51:7 51:18 52:13,23 53:12,22 54:13 54:23 55:14,25 56:20 57:4 58:3,19 59:13 59:22 60:9,17	61:17 62:1,21 63:2,12,16,25 64:4,18 65:4 65:10,15,23 66:13,24 67:8 67:13 68:10 69:1,6,22 70:24 71:16 72:16,22 73:8 73:19 74:13,24 75:5,6,10,11,20 75:25 78:10 80:16 81:16,24 82:4,12 83:1 85:2,18 87:19 88:6,11 89:13 89:21 90:10 91:8 92:5,19 93:7,11,18 94:5,9,20 96:18 99:17 101:22 102:4 102:10,14 103:4 104:1,7 104:24 107:4 107:18,25 108:7 109:1,12 109:25 110:6 110:12,16 111:5,15 112:2 112:18 113:1,6 113:10,14,20 114:5,10 115:1 115:16 117:20 118:2,19,25	119:5,12,19 120:1,8,13,17 120:24 121:5 121:18 122:8 122:18 123:18 123:23 124:4 127:7,16,22 129:16 130:15 130:23 131:7 131:12 132:16 132:22 133:6 134:1,12,22 137:23 138:3 139:12,18,19 140:1 141:17 141:18 142:1,8 142:16 143:21 144:5 challenge 125:17 challenges 116:7 chalmette 55:3 change 22:19 23:10,21 26:15 26:22 53:2,14 54:1,15 changes 24:5 changing 53:5 53:7 58:12 chapman 5:15 129:6,11 charles 3:16 11:4 43:20 44:1 54:4,6	55:9,13 124:17 cheatham 4:12 checklist 103:12 chem 126:12 chemical 43:24 43:25 54:2 55:5 125:17,23 cheng 4:7 38:7 38:13 39:21 40:1,5,9,13,15 40:17,19 42:13 42:20,23 43:11 43:15 46:22 47:19 51:3,21 57:20 58:10,15 65:25 66:5 85:21 99:5,25 100:8,18,24 101:4,10 102:22 103:21 103:23 104:4 104:17 108:9 108:10,21 110:18,25 111:8 119:1,3 120:22 121:1 chest 106:16 chesterton 68:17 70:10 84:12 chevron 25:1 92:22 chicago 90:6
--	---	---	--

[choice - company's]

<p>choice 66:20 choose 83:14 chose 77:6 79:15 118:13 circumstances 117:18 city 84:25 114:22 civil 145:18 clarify 28:5 102:18 103:1 117:5 clarity 45:17 clean 28:1 53:8 clear 60:20 70:3 72:17 clearly 20:16 clement 34:4 client 15:11 climate 105:15 clinic 32:3,4,5 34:25 close 111:14 130:3 closer 20:14 58:4 65:5 88:12 94:22 cloud 48:18 code 84:3 145:18 collect 87:14 come 29:7 48:3 60:10 67:23 75:1 76:2,18 77:22 91:9</p>	<p>94:15 98:19,22 105:12 106:10 109:16 141:3 comes 16:22 19:2 27:15 71:19 105:20 comfortable 101:13 coming 28:8 71:3 75:1 88:20 98:2 126:15,16 commence 74:23 comment 27:16 140:7 comments 14:11,12 15:7 15:8,23,25 20:8 22:2 24:8 24:9 25:14,15 26:5,6,24,25 29:12,13 30:5 30:6 31:1,2 33:11,12 35:10 35:11 37:13,15 41:22 43:2,3 47:9,11 50:14 50:16 51:12,13 52:17,18 53:16 53:17 54:17,18 55:19,20 56:25 59:15,16 73:2 73:3,4 74:7,8 80:22 81:17,18</p>	<p>85:12,13 108:2 113:24 114:1 122:11,13 130:16 131:1,3 132:24 133:1 134:5,7 140:4 140:5 141:12 141:14 142:10 142:11,21 commerce 1:5 6:5 60:12 86:18,22 87:1 115:19 132:5 135:3 136:7 142:20 commercial 81:3 committee 135:23 136:12 136:16,18 137:19 138:25 139:22 140:10 140:11,22 141:13 committing 101:6,13 common 57:16 57:19 commonly 58:20 community 31:20 89:25 90:23,24 companies 21:7 71:24 72:8</p>	<p>76:18 77:23 79:2 88:21 89:7,10 93:1 99:1 105:12 143:14 company 1:17 16:20 18:11 21:17 22:25 23:11 24:19,19 24:21,24 25:1 25:3 30:17,19 31:24 32:7 40:25 41:8,24 42:10 43:21,23 43:24 44:1 48:11,24 52:3 52:12 53:4 54:2 55:5 57:21 58:11,22 61:13,22 62:16 62:22 63:3 64:11 68:2,17 69:15 75:15 77:4 84:12,15 86:2 87:22 88:2 89:16 101:6 114:19 115:9,22 116:3 116:11 123:5 123:25 126:10 128:15 130:11 131:21,25 133:14 company's 67:11</p>
---	---	--	--

[comparatively - contractors]

<p>comparatively 116:11</p> <p>compared 93:22 117:10</p> <p>compete 116:12</p> <p>competitive 124:16</p> <p>complaint 61:3</p> <p>completed 77:13 104:20</p> <p>completion 76:17</p> <p>complex 39:13</p> <p>compliance 61:2 68:15 70:15 82:15 105:2,7 115:25 116:17 118:16 118:18 119:20 120:4 124:7,8 125:1 133:17 145:14,16</p> <p>compliant 68:3 68:23 70:6,11 70:17 82:10 104:16</p> <p>complicate 68:14</p> <p>complied 49:4</p> <p>complying 140:21</p> <p>compressors 12:10</p> <p>compute 97:8</p>	<p>computer 145:8</p> <p>concept 61:18 61:19</p> <p>concerning 141:12</p> <p>concludes 27:8 31:11 37:24</p> <p>conditions 135:8 136:4</p> <p>confidence 92:13</p> <p>confirmed 61:8</p> <p>congratulate 21:18</p> <p>consecutive 125:24</p> <p>consent 62:13</p> <p>consequence 67:1,3</p> <p>consequences 64:20 74:1</p> <p>consider 109:6 136:8 139:1</p> <p>considerable 136:23</p> <p>consideration 41:18 48:9 89:3 134:25 136:6,11</p> <p>considered 25:23 42:21 120:18</p> <p>considering 110:1</p>	<p>consist 136:17</p> <p>consolidating 48:25</p> <p>constantly 116:14</p> <p>constitution 29:6 135:1</p> <p>constitutional... 29:4</p> <p>construction 46:10 78:16 79:11 89:17 96:9</p> <p>consultation 135:20</p> <p>contacted 127:11</p> <p>contained 138:21</p> <p>contemplated 80:8</p> <p>context 78:13 138:5</p> <p>continually 116:18</p> <p>continue 117:22 127:5,5 141:21</p> <p>continued 5:1</p> <p>continues 126:10</p> <p>contract 16:12 16:13 18:23 30:17 33:25 34:5,10,16,21</p>	<p>35:1 42:5,15 42:18,19 47:22 49:5,6 56:11 57:24 61:4 64:12,23 66:1 68:6 71:2 72:25 73:14,16 74:19,21 76:6 76:7,7 78:18 79:24 80:8 81:10 82:10 84:11,14,19,22 84:23 85:5,10 86:21,25 87:9 87:25 102:21 103:10,14,18 103:21 105:4 106:24 107:20 107:21 108:8 109:17 114:15 114:18 116:23 117:2,5,9 118:12 119:8 121:4 123:10 123:12 128:2 128:10,12 130:18 131:20 131:24 133:10 133:14 136:6</p> <p>contractor 89:17</p> <p>contractors 89:5 92:24 125:2 126:15 128:17</p>
--	--	---	--

[contracts - december]

<p>contracts 38:21 55:3,10 57:21 64:14 68:19 78:13 85:22 86:1 87:4 122:25 123:4 131:16 135:4 136:11</p> <p>contractual 145:17</p> <p>contributions 22:14</p> <p>conversations 61:10 68:2 73:22</p> <p>cooperative 131:18</p> <p>coordinates 54:8</p> <p>copy 11:15</p> <p>corp 14:23 15:16</p> <p>corporate 53:4</p> <p>corporation 5:9,12 22:20 43:16 44:10,15 44:19 52:5,6,8 55:9,10 74:18 75:19 115:7</p> <p>correct 23:7,13 40:4,6 42:24 49:24 59:7,18 61:18 62:4 63:10 67:19 68:25 69:21</p>	<p>71:6 82:23,25 95:14 102:21 104:2,2 117:24 118:1 119:18 119:23 145:11</p> <p>correcting 57:14 59:10</p> <p>correction 24:2</p> <p>cortec 41:2,3 56:11,12,13,16 56:16,18 57:11 57:13,23 59:6</p> <p>counsel 145:20</p> <p>count 99:14 128:14,15</p> <p>counting 19:16</p> <p>country 91:19</p> <p>couple 6:23 68:15 88:23</p> <p>course 6:15 22:17 38:18 138:23</p> <p>court 1:17 5:25 145:2</p> <p>covid 76:12 77:21,24 78:1 79:6 88:18,24 89:8 90:16 91:9 98:8,24 105:18 124:14</p> <p>covington 23:1 23:1,4 31:20 115:23</p> <p>cpa 63:18</p>	<p>cpe 89:9</p> <p>cracks 49:2</p> <p>cranston 53:3</p> <p>create 73:25 79:25 84:15 86:2 101:12 114:19 116:8 123:5 133:14 139:22</p> <p>created 19:12 80:3 84:17 86:4,9,14 100:3 114:21 123:7 132:2 133:16</p> <p>creating 143:8</p> <p>creation 108:14 108:15 137:18</p> <p>creative 121:21</p> <p>crisp 39:1</p> <p>criteria 136:8</p> <p>critical 117:12</p> <p>crossed 28:11</p> <p>crystal 105:17</p> <p>culture 143:10</p> <p>current 24:19 116:16</p> <p>currently 116:22</p> <p>custom 17:8</p> <p>customer 91:12</p> <p>customers 92:20</p> <p>cut 106:6</p>	<p>cutting 91:25 103:20</p> <hr/> <p>d</p> <hr/> <p>d 2:1 3:7,14 6:1</p> <p>dance 6:9,9</p> <p>daryl 3:5 8:23</p> <p>data 36:3,11</p> <p>date 16:12,14 17:17 34:1,6 34:11,17,22 35:3 79:19 80:6 81:4 103:2 116:20 119:14 121:15 138:13</p> <p>david 3:11,18 3:22 5:13 7:25 8:4,12 124:2</p> <p>davis 12:15 34:15</p> <p>day 69:8 72:11 108:5 125:4 126:15 128:19</p> <p>days 117:12</p> <p>dds 34:4</p> <p>dead 126:14</p> <p>deadline 42:3</p> <p>deal 37:10 66:20 69:2 71:18 79:2 92:13,22 93:4 138:8</p> <p>deborah 4:5</p> <p>december 11:16 122:10</p>
--	--	---	--

[decide - dynamic]

<p>decide 122:2 decided 77:24 decision 63:20 86:19,23 87:3 132:12 decisions 28:5 112:23 deemed 62:7,11 deems 135:9 136:14 137:21 default 63:20 defense 76:25 defer 25:6,11 73:20 74:5 83:10,19 107:13 111:11 111:19 113:19 113:21 114:25 134:23 deferral 86:18 86:23 87:2 deferred 74:15 83:25 87:23 95:22 104:5,8 106:18 defined 145:17 definitely 78:8 delay 136:23 delayed 77:25 137:2 delcrambre 89:25 90:1 93:25 deliberation 75:8</p>	<p>deliberations 14:6 143:6 delinquent 67:24 deliveries 77:14 denham 40:23 53:5 denial 36:3 denied 87:16 95:13 107:16 133:21 dental 33:23 34:9 deny 17:6 department 20:13 135:16 137:5 143:18 dependable 114:16 115:3,9 115:21 117:19 depends 64:8 deshotel 3:5 8:23 designates 36:9 designation 36:20 designee 3:7 detail 76:20 details 78:6 determined 79:18 136:5 determining 136:9</p>	<p>develop 138:25 development 36:2 115:8 117:15 135:16 difference 117:12 different 38:20 39:11 68:13,19 70:2 76:3,10 92:15 difficult 116:7 difficulty 21:10 63:17 116:14 138:6 digital 146:2 diligence 72:9 diligent 71:24 direct 80:3 direction 145:10 director 5:8 75:18 disabuse 27:20 disapprove 12:25 disaster 105:19 disconnect 59:2 discovered 57:9 61:2 discuss 76:2 115:25 discussed 68:4 85:7 discussion 22:1 61:3 74:2</p>	<p>109:21 130:7 discussions 61:5 disgorge 61:21 dive 12:11 divide 39:7 division 53:3 docket 44:10 doing 24:1 27:23,24 28:3 81:1 84:8 98:4 128:3 dollar 78:23 125:4 dollars 128:14 dominoes 71:22 72:10 doss 3:18 8:12 8:13 52:15,15 129:17,18 dotted 28:11 double 41:25 dow 55:5,6,12 downtown 29:24 115:23 drew 34:4 due 7:13 83:17 84:19,24 118:12,16 120:20 121:8 133:18 dynamic 89:9</p>
--	--	---	---

[e - excuse]

e	82:19,21	enter 135:4 137:15	essentially 77:2 82:16,23 103:11 118:4 119:20 138:16
e 1:20 2:1 6:1,1 34:4 145:1,1,1 145:1	either 64:1	enterprise 36:5 36:13,16,19 37:5	establish 136:11 138:24
earlier 42:7 48:19 68:18 85:8 107:8 112:16	elaborate 57:2	enterprises 43:20	established 135:16
early 96:9 117:12	election 141:15	entertain 13:4 14:7 29:9 37:11 74:5 80:18 134:2 143:25	establishment 60:7 135:6,7 135:22
easier 84:5	electric 40:20	entirely 17:12 87:9	event 106:17 145:22
east 24:24 30:20 31:19,23 31:25 32:6,10 33:24 41:5 52:1	eligible 36:12 60:8 67:4 80:6 100:23	entities 85:4 127:14	eventually 98:23
easy 143:12	eliminated 87:9	environmental 126:8	everybody 7:3 7:15 41:23 70:4 91:1
economic 36:2 115:7 117:15 135:16	email 20:22	envy 15:10	everything's 91:7
edification 23:9	emergency 135:23,24 137:11,12,18 138:10,19,24 139:21 141:12	eo 38:24 39:3 39:25 43:12 47:20 51:4,22 105:5	exactly 49:5 50:4 112:19
edwards 38:23	emerson 3:17 9:21	equilon 43:19	example 105:22
effect 62:22,22 138:20	employ 125:1	equipment 12:16 57:12 59:8 70:12 91:24,25,25 93:1,2	examples 72:6
effective 16:12 117:6 118:11 119:8,14 121:15 122:10 137:1 141:23	employee 92:7 105:25 115:12	erwin 3:25 10:11	exceeding 80:7
effectively 61:23 138:19	employees 90:11 105:24 124:20 125:3 125:25	especially 6:12 41:24 78:3	excellent 40:12
egregious 103:15	employer 126:3	espouse 76:19	except 44:10,13
eight 20:21 38:19 71:4	enact 139:21		exception 44:19 142:21
	ended 90:4,5		excited 7:5,15
	energy 5:10 26:18,19 53:8 85:23 86:20 87:4,10 88:5 90:5,9 93:6		exciting 6:8
	enforce 132:13		excuse 37:14 80:3 134:4
	engineering 46:10		

[excuses - finance]

<p>excuses 76:9 executed 76:7 executive 38:14 38:22 107:10 136:3,13,24 137:20 138:6,7 138:9,13,21 139:2 exempt 57:24 63:4 66:2,18 69:18 101:21 exempted 87:14 exemption 38:6 42:4 45:20 60:6,8 61:7,15 62:17 87:8,17 95:13,19 107:11,15,17 110:20 116:1 123:13 133:21 135:5,14,17 exemptions 126:19 132:10 exercise 62:24 69:15 136:19 exhibit 73:16 74:20 84:14 86:1,7,12 108:14 114:18 123:4 131:20 131:24 133:13 existed 124:11 existing 33:24 34:5,10,16,21</p>	<p>35:1 73:15 74:20 116:9 124:11,21 135:7 expanding 98:5 expansion 117:13 expect 83:13 116:16 expenses 125:7 125:9 experienced 91:16 124:17 125:11 expiration 16:13 expire 118:15 119:24,25 expired 47:22 explain 57:5 68:11 explained 68:18 explanation 24:3 29:3 50:6 expose 94:10 extending 81:2 ez 31:16 36:19 37:24</p>	<p>fabricators 12:19 faced 116:6 faces 6:7,17 facilities 94:3 facility 78:24 90:6 fact 21:12 143:11 factory 105:23 fair 18:6 28:12 39:19 57:5 72:11 102:15 139:15 fairly 27:25 fall'ish 64:11 falling 71:22 72:10 falls 82:16 familiar 130:13 far 102:18 farris 28:24 fashion 16:23 72:3 favaloro 4:6 favor 11:18 14:14 16:2 22:3 24:11 25:17 26:8 27:1 29:15 30:9 31:4 33:14 35:13 37:17 43:5 47:13 50:18 51:15 52:20</p>	<p>53:19 54:20 55:22 59:19 73:5 74:10 81:20 85:15 114:2 122:15 131:4 133:3 134:9 139:22 142:13 144:2 february 7:12 138:14 federal 36:2,11 77:2 feel 81:3 90:24 96:8 140:4 feliciano 41:6 fell 20:5 124:10 124:14 felt 97:2 fertilizer 12:18 fewer 106:3 fiber 76:23 77:5 field 89:20 90:4 97:17 figure 6:9 figured 56:6 94:10 file 46:8 82:22 83:23 118:15 filed 18:4 47:23 76:5 138:12 filing 133:19 fill 124:12,21 finance 5:5 18:15 115:21</p>
	f		
	<p>f 135:2 145:1 fabrication 89:16 94:3 97:17</p>		

[financial - given]

<p>financial 117:19 137:4</p> <p>financing 59:3 59:4</p> <p>find 83:2 91:16 140:13</p> <p>finding 116:13</p> <p>finished 79:15</p> <p>first 6:4 19:3 19:15 27:17 38:12 56:11 60:5 61:7 68:17 76:5 81:10 89:14 94:15 108:23 116:5 124:7 126:21 142:19</p> <p>fits 39:12</p> <p>fitters 91:16</p> <p>five 17:5 42:17 45:24,25 76:10 77:10,11 89:7 98:3 116:23,25 117:4,23 123:5 137:14</p> <p>flew 19:4</p> <p>flip 68:14</p> <p>floor 1:8 29:25</p> <p>flucke 5:5 18:15 21:21 22:11</p> <p>focus 76:21</p> <p>foil 3:19 9:1,2</p> <p>follow 94:11 102:25</p>	<p>followed 104:10</p> <p>following 36:20 42:3 71:25 82:11 117:22 135:21 136:1</p> <p>followup 36:17</p> <p>force 69:12,24</p> <p>ford 106:1</p> <p>forego 109:18</p> <p>foregoing 145:6</p> <p>forest 51:24</p> <p>forgive 15:20 40:18</p> <p>forgiveness 49:7</p> <p>form 79:3</p> <p>formalized 64:10</p> <p>format 145:14</p> <p>former 30:18</p> <p>formerly 24:20 25:8</p> <p>formosa 5:9 74:18,19,25 75:2,18 76:22 78:9 105:11</p> <p>forms 49:5</p> <p>formulated 135:18</p> <p>formulating 137:8</p> <p>forth 16:24 29:6 125:18</p>	<p>136:4,8 137:15</p> <p>fortunate 49:16</p> <p>forward 17:13 20:13,21 39:20 40:12 42:19 48:3 60:11 73:23 75:2 88:17,22 108:5 110:15,20 111:11 117:4 139:7 142:22 143:18</p> <p>found 61:3</p> <p>foundation 32:3,4,6 34:25</p> <p>foundry 41:6</p> <p>four 14:22 24:18 42:18,21 114:19 118:10 118:12 133:16 137:7</p> <p>frank 4:6</p> <p>franklin 3:19 9:1</p> <p>frankly 49:8 72:17 78:25 79:4 106:9 139:1,5</p> <p>free 140:5</p> <p>front 76:5,6,7</p> <p>frp 76:23</p> <p>full 21:4 24:18 30:16 77:3 81:10 87:10 124:8</p>	<p>further 22:1 29:3 68:14 73:3 87:13</p> <p>future 103:3 109:18 117:3 124:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">g</p> <hr/> <p>g 3:25 4:4 6:1</p> <p>gabe 4:20</p> <p>galvanizing 34:15</p> <p>geismar 24:25 26:16,20</p> <p>general 71:20</p> <p>generally 21:3 64:7 90:11 104:10</p> <p>generous 126:20</p> <p>george 3:12 10:7</p> <p>georgia 29:23</p> <p>gerald 9:10</p> <p>getting 91:10 125:16 141:10</p> <p>ghost 93:22</p> <p>gibraltar 30:18</p> <p>give 60:22 76:3 80:25 95:19 111:12 112:10 112:11 118:11 134:25 138:11 141:1</p> <p>given 17:17 117:17 132:17</p>
---	--	---	---

[gives - haliburton]

<p>gives 112:5 142:23 giving 111:19 glass 114:16 115:3,9,21,22 117:19 global 24:21 25:2,9,10 76:14 globo 12:24 32:17 45:10,13 go 13:24 27:18 33:20 35:22 39:6 45:23 60:24 64:5,20 69:11 76:20 78:5 84:9 101:19 106:11 108:11,22 109:15,24 110:11,20 111:6,11,12,13 111:20 112:10 115:17 116:18 120:5 125:9 139:8 141:5,19 goes 7:1 20:23 45:21 65:7 112:16,24 goex 12:12 going 6:11,13 6:17,18 20:13 25:6,10 27:20 28:5 44:17 48:17,21 60:18</p>	<p>61:20 69:2 73:20 74:1 79:10,19 81:8 82:13 83:15 87:21 88:16,22 92:14 94:11,12 98:1,4,5,17 103:11 104:25 105:9,14,15,22 106:10 109:6 110:9 111:17 121:2 122:1 134:2,19 139:2 139:3,7 140:9 140:10,14,15 140:17,23 142:24 good 6:3,3,10 7:20 12:4,6 18:13,22 28:17 28:19 31:14,16 31:21 38:8,10 38:12 43:1 47:8 59:14 60:16 64:1,3 71:3 79:10 89:4 91:14,15 113:2 114:11 122:3 127:2 134:16 143:2 143:23 145:3 gotcha 58:14 gotten 39:14 64:23</p>	<p>governing 117:14 137:4 government 67:1 69:17,24 77:3 83:5,8,9 83:12,25 91:3 132:18 governments 36:15,18 37:6 83:4 governor 3:7 38:23 135:4,9 135:13 136:2 138:17,20 141:7 governor's 7:7 64:12 grab 13:21 grace 29:5 78:19 79:17 gradually 91:20 grange 4:11 grant 51:25 106:22 granted 61:15 62:17 123:15 granting 81:21 135:12 grateful 106:9 116:3 117:7 143:3,19 great 7:8 18:17 18:25 21:16 28:13 29:2</p>	<p>40:8 48:1 59:14,18 68:12 75:21 112:6,12 113:22 116:2 126:19 groundwork 130:10 group 5:7 12:9 26:18,19 36:9 48:14 90:3 130:3 groups 36:4 130:4 grow 92:16,17 growing 94:1 growth 125:6 guess 4:14 50:1 66:9 79:14 96:17 101:17 109:23 119:7 120:20 guidelines 138:11 145:14 guys 21:15 71:18 95:6 96:13 118:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">h</p> <hr/> <p>h 3:11 hale 5:8 75:16 75:17,24 79:13 81:6 82:2,7 half 90:16 100:19 haliburton 92:25</p>
---	--	--	---

[hall - implement]

<p>hall 29:24 hand 6:22,25 handed 56:3 handle 12:23 13:1 32:16 127:18 handwritten 146:2 happen 7:13 64:9,25 70:1 72:3 78:20,22 78:24 109:15 happened 49:3 60:23 75:22 79:12 83:4 124:5 happening 88:7 happens 62:4 64:8 65:9 120:9 hard 81:7 91:15 124:25 hardy 48:4 50:15 haynes 12:13 hazardous 125:16 head 18:24 121:24 128:14 128:15 health 126:8 hear 83:11 87:22 143:17 heard 76:11,18 78:7,12 97:16</p>	<p>138:5 hearing 11:18 14:12 15:8 22:8 24:11 25:15,17 26:6 29:15 30:6 31:2 33:12 35:11 37:17 43:5 47:11 50:16 51:15 52:20 53:17 54:20 55:20 81:18 83:12 85:13 98:3 114:2 122:15 131:4 133:1,3 134:7,9 141:15 142:13 heavily 91:24 held 1:6 helena 12:19 hello 115:5 help 27:11 94:14 96:21 99:6 106:14 118:3 127:5 helped 117:16 127:4 helpful 126:20 127:9 henry 106:1 heritage 31:23 hess 92:22 hext 5:13 123:21 124:1,2</p>	<p>124:6 128:7,11 128:24 129:3 129:13,24 131:10 high 91:24 higher 20:6 highly 125:16 highway 22:21 hire 97:14 98:1 98:18 99:9 105:16 hired 88:16 97:12 99:10 100:7 124:19 hires 19:16,21 19:22 hiring 18:25 91:10 124:10 124:15,21 historic 115:22 hit 81:12 88:18 98:8 hits 80:14 home 72:3 125:2 homework 28:9 honest 96:3 honeywell 41:4 41:15,17 hope 139:14 141:1 hopefully 49:17 108:15 139:7 141:4</p>	<p>horizon 116:21 hospital 32:8 houston 95:4 howell 41:6 hud 4:8 60:22 huh 63:15 134:16 hundred 104:3 129:7,14 hunt 51:24 hurricane 105:18 hurts 91:6 hydro 89:19 hydrocarbons 55:6,12</p>
i			
<p>iberia 15:1 41:8 85:24 87:11 93:21 iberville 15:2 41:11 44:2 idea 16:19 64:1 64:3 141:2 142:24 ignore 103:13 iii 3:25 10:11 image 146:3 immensely 126:6 impact 136:25 137:4 implement 38:24</p>			

[implemented - itep]

<p>implemented 38:23 105:5</p> <p>implications 72:4</p> <p>important 7:9 16:20 64:13,16 143:7,7</p> <p>importantly 143:10</p> <p>impose 16:19</p> <p>impression 21:6</p> <p>improve 127:6</p> <p>improved 126:6 127:1</p> <p>inaudible 57:3 58:2</p> <p>incentive 5:11 36:13 115:6</p> <p>incentives 127:4</p> <p>include 20:2 107:14</p> <p>income 36:5</p> <p>incorporated 31:22 32:12,13</p> <p>incorrect 105:1</p> <p>incorrectly 57:9</p> <p>incredible 69:14</p> <p>incumbent 63:6 69:14 71:23</p>	<p>index 83:24</p> <p>indiscernible 116:12 126:22</p> <p>individually 13:2 32:18</p> <p>indorama 5:13 5:15 123:1,16 123:20 124:3</p> <p>industrial 38:6 116:1 135:13 135:17</p> <p>industries 12:12 31:19 32:25 33:3 40:22 53:7,8 128:18</p> <p>industry 1:5 6:5 86:18,22 87:2 93:6 96:10 106:11 115:20 116:12 125:16 132:5 135:3 136:8 142:20 143:9</p> <p>industry's 60:12</p> <p>ineligible 61:15 62:7,11</p> <p>inform 94:14</p> <p>information 37:8 127:9</p> <p>informed 60:3</p> <p>infrastructure 125:5</p>	<p>initial 16:12 36:17 42:15,17 42:18 47:22 95:13 116:23 117:8,23 133:21</p> <p>initially 57:10</p> <p>input 37:6</p> <p>inspection 57:8</p> <p>intend 117:21</p> <p>intended 104:21 116:9</p> <p>intending 102:6,6</p> <p>intention 81:11</p> <p>intentional 49:9</p> <p>intents 23:11</p> <p>interest 77:7 135:10 136:10</p> <p>interested 145:21</p> <p>interesting 58:24</p> <p>interests 135:19 136:5 137:10</p> <p>intermediate 89:5</p> <p>internal 128:14</p> <p>international 12:14 41:5 52:1</p> <p>introduce 7:3</p>	<p>invent 105:22</p> <p>invest 126:11 127:5 143:15</p> <p>invested 91:24</p> <p>investment 80:11 82:5 104:15,19 125:4 128:6,13</p> <p>invited 36:15 130:11</p> <p>involved 49:12 107:9,9</p> <p>iron 90:7</p> <p>issuance 136:3</p> <p>issue 48:17 49:11 58:9 67:12 71:17 76:14 78:2</p> <p>issued 62:6 123:11</p> <p>issues 23:13 76:15 78:5 79:1,1 82:15 83:3 104:14 105:3,8 109:19 119:21</p> <p>ite 137:1</p> <p>item 6:25</p> <p>items 6:24 25:23 138:20 139:2</p> <p>itep 38:20,21 39:17 60:7 61:12 66:1 67:4 78:15</p>
--	--	---	--

[itep - jones]

82:11,16 84:22 85:4 86:21,25 87:4 109:5 116:23 132:10 135:18,20,24 136:6,11,15,24 137:9,11,18,19 137:22 138:25 iteps 117:10	28:3 34:3,8,13 34:19,24 35:5 58:25 68:3 73:17 79:25 80:4,4 82:18 83:22 84:16,17 86:2,4,5,8,9,10 86:13,14,15 97:10 99:9,13 99:13 104:14 105:3,6 106:5 106:6,12 109:4 109:7 114:20 114:21 116:8 123:6,7 124:12 124:22 128:5 128:16 131:21 131:22,25 132:1,2 133:15 133:16,16	23:19,24 24:14 25:5,20 26:11 26:21 27:4,9 27:14 28:18 29:1,18 30:2 30:12,22 31:7 31:12 32:15,21 33:1,9,17 35:6 35:16,21 36:22 37:2,20,25 38:4,11,16 39:23 40:3,7 40:11,16 41:12 41:16 42:16,25 43:8,13 44:6 44:12,16 45:1 45:5,11 46:2,7 46:15,19 47:1 47:6,16,25 48:7 49:19,25 50:5,10,23 51:7,18 52:13 52:23 53:12,22 54:13,23 55:14 55:25 56:20 57:4 58:3,19 59:13,22 60:9 60:17 61:17 62:1,21 63:2 63:12,16,25 64:4,18 65:4 65:10,15,23 66:13,24 67:8 67:13 68:10 69:1,6,22	70:24 71:16 72:16,22 73:8 73:19 74:13,24 75:6,11,20 78:10 80:16 81:16,24 82:4 82:12 83:1 85:2,18 87:19 88:6,11 89:13 89:21 90:10 91:8 92:5,19 93:7,11,18 94:5,9,20 96:18 99:17 101:22 102:4 102:10,14 103:4 104:1,7 104:24 107:4 107:18,25 108:7 109:1,12 109:25 110:6 110:12,16 111:5,15 112:2 112:18 113:1,6 113:10,14,20 114:5,10 115:1 115:16 117:20 118:2,19,25 119:5,12,19 120:1,8,13,17 120:24 121:5 121:18 122:8 122:18 123:18 123:23 124:4 127:7,16,22
j			
j 3:9,13 j&r 60:1,23 67:14 68:14 69:2 70:9 85:6 jakes 115:20 117:18 james 51:6 54:7 54:9,11 75:2 jealousy 44:21 44:21 jeff 136:2 jefferson 12:15 32:5 34:10,15 35:1 44:5 jerald 3:3 jm 24:23,24 jml 136:3,13,25 137:20 job 31:21 70:12 101:5 108:14 124:11,16 125:14 129:8 jobs 11:25 17:1 18:25 19:11,19 27:8,24,24	john 3:14 8:8 43:22,23 johnson 4:7,17 4:19 joleasia 4:18 jones 3:3 6:2 9:10,11 11:13 11:22 12:5,21 13:8,13,17,22 14:3,17 15:3 15:15,19 16:5 16:15 17:19,24 18:5,16 19:6 20:7 21:2,23 22:6,13 23:6		

[jones - legitimately]

129:16 130:15 130:23 131:7 131:12 132:16 132:22 133:6 134:1,12,22 137:23 138:3 139:12,19 140:1 141:18 142:1,8,16 143:21 144:5 joyce 4:10 jr 3:12,13,16 julie 3:17 9:21 june 77:16 112:4,4 113:21 141:2 144:7 juneau 60:2,23 67:14 68:14 69:3 70:9 85:6 jurisdiction 36:12,16 jury 95:22 106:18,23 107:13,16 108:13 109:6 109:14 111:13 123:9 127:12 129:21 130:20	kenner 34:9 kicked 77:20 kids 91:23 92:2 kind 7:10 18:23 57:6 60:18 79:3 84:4,7 91:5 95:6 96:2 96:12 128:4 130:6 134:14 134:15 141:2 knighton 32:11 32:13 know 6:22,23 7:1 13:3 27:16 48:16,19 49:10 64:9 67:16 72:7 78:24 88:15,17,18,21 88:23 89:12 90:1,15,15,18 90:23,24 91:4 91:6,7,15,16,17 91:18,20 92:1 92:3,10,16 93:5,12,25 94:2 95:7,8,9 95:10,17 96:14 96:15,16 98:6 98:7,20,21,24 99:2 105:6,19 105:21 107:8 108:5 113:4 116:20 117:7 120:6 121:2 122:1 125:1,10	125:15,15,20 126:1,17,17,22 126:23 128:20 129:25 130:2,4 130:8,10 knowing 64:24 knowledge 103:16 kristen 40:15 40:17 kristin 4:7 kyle 3:7,21 5:11 7:7 9:5 11:8 13:25 115:5 140:11	lanxess 55:8 large 89:7 larger 99:1,2 lasalle 1:7 52:2 52:3 late 16:10,13 16:17 17:11 18:3,4,18,18 21:8 42:1,7 47:20,23 48:9 48:21 50:12 64:10 71:20,21 118:15 133:20 laundry 76:3 lawyers 102:11 lay 78:13 130:10 138:4 layton 28:23 le 4:11 leadership 136:1 141:10 learn 6:16 15:10 38:19 learning 62:23 learns 63:3 led 7:4 29:8 36:8,14,18 60:2 101:11 135:20 139:14 left 48:23 91:17 103:10 126:1 legally 60:24 legitimately 49:2
k		l	
keep 90:20 107:21 130:18 keeping 66:19 131:14 kelly 1:12 5:25 145:2 146:7		la 36:1,8 125:13 labelle 1:8 labor 78:4 lacc 41:7 lack 7:13 lafayette 12:17 22:22,24 31:18 40:22 52:11 133:11 lafourche 31:22 34:5 lake 124:16 land 58:21,25 landmark 31:23 landry 32:1,2 136:2	

[lesson - lower]

<p>lesson 62:24 68:13 70:2 leticia 3:10 4:17 letter 115:13 132:11 letters 127:11 letti 3:10 10:25 140:15 letting 110:19 level 38:18 84:8 levels 68:13 70:2 likely 20:24 limbo 138:16 linde 47:21 48:3,9,15,21 line 68:17 lines 79:23 list 15:11 36:11 76:3,9 listed 36:20 62:6,10 listen 105:2 109:7 little 39:13 48:19 60:22 82:14 99:7 112:10 128:13 129:22 living 143:14 livingston 40:24 53:6 liz 4:15</p>	<p>llc 5:4,6,14,15 12:10,11,13,15 12:16 15:1,2 16:11 23:1 24:20,22,24,25 25:3,8 26:16 26:17,18,20 28:22,23 29:23 29:24 30:19,20 31:19,21,23,24 32:1,2,10 33:3 33:24 34:4,9 34:20 40:23,25 41:1,2,3,6,7,9 41:11 43:17,19 43:20 44:2,3 51:6,24,25 52:3,4,9 53:6,7 53:8 54:7 55:3 55:4,7,8,12 56:11,12,14,16 56:17,18 57:13 60:2 73:14,15 123:2 lng 24:21 25:2 25:3,9,10 43:17,18 88:19 98:8,10 lngs 125:19 local 36:15,18 37:5 66:23,25 69:17,24 83:4 83:5,7,9,12,25 91:2 92:24 117:14,15</p>	<p>125:7,19 132:18 137:4 locals 29:5 61:14,21 62:14 63:7 64:6 66:17 68:4,5,7 69:12 96:7 103:25 104:9 107:8,9 108:11 108:16,23 116:19 120:6 located 115:22 location 23:17 23:18 54:1,3,5 54:8,10 locations 22:20 54:15 logic 21:11 42:20 long 89:22 90:8 90:22 92:3,4 longer 67:3 105:5,23 look 62:5,5 93:21 95:18 105:17 109:3 134:15 139:3 142:22 looked 80:10 98:17 looking 67:22 80:13 88:18 97:7,9,9 106:2 116:15</p>	<p>looks 47:7 80:1 93:13,16 95:12 139:6 lorando 4:21 losses 124:13 lost 99:11 lot 6:7 7:11 63:20 64:8,21 71:22 91:17,17 92:13,22,23,25 93:1,4 98:8,9 98:10,10,16 99:1 126:4,9 141:5 louisiana 1:4,9 1:17,19,20 5:7 5:9 12:15 15:2 15:18 22:22,24 23:2,4 32:8 36:2 44:2,3 48:14 51:5 54:4,5,9,11 74:18 75:19 78:15 86:17,22 87:1 94:4 98:3 115:23 125:7 131:17 132:4,9 135:1,15 137:6 145:4,17 love 92:11 111:16 lowe 3:10 lower 73:17 108:14</p>
--	---	---	---

[lp - meet]

<p>lp 12:18 34:15 43:21,23,25 44:1 52:12 54:2 luck 114:11 lucky 37:9 lumber 40:24 52:2 lyondellbasells 125:20</p>	<p>major 116:14 make 6:21 7:1 7:17 20:22 27:16 28:4 38:17 45:18 47:4 48:18 56:7 62:23 70:1 71:19,24 72:6,8,14 79:16,19 81:9 89:11 95:5 106:2 107:3 108:19 113:16 127:14 132:12 134:19 135:21 139:4 141:17 143:8,12,13 makes 134:15 making 13:18 39:6 126:23 141:3 managed 72:2 management 22:25 30:19 manager 5:13 115:21 117:19 124:2 manpower 76:15 77:22 78:2 manufacture 89:14 manufacturer 76:24</p>	<p>manufacturing 106:2,6,7 115:22 135:6,7 marathon 43:21,22 margin 81:4 marine 51:23 mark 4:21 market 105:14 124:16 marshall 3:13 10:14 martin 131:18 mary 43:16 52:10 mass 124:21 material 77:19 materials 41:11 76:14 matter 13:11 40:8 41:19 48:2 65:16 73:21 74:4,15 75:8 95:23 96:16 111:18 113:21 114:25 118:5 matters 13:24 14:6,8 17:8 25:7 29:6 44:18 matthew 5:3 18:13 mayor 3:11 7:25 8:1 26:3</p>	<p>30:4 35:9 45:14 53:15 55:17 56:24 107:23 108:1 113:12,15 132:23 134:3,5 mc 55:7 mccain 4:15 mcllhenny 41:8 41:24 42:10 mcneese 125:12 mean 69:18 71:18 95:16 96:14 97:24 98:16 103:5,11 103:15 120:19 121:23 meaning 14:5 39:24 means 39:9,15 77:2 83:15 106:20,21 mechanically 109:15 mechanism 59:3 medical 32:11 32:13 meet 21:7 79:9 82:17,20 89:1 91:11 92:14 94:18,24 95:20 99:3 100:10 104:20,21 108:16 130:8</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">m</p>			
<p>m 3:15,22 ma'am 11:14 12:2,22 16:8 machine 133:11 145:8 machinery 57:12 58:22 59:1,8 70:11 madam 75:25 made 7:14 69:14 88:15 112:24 116:7 117:11 130:14 132:12 mail 1:20 mailing 23:10 main 69:10 maintain 84:15 86:2 90:12,19 99:8 106:5 114:19 116:9 123:5 133:15 maintained 86:4,9 123:7</p>			

[meet - motion]

<p>140:17 meeting 6:4,11 7:12,16 11:16 25:11,24 56:4 70:7 73:21 74:3 95:3 111:19 112:3 113:22 115:13 115:24 118:6 119:9 141:1 142:20,23 144:8 145:5 meetings 6:6 27:25 129:22 130:1 140:18 140:19 mele 3:15 8:16 8:17 18:1,2 29:11 57:1,15 57:25 58:4,6 58:13,17 59:11 70:4,5,18 80:21 85:11 96:19,20 97:1 97:6,15,21 98:13 99:6,15 108:3,4,18,24 members 3:2 4:2 6:13 7:10 11:14 26:17,19 37:3 76:1 78:11 94:19 115:19 136:17 143:4</p>	<p>mentioned 49:14 met 7:4 34:2,8 34:13,18,24 35:4 97:2 129:20,25 metaplate 34:14 metoyer 4:10 31:14,15 33:21 35:19,23 36:25 37:23 38:2 mezzo 52:1 mic 13:21 58:4 65:5 88:12 94:21 119:7 michael 3:9 9:24 michaela 4:13 microphone 18:9 middle 115:11 midst 77:10 miles 141:5 milestones 78:16 miller 3:16 11:4,5 19:9,23 44:23,24 45:3 45:15,16 46:4 46:13,17,24 47:3 70:25 71:1,7,12 72:13,24 110:4 110:7,8,14,22</p>	<p>111:3,10,17 112:13,22 113:3,16,18 127:23,24 128:9,21 129:1 129:9 138:1,4 140:14 141:24 million 19:17 19:18 20:1,2,3 78:22 79:25 80:7,10,14 86:3,8,13 109:8 125:4,6 126:18 129:8 mills 88:20 mind 80:25 103:12 106:19 minimum 61:12 minute 134:25 minutes 11:15 11:17 69:3,5 mirrored 77:18 mispronounce 9:9 missed 19:5 127:25 129:19 mixed 130:3 mizell 3:24 9:18 modification 108:5 111:22 modifying 108:8</p>	<p>moment 87:23 money 69:13 95:10 126:24 months 6:16 77:16 morning 6:3,4 6:10 7:20 12:4 12:6 18:13 28:17,19 31:14 31:16 38:8,10 38:12 60:16 70:19 75:22 96:22 143:6 moss 3:6 7:21 7:22 14:10 15:6 17:22,25 24:7 26:23 30:4 33:5 37:12 41:21 50:8,11 52:16 74:6 80:19 121:20 127:10 127:20 130:17 130:21,24 motion 11:24 12:25 13:4 14:7,8,9,19 15:4,22 16:7 17:14,20 21:24 22:8 24:4,6,16 25:6,12,22 26:1,3,13,22,23 27:6 29:9,10 29:20 30:3,3,8 30:14,23,24</p>
---	---	---	--

[motion - non]

31:9 33:4,5,19 35:7,8,18 37:11,12,22 41:20,20 43:10 44:22 45:4,6 45:12 47:18 48:18 50:7,11 50:25 51:9,10 51:20 52:14,15 52:25 53:13,24 54:14,15,25 55:15,17 56:2 56:21,23 59:17 59:24 72:14,18 72:23,24,24 73:1,10 74:5,6 80:18,19 82:1 85:9,20 94:14 107:3,11,14,19 107:22 110:21 113:9,11,17 114:7 121:13 121:14,20 122:9,20 127:15,17,18 130:17,24 131:9 132:18 132:19,21 133:8 134:2,3 134:14,18,19 135:21 137:15 137:16,24 139:20 141:17 142:5,18 143:25 144:1	<p>motions 15:4 motor 40:20 move 11:25 17:13,18 23:16 38:5 39:20 40:12 50:9 64:5 137:16 140:24 moved 53:11 moves 39:14 moving 20:13 20:21 117:3 143:18 mud 70:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">n</p> <hr/> <p>n 2:1 6:1 naheem 3:12 name 18:10 24:24 25:1,3 40:18 48:10,13 53:2,5,8 57:24 75:14,17 88:1 115:5,20 123:24 names 6:16 9:9 53:14 nassar 3:12 10:7,8 15:5 24:6 25:12 26:23 29:10 33:7,10 51:10 53:10,13 56:23 73:1 74:6 85:9 94:7,15,17,21 94:23 95:11,21</p>	96:1,6 107:2,6 113:7,8 130:25 144:2 natchitoches 12:11 national 77:7 naturally 89:1 99:3 nature 115:10 130:12 navigate 117:16 necessarily 17:8 101:7 necessary 136:15 137:10 137:21 necula 4:20 need 21:7,13 48:6 75:10,23 91:11 95:9 105:24 124:9 141:8 needed 39:1 128:1 needing 6:24 needs 73:24 91:12 96:16 negotiated 78:14 111:23 neighbors 34:20 52:4 neither 63:18 net 19:16,19,20 20:4	never 105:2 new 6:7,12 7:4 12:8 19:16,20 19:22 20:4 22:23 23:2,3 24:19,21,23,25 25:2 26:18 28:21 30:17,19 31:16 38:15 54:4,10 55:4,6 55:8,11 59:6 79:25,25 80:3 80:4,5 84:16 91:23 92:1 99:13 105:23 116:8 135:5 138:25 nice 94:2 nicest 94:3 niemeyer 3:23 8:20 nine 12:8 71:4 80:4 nitrogen 12:17 53:7 nmc 31:24 noble 31:25 32:2 nobody's 28:7 nods 13:16 95:25 134:21 nominations 142:2 non 61:2,3 68:3 68:23 70:6,11
---	---	---	--

[non - opposed]

<p>70:15,17 82:10 noncompliance 83:17 84:20,24 85:3 86:19,24 87:3 103:6 104:13 109:18 132:10 noncomplian... 83:22 87:21 noncompliant 83:3 84:13 85:24 103:7 114:17 120:7 123:3 131:19 133:12,20 norco 54:3,5 normal 101:18 north 1:8 80:13 note 13:11 41:23,24,25 56:3 notice 23:10 notified 68:5 notifies 83:3 notion 27:21 number 30:17 62:8 73:17 79:5 84:11 88:16 97:13 99:8,23 103:9 103:20 109:9 136:1,16,23 137:7,14 numbers 25:9 89:1 92:8,11</p>	<p>92:14 99:4,7 100:3 101:11 108:15 109:4 129:5 nustar 12:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">o</p> <hr/> <p>o 6:1 145:1 oaks 30:20 object 62:24 68:12 70:2 objections 11:17,18 obligation 97:3 obligations 95:4 obviously 18:17 21:16 23:20 120:19 occurred 70:14 occurrence 57:16 ochsner 32:3,4 32:5 34:25 october 49:11 49:15,21 october'ish 111:14 office 64:13 117:16 officer 145:4 officers 141:15 offshore 89:17 98:6 oh 15:20 39:5 65:19 104:2,18</p>	<p>108:22 126:23 oil 89:20 90:3 97:17,17 99:1 okay 14:4 26:22 32:16 35:24 36:23 37:3 38:17 39:19 40:8 41:13 42:19 43:1 45:2,12 47:4 50:6 59:12 60:10 66:9 67:15,20 67:21 68:11 72:11,23 82:13 87:20 93:8 94:10 97:16 100:12 101:2 101:16 102:9 102:13,25 104:2 105:13 105:18 107:19 108:25 110:3 113:7 115:2,17 118:20 119:6 119:13 121:11 121:12 122:2,3 122:5 124:5 129:10 old 26:17 59:9 126:12,25 128:2 olefins 5:14,15 123:1</p>	<p>omega 89:9 once 37:9 46:11 61:20 69:11,13 71:8 72:1,1 84:5 ones 59:10 92:23 onset 80:11 open 66:1 127:25 128:15 140:19 143:11 operating 31:24 operation 74:23 94:2 operational 46:23,25 operations 23:17 24:20,22 25:3,8 78:17 81:3 operators 124:18 125:12 125:17,23 opinions 145:19 opportunities 16:18 opportunity 37:6 48:15 76:1 111:20 116:4 117:8 opposed 11:23 14:18</p>
--	---	--	--

[opposition - parish]

<p>opposition 16:6 22:7 24:15 25:21 26:12 27:5 29:19 30:13 31:8 33:18 35:17 37:21 43:9 47:17 50:24 51:19 52:24 53:23 54:24 56:1 59:23 73:9 74:14 81:25 85:19 114:6 122:19 131:8 133:7 134:13 140:2 142:17 ops 125:11 opt 83:14 option 62:9 103:1,6 106:25 108:11 116:24 optional 17:2 options 17:4 112:11 order 6:11 7:17 38:14,22 62:14 77:1,14 79:20 91:11 107:10 136:3,13,25 137:20 138:6,7 138:10,13,21 139:2 143:23 organization 115:8</p>	<p>organizational 124:22 original 79:24 102:21 originally 79:24 80:5,8 87:16 92:18 107:17 116:8 orleans 14:23 28:22 ouachita 28:23 29:23,25 30:1 34:20 52:4 ought 27:25 94:14 outcome 145:22 outreach 36:17 outside 101:23 102:7 128:10 128:12 130:9 overly 23:7 oversight 49:9 oversights 20:23 owe 96:14 owed 87:11 own 68:20,21 owned 57:11 58:21,23 owner 5:3 18:14 30:18,19 55:4,6,8,11 101:20</p>	<p>owners 26:15 ownership 24:18 26:2 30:16,24 58:12 owns 70:9,11 oxy 92:22 126:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">p</p> <hr/> <p>p 3:21 6:1 88:21 145:1 pace 92:17 packages 89:20 packaging 52:6 52:8 packets 37:4 packing 52:5 page 2:2 146:4 pages 37:4 68:15 145:6 paid 60:5 61:7 61:9,20 62:10 62:12,16,19 65:8 66:7,10 67:20 69:11,13 71:9 72:1 120:10 125:6 pain 96:8 painting 89:18 pam 5:5 18:14 panels 97:18,22 parallel 138:23 paris 23:2 parish 12:9,11 12:12,13,14,16 12:17,18,20</p>	<p>14:24,25 15:1 15:2 16:11 22:22,24 23:5 24:23,25 25:2 25:4 26:16 28:22,24,25 29:24,25 30:1 30:21 31:18,19 31:21,22,24,25 32:1,2,4,5,6,7,9 32:10,12,14 33:24 34:5,10 34:15,21 35:1 40:21,22,24,25 41:2,3,4,5,7,8,9 41:10,11 43:17 43:18,19,20,22 43:24,25 44:1 44:2,4,5 47:22 51:6,24,25 52:2,3,4,6,7,9 52:10,11,12 53:6,9 54:4,6 54:10,12 55:5 55:7,9,13 56:15,19 60:2 60:4 75:3 84:12,18 85:24 86:16 87:11,23 93:23 107:21 109:22 110:20 111:21 114:16 114:22 115:9 123:2 131:18 132:4 133:12</p>
---	--	---	--

[parish - placed]

<p>133:21 parishes 36:20 parkway 22:23 parliamentary 94:12 part 20:4 36:14 56:7 68:20 69:7 90:23 112:4 partial 56:10 56:22 participate 14:5 116:4 117:8 participating 145:20 particular 48:23 particularly 136:2 partnered 125:10 partners 48:25 pass 24:20,22 25:8 past 79:5 120:20 121:7 path 73:23 patience 116:20 117:14 patient 6:19 paul 5:8 75:17 pay 20:13 63:11,21 66:15 69:12 96:13</p>	<p>112:17,25 121:11 125:21 payer 125:22 payers 125:25 paying 28:7 87:10 payment 61:22 63:8 65:17,21 69:13 payroll 19:17 19:18,24 20:1 20:3 68:3 70:12 80:1,5 82:20 83:22 84:16,17 86:3 86:6,8,11,13,15 90:12 92:7 99:22 104:14 105:3,6 106:5 106:7,13 108:14 109:4 114:20,21 123:6,7 128:5 128:22 131:22 131:23 132:1,3 133:15,17 payrolls 100:2 pcs 12:17 pejorative 121:23 penalize 95:8 penalized 124:25 penalties 16:24 21:5,8 132:13</p>	<p>penalty 16:18 17:5,6,11,18,21 21:25 42:9 49:22 50:12,19 83:16 106:21 106:22 117:1 people 6:6 20:5 28:3 48:1 59:2 69:8 72:6 77:21 88:16 90:18,20 91:15 91:15 93:4 97:13 98:19 105:16 106:3 126:5,14 128:22 people's 143:12 percent 36:4 60:4 61:6 83:9 89:2 97:3,10 97:13 99:21 100:4,7,17 104:3 123:14 123:14 percentage 36:6 123:13 perfect 40:12 performance 127:1 performed 57:8 period 66:10 74:22 76:13,16 78:1,19 79:17 84:13 114:18 123:3 131:20</p>	<p>133:13 periods 85:25 permits 98:9 perrin 1:12 5:25 145:2 146:7 perry 4:19 person 129:4 145:20 personal 145:10 perspective 140:22,23 143:16 petroleum 22:23 43:21,23 phillips 32:7,25 33:3 philosophical 143:16 philosophy 71:20 physical 22:19 pick 13:14 18:10 88:25 pipng 89:20 93:3 place 32:10 38:22 57:17 62:15 76:5,13 77:15 85:5 placed 46:20 63:5 100:22 120:25 121:3</p>
---	--	---	---

[plan - procedures]

<p>plan 92:4 planned 125:5 plant 98:8 126:25 128:2 131:14 plants 88:19 plaquemines 25:3,4 51:24 plastics 5:9 32:1,2 74:18 74:19 75:19 76:22 platforms 98:6 played 63:19 76:16 players 125:19 plea 130:2 please 6:19 12:2 18:8 28:15 48:11 60:11 65:5 75:1,14 88:2 117:7 123:25 142:3 plus 125:3 126:14 128:17 point 6:21 65:9 91:6 101:24 105:8 106:10 108:12,16 111:2 112:14 113:2 122:1 141:10 police 95:22 106:18,23</p>	<p>107:12,16 108:13 109:6 109:14 111:13 123:9 127:12 129:20 130:20 policy 106:4,8 political 69:16 politically 104:25 polozola 3:21 9:5,6 13:6,10 13:18,20,23 14:1 15:9,12 15:13,17 32:19 32:22,23 33:2 41:13,14,17 44:7,8,14,17 67:9,10 75:4,7 121:13,14,16 140:12 polozola's 15:10 port 93:21,23 93:24 porter 4:3 60:10,11,15,19 60:21 61:11,24 62:3,25 63:9 63:14,23 64:2 64:15 65:13,20 66:22 67:11,15 67:17 68:24 69:4,20 70:20 71:5,10,14</p>	<p>portion 17:9 42:6 57:11 70:9 85:7 106:23 107:20 107:21 110:20 position 18:11 48:11 67:12 75:15 88:2 123:24 positions 124:11 positive 126:22 possible 106:22 140:18 post 38:14 51:4 51:22 77:21 postponed 7:12 98:11 potentially 109:18 practice 12:23 101:18 pre 39:3,25 43:12 47:20 precede 94:13 preferred 126:3 preparation 143:2 prepared 145:13 present 3:2 4:2 8:2,18 9:12 10:9,20</p>	<p>presented 110:10 presently 42:2 president 5:3 18:13 94:25 pretty 88:14,17 88:22 89:4 91:24 94:2 95:16,18 109:22 previous 22:21 22:22 54:3,8 116:4 previously 123:15 printworks 53:4 prior 38:22 63:8 95:4 priorities 76:25 probably 49:10 56:6 80:12,13 90:16 96:14 97:12 120:19 problem 48:20 67:1 problematic 108:19 procedurally 113:7 118:3 procedure 94:12 145:18 procedures 135:25 137:13</p>
---	--	---	--

[proceed - quality]

<p>proceed 46:9 proceedings 2:5 process 20:20 79:20 83:13 117:17 produce 58:25 59:1 producing 77:5 77:7,10 production 77:4 products 41:1 51:25 professionals 125:13 program 12:1 17:1 18:25 29:4 34:1,7,12 34:17,23 35:3 36:13 39:12 61:16 67:4,5 91:22 99:23 100:23 101:3 109:5 116:1,2 116:6 117:22 135:17 137:1 139:3 143:8 programs 16:24 21:13 38:6 progress 141:2 prohibition 145:16</p>	<p>project 22:19 23:16 45:21 57:11 61:4 68:19,23 70:10 76:17 77:8 84:20,24 86:3 86:5,7,10,12,14 86:20,24 87:5 99:9 104:20 105:14 117:9 projected 100:17 projections 99:24 116:16 121:25 projects 25:25 45:22 46:9 78:1,22 88:22 98:11,21 99:2 promised 49:6 49:6 promote 135:19 137:9 143:12 promulgated 135:18 promulgating 137:9 promulgation 137:19 proper 141:22 properly 45:18 properties 28:23 30:1 41:3 56:13,18</p>	<p>57:12,23 property 56:13 56:14,17,19 61:6 62:6,10 62:15,20 63:4 65:3,7,9 69:17 protest 63:21 66:10 provide 87:17 provided 115:13 116:2 117:11 providence 101:23 provides 62:8 62:13 135:1 provision 135:11 provisions 135:24 137:12 pt 43:17 pt2 55:8 public 5:2 14:13 16:1,17 22:2 24:10 25:16 26:7,25 29:14 30:7 31:3 33:13 35:12 36:7 37:14,16 43:4 47:12 50:17 51:14 52:19 53:18 54:19 55:21 59:16 73:4 74:9</p>	<p>81:19 85:14 106:4 114:1 122:14 131:3 133:2 134:8 140:4,5,7,20 142:12 publication 135:23 137:11 137:17 pull 13:1 18:9 58:4 pure 44:21 purely 17:2 purpose 138:10 purposes 23:12 136:9 pursuant 135:14,24 137:12 pushing 81:7 put 66:6,17 98:7 121:8 138:20 putting 21:12 65:16 91:18 109:8</p>
q			
<p>qualified 36:9 99:22 116:13 124:17 125:15 125:17 137:2 qualify 19:19 qualifying 36:3 quality 11:25 17:1 18:25</p>			

[quality - recusing]

<p>27:8 quarter 19:3 quarters 54:10 question 18:6 39:18 44:25 45:7 47:8 49:20 57:5 94:8 99:20 101:17 102:15 112:17 119:7 questions 6:20 14:11 15:7,24 20:8 22:1 24:8 25:14 26:5,24 29:12 30:5 31:1 33:10 35:10 37:13 39:16 41:22 43:1 47:9 50:14,15 51:12 52:17 53:16 54:17 55:19 56:25 59:14,15 73:2,3 74:7 80:22 81:17 85:12 94:11,13 96:23 108:2 113:24 122:11 127:19 130:16 131:1 132:24 134:5 141:14 142:10 quickly 64:19 141:4</p>	<p>quite 49:8 78:2 quiver 103:8 quorum 7:13 7:18 11:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <hr/> <p>r 6:1 145:1,1,1 145:1 r.s. 36:1,8 radar 19:4 raise 6:21,25 23:25 raised 125:21 ran 90:15 rated 77:1,14 rather 48:16 70:16 111:17 117:3 136:22 140:24 raw 76:14 reach 92:7 reaching 119:6 read 36:24 115:14 real 6:17 19:10 21:7 72:4 92:12 realistic 109:4 109:9 reality 28:7 92:10 93:5 106:8,12 realize 49:21 realizing 59:2 really 27:21 78:24 88:23,25</p>	<p>89:8 93:6 95:7 98:1,25 103:7 104:18 106:12 126:4 127:2,4 143:3 reams 79:7 reason 18:3,19 18:22 21:4 47:7 63:5 69:10 105:10 107:7 reasonably 23:13 reasons 69:9 76:3,4,19 reassess 92:11 reboot 39:2 receive 77:11 received 11:15 76:24 77:9,16 133:19,24 receiving 36:7 56:14,18 recently 35:24 recognition 141:8 recognize 6:12 72:9 121:24 recognizes 139:5 recollection 103:17 recommend 86:17,21,25 87:8</p>	<p>recommenda... 83:6 84:2 87:18 103:25 123:17 130:6 130:14 132:7 recommenda... 37:7 68:6 85:1 114:23,24 132:17 recommended 87:24 recommending 28:10 84:19,22 85:5 123:10,12 recommends 132:4 reconsider 140:6 record 7:2 40:14 56:7 137:16 recorded 57:9 records 115:15 140:20 recusal 13:11 15:12,22 32:24 41:15 recuse 6:24 44:18 48:6 75:5,10 recusing 13:24 14:4 33:2 41:18 48:8 75:7,12 140:12</p>
--	---	--	---

[redguard - resiliency]

<p>redguard 14:25 reduce 84:1 103:9 123:10 123:13 127:15 127:17 130:18 130:18 reduced 42:5 reduction 127:13 refining 14:24 51:6 55:3 reflect 139:15 refused 66:17 reg 24:25 26:16 26:19 regard 135:22 regarding 87:8 regardless 62:11 regulations 42:9 reimbursement 67:22 reinforced 76:23 77:5 related 145:20 relationships 145:17 relatively 39:15 released 35:25 reliability 126:7,9 remaining 25:25 103:20 123:14</p>	<p>remedial 132:6 remedies 3:20 9:14,15 65:1,2 65:6,18 66:3,8 67:6 99:18,19 100:5,11,15,21 101:1,8,15,25 102:8,12 remember 45:18 49:11 remove 61:14 64:6 removed 63:7 renaissance 92:23 rendering 137:2 renders 137:10 renew 17:17 116:25 118:14 119:24 renewable 26:17,19 renewables 55:4 renewal 14:22 16:10,13,22 17:5,7,10,18 18:4,18,23 21:25 29:22 42:5,21 45:25 47:20,23 48:9 50:12,19 51:5 51:9 117:4 118:12,15</p>	<p>renewals 16:17 21:9 43:12 51:23 52:15 71:21 renewed 49:17 repair 51:23 repeat 128:1 replaced 20:5 reported 1:12 5:24 145:7 reporter 5:25 145:3 reporter's 2:6 reporters 1:17 reporting 70:13 84:13 85:25 114:17 123:3 131:19 133:13,18 represent 37:4 48:15 125:4 136:5 representative 3:5,17 7:7 8:23 9:21 18:7 87:22 representing 123:19 represents 27:22 request 16:14 17:7 30:17 73:13 74:17 76:2 79:21 80:20 81:21</p>	<p>102:1 108:13 117:1 124:24 132:15 requested 34:1 34:6,11,17,22 35:2 87:17 requesting 73:15 74:20 117:5 118:22 119:16 127:13 requests 60:3 73:11 79:3 required 36:14 60:25 73:17 84:15 86:1,8 86:13 97:10 100:1 145:15 requirement 82:20 104:15 104:19 106:13 requirements 34:2,7,12,18,23 35:4 70:7 77:23 82:18 101:5 105:4 requires 101:11 114:19 123:5 131:21 131:25 133:14 reserves 87:13 resident 125:2 128:17 residents 36:6 resiliency 126:10</p>
--	---	---	--

[resolution - rules]

<p>resolution 84:18,21 87:7 111:23 123:9 123:12</p> <p>resolutions 86:16</p> <p>resources 55:7 55:12</p> <p>respect 122:5,5 132:14</p> <p>respond 84:25 114:22 123:16</p> <p>response 8:21 8:24 9:19,22 10:12,23 103:19</p> <p>responses 133:23</p> <p>responsibility 20:16 48:23 69:23</p> <p>responsible 118:24</p> <p>rest 7:9 141:11</p> <p>restart 128:2</p> <p>restoration 28:15 29:3</p> <p>result 105:4</p> <p>resulting 137:3</p> <p>results 19:1 35:25 49:18</p> <p>retain 131:21 131:25</p> <p>retained 73:17 131:23</p>	<p>retaining 56:12 56:17 116:13</p> <p>retention 125:23</p> <p>retroactive 84:23</p> <p>revision 136:12 136:20,24</p> <p>revisions 136:21</p> <p>rice 41:9</p> <p>rid 106:12</p> <p>right 15:21 18:8 21:24 24:4 33:4,20 35:7,22 36:23 38:5 39:25 44:17,22 46:8 48:10 51:8 55:15 63:13 66:12 68:1,16 70:3,4 71:15 72:12 74:4 75:14 80:1 88:7 90:14 93:24 94:6 95:23 97:8 98:14 101:5 102:23 103:22 104:3 109:11 111:9 112:1 115:17 121:6,6 121:12,19 123:19 127:2 127:19 129:12</p>	<p>132:17 134:17 134:23 138:8 139:20 142:2 143:7</p> <p>rights 87:13</p> <p>river 54:3,5</p> <p>road 54:3,5 77:20</p> <p>robby 3:16 11:4 140:13 141:24</p> <p>robert 28:24</p> <p>robin 4:3</p> <p>rodney 5:7 48:13</p> <p>roger 5:10 88:4</p> <p>roll 7:17 62:7 62:10 76:16 128:16</p> <p>rolls 45:21,23 61:14 62:15,20 63:5,8 64:10 65:17 66:2,6 66:18,19 68:8 68:9 69:18 71:8 81:12 111:14 112:16 112:25 120:25 121:4,7,9,9</p> <p>ronald 3:20 9:14</p> <p>ronnie 3:4 10:18</p> <p>room 1:8 125:6</p>	<p>rosenberg 4:9 27:15 28:14,16 28:20 29:21 30:15 31:10,13</p> <p>rouge 1:9,19 24:25 30:21 31:19,23,25 32:6,10 33:23 33:24 41:3,4,5 44:4 52:2 55:7 56:15</p> <p>roughly 102:18 129:2,7</p> <p>rta 31:11</p> <p>rubber 27:20 134:15</p> <p>ruckert 3:7 7:7 11:8,9 45:9,12 64:13</p> <p>rule 17:2 38:24 39:4,4,6 62:2 69:10,10 135:24 136:14 137:11,18,21 138:10,19,24 139:21 141:12</p> <p>rules 16:25 38:15,21,25 39:1,8,11,24 42:1 51:4,22 60:7 61:12 67:2 71:25 82:11 135:18 135:22 136:9 136:12,13,16</p>
--	--	---	--

[rules - several]

<p>136:20,24 137:9,19,20 138:8,9,18,24 139:1,14,22 140:10,19,25 141:13 145:15 145:18 run 122:3 running 46:12 rush 113:4</p>	<p>schedule 81:1 school 84:21 87:7,12,24 94:18,24 101:19 106:24 107:12,20 110:23 111:7 111:12,21 114:23 123:11 127:12 129:21 130:20 132:7 133:24 scott 3:23 5:8 8:20 75:17 seal 146:3 season 115:11 seat 18:8 second 14:9 15:5,23 17:23 17:25 21:24 24:6 25:12 26:3,23 29:10 30:4,25 33:6,8 33:10 35:9 37:12 41:21 45:13,14 50:12 51:10 52:16 53:14 54:16 55:17 56:23 59:17 73:1 74:6 80:20,20 85:7,10 107:22 107:24 108:1 113:11,16,23 121:19,20</p>	<p>122:9 130:25 132:23 134:4 138:2,4 139:21 142:4,7,9 144:1 secretary 3:8 7:4 10:3,4 20:10,11,19 26:4 30:24 55:18 75:25 104:12,22 134:4,18,20,24 137:24 139:8 139:10,17 141:9,16,20 142:22,23 143:1,18,22 section 60:6 62:8 68:16 135:2 see 6:3 17:3 18:22 21:7 23:25 58:1,7 58:16,18,20,23 64:21 70:10 83:19 90:17 100:2 105:20 111:21 127:3 144:6 seeing 98:25 99:11 seeks 36:18 seem 117:10 seems 39:13</p>	<p>seen 78:25 79:5 selling 58:11 senator 3:19,24 9:1,2,18 send 121:10 sensed 112:6 sentiment 112:7 separate 58:24 serious 72:4 serve 140:11,13 140:14,15 141:21,22,24 143:5 service 40:21 46:21 86:20 133:11 143:20 services 5:10 31:18 85:23 87:4,10 88:5 serving 27:17 set 16:24 17:2 29:6 38:18 39:8 59:4 68:21 82:14,18 82:21 83:24 84:3,8 136:8 137:14 138:25 140:25 sets 38:20 39:11 setting 136:3 seven 55:2 86:5 several 36:17 77:18 98:11</p>
<p>s</p>			
<p>s 1:12 5:25 6:1 145:1,2 146:7 sacks 5:3 18:12 18:13,21 19:13 19:25 20:17,25 21:19 22:9,16 safety 81:4 126:8 salaries 97:9 salary 109:8 124:20 129:15 sale 65:7,8,12 65:22 66:12 sand 89:18 sasols 125:19 saying 79:7 97:12 99:21 100:6,9,19 101:12 109:7 says 83:10 105:23 106:4 scenario 64:22 scenes 27:22</p>			

[several - special]

<p>101:20 116:6 shape 79:3 share 70:12 shaw 90:3,7 shawn 4:16 shell 43:24,25 54:2 sheriff 84:25 87:16 95:12,14 107:16 114:24 123:16 132:11 133:25 sheriff's 65:8 65:11,22 66:12 shintech 15:1 15:18,20,21 44:2,3 shorthand 145:8 showing 96:22 shown 70:16 shut 77:21 sic 11:16 side 93:13 signature 146:3 signed 48:2 49:7 64:23 146:5 significant 71:17 simien 3:13 10:14,15 14:9 17:15,16 37:12 113:23 132:19 132:20 144:1</p>	<p>similar 48:19 49:11 130:2 similarly 76:18 simmons 4:5 7:19,24 8:3,7 8:11,15,19,22 8:25 9:4,8,13 9:17,20,23 10:2,6,10,13,17 10:21,24 11:3 11:7,11 72:19 72:20 simple 23:20 simplify 23:8 simply 18:22 19:4 23:9 28:7 49:1 51:8 68:23 79:9 simultaneously 138:22 sincerely 117:18 single 68:19 sir 13:9 18:1 19:8 23:23 29:2 40:2 42:14 45:8,15 79:14 80:23 81:7 82:8 88:4 93:10 95:6,16 96:5,25 97:5 102:15 114:9 121:17 123:22 127:25 130:22 131:13</p>	<p>sit 88:12 105:13 site 5:13 23:16 57:8,22 58:8 124:2 126:6 127:6 128:12 site's 58:8 sitting 7:6 138:16 situated 76:18 situation 48:20 65:12 68:22 83:21 87:20 91:5 103:7,16 106:17 133:23 situations 42:8 six 33:22 70:2 sized 89:5 skilled 78:3 sleep 141:6 slipped 49:1 slone 3:4 10:18 10:19 25:13 30:25 41:21 50:13 51:11 54:16 142:6,9 slowed 98:9 small 93:24 116:11 117:10 smaller 92:23 115:9 smoothly 39:15 solar 54:7 97:18,22</p>	<p>sold 66:11 90:2 solely 135:11 solution 113:22 116:21 solutions 5:4,5 16:11 18:7,14 somebody 48:17 soon 140:17 sorry 9:9 15:9 15:14,20 40:14 44:20 88:14 97:20 106:14 127:9 sort 46:10 64:21 sound 76:8 sounded 102:1 south 94:3 98:2 southern 5:7 48:14 southland 12:19 southwest 32:8 sowela 125:10 space 7:14 spare 115:12 speak 48:2 109:14 111:20 140:22 speakers 5:2 special 35:20 73:11,13 74:17 80:19 81:21</p>
---	--	---	--

[specialist - superintendent]

<p>specialist 5:11 115:6</p> <p>specialty 41:10</p> <p>specific 57:22 57:22 58:8</p> <p>specifically 137:14</p> <p>spend 104:21</p> <p>spin 126:18</p> <p>spirits 12:15</p> <p>split 103:2</p> <p>spots 79:22</p> <p>springs 40:23 53:6</p> <p>st 5:11 12:19 14:25 16:11 23:2,4 28:24 31:21 32:1,2 43:16,20,21,23 44:1 51:6 52:9 54:4,6,7,9,11 55:4,4,9,12 75:2 114:16 115:6,8 131:18</p> <p>staff 4:2 21:12 27:23 28:9 37:7 39:10 61:8 66:14 74:2 83:3 84:3 99:20 102:17 104:13 138:7 138:11,17</p> <p>stalled 88:22</p> <p>stamp 27:20 134:15</p>	<p>standing 145:3</p> <p>standpoint 79:8 129:23</p> <p>stands 140:8</p> <p>staple 89:24</p> <p>start 45:20 46:12 59:2 71:22 72:10 77:25 98:4,5</p> <p>started 19:15 21:5 27:17 45:22 79:20 90:1 99:9</p> <p>starting 88:25 90:5 99:1 127:2</p> <p>starts 45:24,25</p> <p>state 1:4 18:10 22:15 36:4,10 48:10 69:24 75:14 78:14 82:6 88:1 123:24 125:7 135:2,10,19 136:6,10 137:5 137:10 143:9 143:10,15 145:4 146:3</p> <p>stated 18:3 138:23</p> <p>stating 86:17 114:25 132:8 132:11</p> <p>statute 145:15</p>	<p>stay 57:13</p> <p>steel 12:19</p> <p>stenographer 13:15,19 18:10</p> <p>stenographic 145:8</p> <p>step 28:2</p> <p>stephanie 4:11</p> <p>sterling 32:10 52:9</p> <p>stockade 72:7</p> <p>stop 36:23 38:17 66:14 110:11</p> <p>stopped 77:3</p> <p>story 21:16 88:15 126:19</p> <p>straightforward 27:25</p> <p>strategy 5:7 48:14</p> <p>stream 56:4,5</p> <p>streamline 139:4</p> <p>street 1:8 54:11</p> <p>structure 124:23</p> <p>struggle 125:14</p> <p>struggled 124:14</p> <p>struggling 126:25</p> <p>stuart 3:6 7:21</p> <p>studious 140:20</p>	<p>stuff 67:23 79:11 134:15</p> <p>stuller 52:10</p> <p>stupid 39:18</p> <p>subject 135:12 136:21 140:18 140:19</p> <p>submit 118:18</p> <p>submitted 42:2 84:18,21 86:16 87:7 114:24 123:9 124:8 127:14 132:7 132:11</p> <p>submitting 16:22</p> <p>subsequent 116:17</p> <p>substitute 113:16</p> <p>success 19:10</p> <p>successful 21:17 143:13 143:14</p> <p>successive 19:21</p> <p>sugar 14:24 51:5 131:17 132:9</p> <p>sugars 52:9</p> <p>suggested 109:3</p> <p>suite 1:18</p> <p>superintendent 94:25</p>
---	--	---	--

[supervision - thank]

<p>supervision 145:10</p> <p>supervisors 135:21</p> <p>supply 76:14 79:1,8 133:11</p> <p>supportive 130:5</p> <p>supposed 77:14 88:20</p> <p>supreme 41:9</p> <p>sure 7:1,17 13:18 20:20,22 38:17 45:18 47:5 48:13 71:24 72:8 73:25 89:9 100:25 127:21 143:8</p> <p>susan 3:8 7:5 10:3</p> <p>sword's 103:8</p> <p>systems 24:23 24:24 76:25</p>	<p>taken 69:17 76:4 77:15 102:18 103:2 145:5</p> <p>takes 23:25 57:17</p> <p>talk 19:11</p> <p>talked 6:23 95:2,5 112:15</p> <p>talking 65:11</p> <p>taminco 73:14 73:14 74:2</p> <p>tammany 5:11 16:11 23:2,4 28:25 31:21 114:16 115:7,8</p> <p>tank 76:24</p> <p>tanks 77:5,7,10 77:12</p> <p>tanner 3:9 9:24 9:25</p> <p>taught 106:1</p> <p>tax 19:3 28:15 29:3 38:6 62:15,17,20 63:4,5,8 64:5 64:10,24 65:7 65:17 66:6,16 66:25 69:18,18 72:3 81:12 87:8,12 111:14 112:16,24 115:11 116:1 121:8,9,10 126:19 127:3</p>	<p>135:14,17</p> <p>taxable 62:6 66:19 68:9</p> <p>taxes 60:4 61:6 61:20 62:9,11 62:12,16,18,19 65:8,17,21 66:9,15 67:20 69:11 71:8 72:1 87:11,14 91:4,4 101:20 120:10,16,19 125:8 135:5</p> <p>taxpayer 66:25</p> <p>taxpayers 137:6</p> <p>tech 91:24</p> <p>technical 125:13</p> <p>technically 121:4</p> <p>technologies 14:23 15:16 52:1</p> <p>tedra 4:12</p> <p>tell 21:16 80:12 83:5,8,24 88:7 124:5 128:4 129:21 130:11 143:5</p> <p>telling 138:17 138:18</p> <p>tells 75:22</p> <p>ten 46:5 98:3</p>	<p>term 34:1,6,11 34:17,22 35:3 42:3 46:21 84:1 116:23 117:8,23 123:11 130:19</p> <p>terminate 84:1 84:19,22 85:10 104:9 106:24 107:11,15,19 121:14 122:10</p> <p>terminated 103:24 104:9 111:2</p> <p>termination 85:5 87:25</p> <p>terminations 33:22 35:8</p> <p>terms 18:23 123:15 135:8 136:4</p> <p>terrebonne 12:12 56:19</p> <p>test 24:23,24</p> <p>testimony 145:7</p> <p>testing 89:19</p> <p>thank 11:14 12:22 18:17 21:20,22 22:10 22:12,14 24:1 24:2,2 27:10 27:13 28:13 29:2 31:13 38:1,3 40:17</p>
<p>t</p>			
<p>t 145:1,1,1</p> <p>t's 28:11</p> <p>table 27:15 82:14 83:24 93:14</p> <p>take 49:1 66:17 68:8 105:6 127:18 132:8 132:21,23 134:2</p>			

[thank - transfers]

<p>47:2,4 51:2 56:7 67:7 75:21 80:17 81:15 82:3,5 83:2 93:8,8 96:21 99:16,18 101:16 102:13 114:9,13 122:7 122:21,23 127:8,8 129:10 131:11,13,13 141:7,9 142:25 143:22 144:7 thankful 117:13 theory 62:2 thereof 42:6 thing 39:18 41:23 46:10 77:20 95:17 97:25 110:24 138:18 things 58:7,20 64:9,25 72:3 76:4,10,20 77:20,21 78:12 78:20,22,24 98:16 103:13 130:12 think 21:15 28:6 39:13 46:21 49:14 63:17 64:10 73:23 78:6 79:6 83:6</p>	<p>90:17 91:1 92:15 93:16,25 94:13 98:23 102:5 103:24 109:2 112:6 113:22 126:3 126:18,23 134:18 thinking 104:5 111:16 third 1:8 29:25 thompson 3:25 10:11 thought 79:10 89:3 98:1,17 98:22 119:6 thousand 129:7 129:14 three 13:24 28:21 29:22 38:20 39:11 82:17 86:16 88:24 98:24 105:24 136:17 136:23 tier 125:22 ties 28:4 tight 95:17 time 16:17,22 19:2 21:11 48:24 49:22 64:8 66:10 76:13,16 77:11 77:25 80:14 81:11 83:19</p>	<p>90:8,20,22 92:4,4 101:13 103:6 105:1 111:12 112:5 112:10 122:2,3 133:22 140:13 timeline 79:11 timely 16:23 43:12 51:4,22 72:2 82:22 83:23 times 24:1 58:16 63:20 64:8,21 77:18 90:25 tired 83:11 today 6:17 7:14 7:15 15:12 37:10 48:16 49:18 106:14 111:18 112:7 113:5 115:13 115:24 118:6 143:24 today's 117:11 together 6:9 103:14 106:13 108:8 tons 126:24 took 76:13 77:21 79:14 top 125:22,24 torn 96:2,12 tosha 115:20 117:18</p>	<p>total 19:22 totally 92:15 tough 83:15 88:23 89:11 90:19,25 91:14 93:17 toups 3:11 7:25 8:1 26:3 30:4 35:9 45:14 53:15 55:17 56:24 107:23 108:1 113:12 113:15 132:24 134:5 tours 130:12 toward 64:22 town 93:22 tracking 21:1 tracts 36:12 trading 125:18 training 91:22 91:23 92:1 transcribed 145:9 transcript 145:11,13,14 146:2 transcription 145:9 transfer 24:18 26:1 30:16,23 57:3,17,23 transfers 55:2 55:16 56:10,22 57:6</p>
--	--	---	--

[transition - ventures]

<p>transition 48:22</p> <p>transparency 21:4</p> <p>transparent 49:13</p> <p>travis 4:9</p> <p>triad 128:18</p> <p>tried 38:24 90:20 130:8</p> <p>trigger 19:1 20:23</p> <p>true 63:24 79:7 145:10</p> <p>trust 132:14</p> <p>try 6:14 60:12 130:10 139:4 140:17,24 141:11</p> <p>trying 62:23 72:5,6,8 101:2 103:12 106:6</p> <p>tsrc 41:10</p> <p>tucker 29:23</p> <p>turbine 88:20 98:2</p> <p>turbines 98:6</p> <p>turnaround 126:16</p> <p>turned 64:16 64:19 79:11</p> <p>turner 128:18</p> <p>tv 63:19</p> <p>twice 39:19</p>	<p>twin 93:23</p> <p>two 22:19 25:7 25:25 48:1 49:12 53:2 54:1 56:10 58:23 68:19 74:22 78:19 79:16 82:16 84:17 85:3,4 85:22 102:20 122:25 126:7 131:16 133:15 136:16</p> <p>twofold 62:5</p> <p>type 20:23 57:17 77:19 92:2</p> <p>typically 90:15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">u</p> <p>u.s. 35:24 41:7 76:24</p> <p>uh 63:15</p> <p>ultimately 20:15 92:7 138:7 139:15</p> <p>unable 115:24 124:12</p> <p>uncovered 61:5</p> <p>under 17:3 19:4 39:9 42:1 42:4 68:19 82:18 107:10 145:9</p> <p>understand 39:11,16 67:18 67:19 69:9 84:4 91:2 93:19,19 96:21 99:6 100:16 101:2,9 112:9 120:9</p> <p>understanding 63:19 67:18 116:19,24 118:8 145:12</p> <p>understood 99:16</p> <p>unemployment 36:6</p> <p>unforeseen 116:6</p> <p>unfortunately 38:25 95:9</p> <p>unintended 73:25</p> <p>union 55:9</p> <p>unique 76:22 78:8</p> <p>unusual 79:4</p> <p>upcoming 118:17</p> <p>update 36:11 36:14 80:17</p> <p>updated 36:9 80:25</p> <p>usa 25:1</p> <p>use 46:23,25</p> <p>used 78:21 93:23 99:23</p>	<p>uses 36:2</p> <p>usie 4:8 38:9 53:1,25 55:1 56:9 57:5,7,18 59:5,25 61:1 67:25 70:8,22 73:12 74:16 82:9,24 84:9 84:10 103:21 114:14 118:7 118:21 119:10 119:15,22 120:3,11,15 122:24 131:15 133:9</p> <p>using 36:10</p> <p>usually 59:3 103:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p>vacherie 54:9 54:11</p> <p>valid 76:4 146:1</p> <p>valorem 65:21 106:23 135:5</p> <p>valuable 21:13 90:21</p> <p>value 16:21</p> <p>valuing 21:14</p> <p>vastly 127:1</p> <p>venture 24:21 25:2,9,10</p> <p>ventures 5:13 5:15 123:1 124:3</p>
--	---	--

<p>veritext 1:17 veritext.com 1:20 vernacular 141:22 vessels 89:19 93:2 vice 141:24 video 56:4,5 villa 4:4 village 23:25 vinyls 52:12 violations 132:6,13 virtue 135:10 137:7 vote 83:18,19 101:18 110:10 130:3 140:6,8 voted 132:8 votes 14:6</p>	<p>69:8,8 71:18 73:24 76:8 81:9 91:4 93:12 95:7 109:5 118:17 119:1 124:7 139:8 143:12 wanted 47:4 83:13 84:7 95:3 102:17 104:9 wants 32:17 84:1 107:1 waste 31:17 way 39:5 59:7 64:24 67:2 70:14 83:18,23 91:7 95:12 110:10 112:3 112:24 141:11 145:21</p>	<p>125:21,22,25 126:4,14 138:5 weather 76:15 weatherford 92:25 webster 12:13 wednesday 1:6 weighed 96:7 welcome 4:16 welders 91:16 welding 89:16 89:18,19 91:25 went 66:16,16 89:6,8 90:25 91:18 110:23 129:25 wesley 4:1 10:22 west 41:2,4,6 44:3 55:7 56:15 westlake 52:11 124:3,16 whatnot 115:11 wheelis 4:1 10:22 widget 105:23 widgets 106:3 willing 143:5 willis 32:11,13 wind 88:19 98:2,5 windmills 91:19 97:22 98:7</p>	<p>wish 96:13 116:18 withdraw 113:9,11,13,15 wood 41:1 work 6:14 7:11 15:11 21:12 38:19 77:12 84:5 92:3,24 98:10 112:11 126:4,9 128:19 143:7,7,20 workable 139:5 worked 96:8,9 124:25 125:12 125:13 126:1 workers 116:13 125:2 workforce 79:1 79:8 91:11 105:15 116:10 working 77:25 125:3 126:15 works 112:5 114:16 115:3 115:21 117:19 125:14 143:9 world 92:15 93:12 142:24 worst 96:17 worth 110:1 written 67:2 wrong 61:19 66:15 67:19 121:25</p>
w	<p>we've 7:11,14 15:21 19:18 39:14 48:1 49:12 68:22 73:22 78:25 79:5 80:2 82:15 90:15,22 90:22 91:9,20 91:22,23 92:3 94:2 103:17 104:8 105:2 106:4 122:4 124:19,21,25 125:10,12,13</p>	<p>westlake 52:11 124:3,16 whatnot 115:11 wheelis 4:1 10:22 widget 105:23 widgets 106:3 willing 143:5 willis 32:11,13 wind 88:19 98:2,5 windmills 91:19 97:22 98:7</p>	<p>wish 96:13 116:18 withdraw 113:9,11,13,15 wood 41:1 work 6:14 7:11 15:11 21:12 38:19 77:12 84:5 92:3,24 98:10 112:11 126:4,9 128:19 143:7,7,20 workable 139:5 worked 96:8,9 124:25 125:12 125:13 126:1 workers 116:13 125:2 workforce 79:1 79:8 91:11 105:15 116:10 working 77:25 125:3 126:15 works 112:5 114:16 115:3 115:21 117:19 125:14 143:9 world 92:15 93:12 142:24 worst 96:17 worth 110:1 written 67:2 wrong 61:19 66:15 67:19 121:25</p>
<p>w 3:20 wages 20:6 80:6 wait 45:4 walk 12:1 28:14 60:18 want 6:12,21 7:3 13:1,3 17:13 27:16,20 28:4,6 32:24 36:23 37:1 41:23,25 45:17 48:3,18 49:13</p>	<p>we've 7:11,14 15:21 19:18 39:14 48:1 49:12 68:22 73:22 78:25 79:5 80:2 82:15 90:15,22 90:22 91:9,20 91:22,23 92:3 94:2 103:17 104:8 105:2 106:4 122:4 124:19,21,25 125:10,12,13</p>	<p>westlake 52:11 124:3,16 whatnot 115:11 wheelis 4:1 10:22 widget 105:23 widgets 106:3 willing 143:5 willis 32:11,13 wind 88:19 98:2,5 windmills 91:19 97:22 98:7</p>	<p>wish 96:13 116:18 withdraw 113:9,11,13,15 wood 41:1 work 6:14 7:11 15:11 21:12 38:19 77:12 84:5 92:3,24 98:10 112:11 126:4,9 128:19 143:7,7,20 workable 139:5 worked 96:8,9 124:25 125:12 125:13 126:1 workers 116:13 125:2 workforce 79:1 79:8 91:11 105:15 116:10 working 77:25 125:3 126:15 works 112:5 114:16 115:3 115:21 117:19 125:14 143:9 world 92:15 93:12 142:24 worst 96:17 worth 110:1 written 67:2 wrong 61:19 66:15 67:19 121:25</p>

[x - zones]

x	127:13,15,17 130:19
x 2:1	
y	years 19:21 20:21 36:10 37:9 38:19 42:22 45:24,25 46:5 47:8 71:4 71:4 82:19,21 87:6,15 88:24 90:4 96:9,10 98:4,11,24 101:20 102:20 103:9,20 105:7 116:4,17,25 117:3 118:10 125:24 126:7 126:13
y'all 15:9 21:13 78:7 110:19 128:3	
yeah 13:23 20:12 49:20 65:24 95:5 100:12,14 104:2,13 109:21 111:6 112:9,21 129:14	
year 17:5,9,10 17:11 18:18 19:2,4,15,15 42:5,6,12,14,17 42:18 44:20 46:11,11 60:5 60:6 61:4,7 64:9,22 71:2 74:22,22 78:19 79:16,18 81:8 81:10,13 84:20 84:24 86:3,5,7 86:10,12,14,20 86:24 87:12 102:19,23 112:15 116:22 116:23 117:4 117:23 118:12 118:23 120:5 123:11 125:8 126:16,21,25	younger 92:2
	z
	zatarain's 44:4 44:11,15,19 zero 114:21 123:8 zone 36:13,19 37:5 zones 36:5,16