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STATE OF LOUISIANA
LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
BOARD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
BEING HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024
617 NORTH THIRD STREET, FLOOR 1, LABELLE ROOM
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

REPORTED BY: BETTY D. GLISSMAN, CCR

1	I N D E X	1	STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
2		2	SHAWN WELCOME
3		3	FRANK FAVALORO
4	PAGE	4	Liz MCCAIN
5		5	JOYCE METOYER
6		6	KRISTIN JOHNSON
7	CAPTION	1	ANNE VILLA
8		8	MICHAELA ADEGBE
9	APPEARANCES	3	TRAVIS ROSENBERG
10		10	TEDRA CHATHAM
11	PROCEEDINGS	5	DEBORAH SIMMONS
12		12	
13	REPORTER'S PAGE	73	SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE:
14		14	CRAIG ROUSSEL
15		15	NINA STOFBERG
16		16	KIM CUSIMANO
17		17	JIMMY LEONARD
18		18	CHRIS GUIN
19		19	KEVIN MEYER
20		20	JIMMY GOULD
21		21	JAKE NICKENS
22		22	
23		23	
24		24	
25		25	
	Page 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:	1	CHAIRMAN JONES:
2	BOARD MEMBERS:	2	Good morning, y'all. It is great to see
3	CHAIRMAN JERALD N. JONES	3	everyone on a crisp December morning. I
4	SECRETARY SUSAN BOURGEOIS	4	happened to be in Cleveland, Ohio, last Monday.
5	MR. DAVID M. AMOSS	5	It was minus 3 with 30-mile-per-hour winds. So
6	MS. LETTIA A. "LETTI" LOWE-ARDOIN	6	today felt balmy when I walked out this morning.
7	MR. JOHN AUSTIN	7	But I call the December meeting of the
8	MR. HAROLD J. "HAL" CALLAIS II	8	Board of Commerce and Industry to order.
9	REPRESENTATIVE VINCENT ST. BLANC FOR DARYL	9	Ms. Simmons, will you do the roll call for us,
10	DESHOTEL	10	please?
11	MR. DAVID B. DOSS	11	MS. SIMMONS:
12	REPRESENTATIVE JULIE EMERSON (Arrived Late)	12	Good morning, everyone. Stuart Moss?
13	MR. BARRY M. MELE	13	MR. MOSS:
14	MR. RIDGE J. MIGUEZ (Arrived Late)	14	Present.
15	MR. CHARLES "ROBBY" MILLER	15	MS. SIMMONS:
16	SENATOR BETH MIZELL	16	David Toups?
17	MR. STUART MOSS	17	MR. TOUPS:
18	MR. NAHEEM "GEORGE" NASSAR	18	Present.
19	MR. KYLE P. POLOZOLA	19	MS. SIMMONS:
20	MR. RONALD W. REMEDIES	20	David Amoss?
21	MR. KYLE D. RUCKERT	21	MR. AMOSS:
22	MR. MICHAEL TANNER	22	Present.
23	MR. DAVID TOUPS	23	MS. SIMMONS:
24		24	John Austin?
25		25	MR. AUSTIN:
	Page 3		Page 5

<p>1 Present. 2 MS. SIMMONS: 3 David Doss? 4 MR. DOSS: 5 Here. 6 MS. SIMMONS: 7 Barry Mele? 8 MR. MELE: 9 Present. 10 MS. SIMMONS: 11 Scott Niemeyer? (No response.) 12 Representative Vincent St. Blanc for Daryl 13 Deshotel. 14 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC: 15 Good morning. Here. 16 MS. SIMMONS: 17 Franklin Foil? (No response.) 18 Kyle Polozola? 19 MR. POLOZOLA: 20 Here. 21 MS. SIMMONS: 22 Jerald Jones? 23 CHAIRMAN JONES: 24 Present. 25 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 Wesley Willis? (No response.) 2 Letti Ardoin? 3 MS. ARDOIN: 4 Present. 5 MS. SIMMONS: 6 Charles "Robby" Miller? 7 MR. MILLER: 8 Here. 9 MS. SIMMONS: 10 Kyle Ruckert? 11 MR. RUCKERT: 12 Here. 13 MS. SIMMONS: 14 We have a quorum. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Thank you, ma'am. 17 The Board has received copies of the 18 minutes from the October 23, 2024, meeting. I 19 would entertain a motion to approve from 20 Mr. Moss. A second from Senator Mizell. Any 21 questions or comments from the Board? Hearing 22 none. Any comments from the public? There 23 being none. All in favor say "Aye." (All 24 responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is 25 none. The motion carries and the minutes are</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p>
<p>1 Ronald Remedies? (No response.) 2 Senator Beth Mizell? 3 SENATOR MIZELL: 4 Here. 5 MS. SIMMONS: 6 Representative Julie Emerson? (No 7 response.) 8 Michael Tanner? 9 MR. TANNER: 10 Here. 11 MS. SIMMONS: 12 Anne Villa for Secretary Bourgeois? 13 MS. VILLA: 14 Present. 15 MS. SIMMONS: 16 George Nassar? 17 MR. NASSAR: 18 Present. 19 MS. SIMMONS: 20 Erwin Thompson III? (No response.) 21 Harold Callais? 22 MR. CALLAIS: 23 Present. 24 MS. SIMMONS: 25 Ridge Miguez? (No response.)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 approved. 2 Before we move into quality jobs, I wanted 3 to give a brief report from the Board's rules 4 committee. As you know, we have been working 5 over the course of the last few months to take 6 Governor Landry's executive order concerning the 7 industrial tax exemption program and turn that 8 into a new set of rules. We then received our 9 marching orders from Secretary Bourgeois to make 10 that not just the issues covered by the 11 executive order, but also to take a complete 12 look at the industrial tax exemption program. I 13 am pleased to report that the rules committee 14 has completed that work and has submitted a 15 brand-new set of rules which literally takes the 16 ITEP program and reworks it from soup to nuts 17 and it will be published in the Register -- the 18 Louisiana Register on December 20 and that 19 begins the notice period and the comment period 20 for the public. There will be a public hearing 21 on those rules on January 30 in this room and I 22 believe that meeting is at 9:30 or 1:30. We 23 will make sure everyone get notices. It is 24 going be on January 30th at 10:00 AM, neither 25 was correct. 10:00 AM on January 30 in this</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p>

1 room. And that will be to take public comments
 2 on the rules themselves.
 3 But I want to thank the members of that
 4 committee. That is Robby Miller, Letti Ardoin,
 5 Stuart Moss, Kyle Polozola, and myself. And the
 6 real work on this rules frankly was done by
 7 stakeholder representatives, industry
 8 representatives, LED staff, other stakeholder
 9 representatives who actually did heavy lifting
 10 of reading the rules, going through redlines,
 11 debating, and believe me, guys, it was hours and
 12 hours and hours of debate on how rules should
 13 read. So I am very proud of this work and I
 14 believe it's going to be a step forward. Will
 15 it make them perfect? Probably not. But we
 16 will find out in their application and as we
 17 find those imperfections, hopefully we can work
 18 through to get those corrected as time moves
 19 forward. But, again, my personal thanks to the
 20 rules committee, the LED staff, and all of the
 21 stakeholders who took part in that exercise over
 22 the course of the last few months. We are no
 23 longer -- once those rules become effective, and
 24 that's governed by the Administrative Procedures
 25 Act, but once those rules are effective, we will

Page 10

1 be operating the ITEP program under those sets
 2 of rules as well as the pre-JED rules, as well
 3 as the '17 rules, as well as the '18 rules, but
 4 we have done some things that will help
 5 streamline that and give an opportunity for
 6 industry to work in a more streamline fashion.
 7 We can talk more about that at a later time.
 8 All right. Anything from any other member
 9 of rules committee on this subject? Great.
 10 Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I felt
 11 privileged to give that out.
 12 Now, let's move to the Quality Jobs
 13 Program. Ms. Adegbe, could you lead us through
 14 that, please?
 15 MS. ADEGBE:
 16 Good morning.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 Good morning.
 19 MS. ADEGBE:
 20 There are three new applications.
 21 20210484, Syrah Technologies, LLC, Concordia
 22 Parish. 2020474, Techneaux Technology Services,
 23 Lafayette Parish. 20220355, Waskey Bridges,
 24 Inc., East Baton Rouge Parish.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 11

1 I will entertain a motion for the quality
 2 job applications. We have a motion from Mayor
 3 Thibaut [sic], second from Cindy Mizell. Any
 4 questions or comments from the Board? There
 5 being none. Oh, I am sorry.
 6 MR. MIGUEZ:
 7 I need to recuse myself from the Waskey
 8 Bridges.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 Thank you very much. We have a recusal on
 11 Waskey Bridges. That's Number 20220355. All
 12 right. Any other comments or questions from the
 13 Board? Hearing none. Any comments from the
 14 public? There being none. All in favor say
 15 "Aye." (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition?
 16 There is none. The motion carries.
 17 MS. ADEGBE:
 18 There is one renewal application.
 19 10190333, Click Here Publishing, LLC, East Baton
 20 Rouge Parish.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 Any question on this renewal? A motion
 23 from Mr. Moss, second from Mr. Miller. Any
 24 questions or comments from the Board? There
 25 being none. Any comments from the public?

Page 12

1 Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye." (All
 2 responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 3 none. The motion carries.
 4 MS. ADEGBE:
 5 This is one change of company name only,
 6 20210133. Current company name Breeze Airways,
 7 new company name Breeze Aviation Group, Inc.,
 8 dba Breeze Airways, Jefferson Parish.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 We have a motion to approve this change of
 11 name.
 12 MR. MILLER:
 13 Move.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 Motion, thank you. Second.
 16 MR. MOSS:
 17 Second.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Second, Mr. Moss. Any questions or
 20 comments from the Board? There being none. Any
 21 comments from the public? Hearing none. All in
 22 favor say "Aye." (All responded "Aye.") Any
 23 opposition? There being none. The motion
 24 carries.
 25 MS. ADEGBE:

Page 13

1 There is one full transfer of ownership to
 2 new company, 20190517. Current company ProKeep;
 3 new company, ProKeep, Inc., Orleans Parish.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Do we have a motion? I have a motion from
 6 Mayor Thibaut [sic]. Second from Mr. Miller.
 7 Any questions or comments from the Board?
 8 MR. CALLAIS:
 9 Mr. Chair, I have a recusal.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 Okay. Mr. Callais is recusing himself.
 12 Any other comments from the Board? Questions?
 13 Hearing none. Any comments from the public?
 14 There being none. All in favor say "Aye." (All
 15 responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 16 none. The motion carries. Thank you.
 17 MR. TOUPS:
 18 Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure.
 19 It is Mayor Toups and not Mayor Thibaut. I am
 20 not the parish president of Pointe Coupee
 21 Parish.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 My apologies to someone. I don't know who
 24 I offended. Mayor, I have called you by the
 25 correct name for years, but today is Christmas.

Page 14

1 Give me a gift. Give me a gift. Thank you,
 2 Mayor. My apologies. Thank you.
 3 All right. Let's see. Mr. Rosenberg,
 4 would you walk us through the RTA program,
 5 please?
 6 MR. ROSENBERG:
 7 Good morning. There are two new
 8 applications. 20230002, Crescent Care MidCity,
 9 LLC, Orleans Parish; and 20230086 for Duchamp
 10 Opera House in St. Martin Parish.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Great. Of course, these have already been
 13 approved by the locals. We have a motion to
 14 approve from the Board. Motion by
 15 Mr. St. Blanc. Second from Mr. Callais. Any
 16 questions or comments from the Board? Hearing
 17 none. Any comments from the public? There
 18 being none. All in favor say "Aye." (All
 19 responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 20 none. The motion carries.
 21 MR. ROSENBERG:
 22 There is one renewal application for
 23 20170589 for Fern Hill Investments, LLC, in St.
 24 Tammany Parish.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 15

1 All right. Do we have a motion? We have
 2 a motion from Mr. Miller. Second from
 3 Ms. Ardoin. Any questions or comments from the
 4 Board? Hearing none. Any comment from the
 5 public? Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye."
 6 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 7 none. Motion carries.
 8 MR. ROSENBERG:
 9 That concludes the RTA agenda.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 Thank you, sir. I appreciate your help.
 12 Good morning, Ms. Metoyer.
 13 MS. METOYER:
 14 We have three new applications. 20160735,
 15 Associated Mooring, LLC, St. James Parish.
 16 20230097, La Grange Acquisition, LP, DeSoto
 17 Parish. 20220468, The Exchange, LLC, Orleans
 18 Parish.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Very good. Do we have a motion to
 21 approve? Mr. Nassar. I need a second. Second
 22 from Mr. Polozola. Any questions or comments
 23 from the Board? Hearing none. Any comments
 24 from the public? There being none. All in
 25 favor say "Aye." (All responded "Aye.") Any

Page 16

1 opposition? There is none. The motion carries.
 2 MS. METOYER:
 3 We have five contract determination
 4 requests. In accordance with Section 717.D of
 5 the Enterprise Zone Program rules, a business
 6 may submit a request to terminate their
 7 Enterprise Zone Contract if: 1, the contract
 8 had been in effect for at least 30 months. 2,
 9 the business has met all of the requirements of
 10 the program, which includes timely filing of all
 11 program forms, documents, and appropriate fees.
 12 The following contracts were previously
 13 approved by the Board of Commerce and Industry
 14 and the contract holders listed below have
 15 submitted a request to terminate the Enterprise
 16 Zone contracts. The Contractee understands the
 17 Board's decision is final and contracts cannot
 18 be reinstated or reactivated. 20190309, Capital
 19 City Produce, East Baton Rouge Parish. The
 20 existing contract is 1/3/2020 through 1/2/2025.
 21 The requested term date is 7/3/2022.
 22 20160670, FTC Hotels, LLC, doing business
 23 as Springhill Suites, St. Tammany Parish. The
 24 existing contract is 1/1/20 to 12/31/2024. The
 25 requested termination is 12/31/2022.

Page 17

1 20200110, Louisiana Fish Fry Products,
 2 Limited, East Baton Rouge Parish. The existing
 3 contract is 4/3/20 to 4/2/2025. The request to
 4 terminate is 10/3/2022.
 5 20190451, Ochsner Clinic Foundation, East
 6 Baton Rouge Parish. The existing contract is
 7 7/30/20 to 7/29/2025. The requested terminate
 8 date is 7/29/2025.
 9 20200066, Ochsner Clinic Foundation,
 10 Jefferson Parish, the existing contract is
 11 3/2/20 to 3/1/2025. The requested terminate is
 12 3/1/2023.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 All right. Do we have a motion to accept
 15 these contract terminations? The motion from
 16 Mr. Moss. Second from Mr. Callais. Any
 17 questions or comments from the Board? Hearing
 18 none. Any comments from the public? Hearing
 19 none. All in favor say "Aye." (All responded
 20 "Aye.") Any opposition? There is none. The
 21 motion carries.
 22 MS. METOYER:
 23 That concludes Enterprise Zone.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 Thank you, ma'am. Good morning,

1 Absolutely. Thank you very much.
 2 MR. POLOZOLA:
 3 Mr. Chair.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Yes.
 6 MR. POLOZOLA:
 7 I also recuse myself from Arrow, ET
 8 Gathering, and Shintech.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 Okay. Say it into the mic.
 11 MR. POLOZOLA:
 12 I recuse myself from the Arrow matter, the
 13 ET Gathering matter, and the Shintech matter.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 All right. We will get to the Shintech
 16 and ET in a moment, but those recusals will be
 17 noted for the record.
 18 Now back to the Arrow Aviation deferral.
 19 We have a motion and a second. Did we have any
 20 other comments from the Board or questions? Any
 21 comments from the public on the deferral for
 22 Arrow? Apparently not. Everybody is looking at
 23 me. We do have a motion and second; am I right?
 24 MS. SIMMONS:
 25 Yes.

1 Ms. Johnson.
 2 MS. JOHNSON:
 3 Good morning, Mr. Jones.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Where is the other half of the team?
 6 MS. JOHNSON:
 7 We are meeting today.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 Okay. Well, we got the A Team. All
 10 right. If you will walk us through first the
 11 Post-EO 2018 rules.
 12 MS. JOHNSON:
 13 Right. We have 10 Post-EO 2018 rule
 14 applications. We do have one request for
 15 deferral and that's 20230489, Arrow Aviation
 16 Company, LLC, St. Martin Parish.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 I will entertain a motion to defer Arrow
 19 Aviation Company. I have a motion from Mr.
 20 Miller. Second from Mr. Nassar. Any questions
 21 or comments from the Board? There being none.
 22 Any comments from the public?
 23 MR. MIGUEZ:
 24 I recuse myself from Arrow.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Thank you, Ms. Simmons. Everybody is
 3 looking at me strangely. Keep it straight,
 4 thank you.
 5 All right. All in favor say "Aye." (All
 6 responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 7 none. The motion carries and the matter is
 8 deferred.
 9 Now let's do the balance.
 10 MS. JOHNSON:
 11 2020534, Bollinger Houma Shipyards in
 12 Terrebonne Parish. 20220535, Bollinger Quick
 13 Repair, LLC, in Jefferson Parish. 20210492,
 14 Coastal Chemical, Co., LLC, in Vermilion Parish.
 15 20230097, ET Gathering & Processing, LLC, in
 16 DeSoto Parish. 20220131, Howell Foundry, LLC,
 17 in West Feliciana Parish. 20220367,
 18 Manufacturing Properties, LLC, in West Feliciana
 19 Parish. 20220043, Shintech Louisiana, LLC,
 20 Iberville Parish. 20220075, the Procter &
 21 Gamble Manufacturing Company in Rapides Parish.
 22 And 20220075-A, the Procter and Gamble
 23 Manufacturing Company, Rapides Parish.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 Let's see. We have -- before we ask for a

1 motion on these, we have a request to speak from
 2 Mr. Craig Roussel. Mr. Roussel, would you come
 3 forward, please? And please state your name and
 4 your position with the company, please.
 5 MR. ROUSSEL:
 6 Good morning. My name is Craig Roussel.
 7 I am an executive vice president of Bollinger
 8 Shipyards. We have filed two applications
 9 earlier this year, one for our facility in Houma
 10 and one for our facility in Harvey, Louisiana.
 11 The deadline to file was 3/31. I'm sorry. Yes.
 12 3/31. We missed that date. We started the
 13 applications in March. We were waiting on some
 14 financial information to complete them. We did
 15 set a calendar reminder to remind us, but it
 16 popped up on Good Friday and, to be honest, we
 17 were eating crawfish not really worried about
 18 the ITEP applications. So I won't lie about
 19 that.
 20 Immediately, we realized our error. And
 21 we filed the first thing Monday morning. So we
 22 were about 8 hours late on actually meeting the
 23 filing deadline. We would ask for the Board's
 24 consideration not to input -- not to put in the
 25 one-year penalty for being 8 hours late. That's

Page 22

1 a long holiday weekend.
 2 Certainly, it was our fault and we
 3 acknowledge that. But we would also like to ask
 4 for any concession possibly you can give in
 5 regards to it.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 Let me make sure that I understand. So
 8 the due date fell on a Sunday?
 9 MS. JOHNSON:
 10 The date was actually 3/30 because 2024
 11 was a leap year and I believe it is due 90 days
 12 from the completion of the packet which was
 13 12/31 of '23.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 Okay.
 16 MS. JOHNSON:
 17 So the date did fall on 3/30, which was a
 18 Saturday.
 19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Okay. So the deadline fell on a weekend.
 21 MS. SIMMONS:
 22 Yes.
 23 MR. POLOZOLA:
 24 Mr. Chairman, when was the application
 25 filed?

Page 23

1 MS. JOHNSON:
 2 It was filed on Monday, April 1.
 3 MR. POLOZOLA:
 4 Wouldn't that be the due date? If it was
 5 on a weekend, a weekend is a legal holiday.
 6 MS. JOHNSON:
 7 I don't think our rules account for
 8 business days. It's calendar days.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 I think the statutes -- okay.
 11 MR. POLOZOLA:
 12 There are statutes that govern legal
 13 holidays applies across the revised statutes.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 Exactly.
 16 MR. POLOZOLA:
 17 If something is on a Saturday, it is
 18 really impossible for them to file on that date.
 19 They would have to file the day before, which
 20 was Good Friday, which means they have to file
 21 the day before that, the 28th. So, I mean, I am
 22 kind of -- is it really late?
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Okay. Let's do this. Let's do this,
 25 guys. I think -- and we don't have our legal

Page 24

1 staff here today. They are at a mandatory CLE.
 2 So I think this is a real question here; A, is
 3 it late? And, B -- and guys, just so you will
 4 know, the way the rules read if you look under
 5 Section 503 on your agenda, if you are a day
 6 late, it's a year penalty. That's harsh to me,
 7 but it is the rule. So what I would like to
 8 do --
 9 MR. CALLAIS:
 10 Mr. Chair.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 Yes, Mr. Callais.
 13 MR. CALLAIS:
 14 Yes. I would also like to say for the
 15 record, too, I think Bollinger has been a
 16 fantastic employer within the state and, you
 17 know, has a number of programs operating,
 18 employs a lot of people. I think that's
 19 probably worth some consideration as well.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 I would obviously agree with the sentiment
 22 of that. The difficulty is that we have been
 23 operating under these rules since 2018 and the
 24 word "shall" in regulation are pretty extreme.
 25 It is a shall.

Page 25

1 MR. RUCKERT:
2 Can we just waive it?
3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
4 Well, I don't know if we can. We have
5 lawyers on this Board, but I am not going to be
6 the lawyer for the Board. You are not my
7 client. And the LED has lawyers and I am going
8 to ask that the Board defer until the next
9 meeting so the lawyers can take a look at it and
10 see is there a way to handle this situation
11 given the extreme nature of the penalty in light
12 of the short duration of missing the date. And
13 that way -- that way their lawyers can advise us
14 if there is a possibility here to manage it.
15 And again to Mr. Polozola's point, the answer
16 may be it wasn't due until then. It might not
17 be late at all.
18 MR. POLOZOLA:
19 I don't see how they could file it on
20 Saturday.
21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
22 And Mr. Polozola is right, the statutes
23 are fairly clear. Legal holidays are legal
24 holidays and they run across all rules and regs
25 within the state of Louisiana, at least as I

1 appreciate those statutes. But I am not the
2 lawyer for the Board.
3 So I think if -- I think the best way to
4 handle this if -- and if the Board agrees with
5 it, but we can defer it until the February
6 meeting and give staff an opportunity to look at
7 this and look at the statutes that Mr. --
8 MR. CALLAIS:
9 I would like to make a motion that we just
10 waive it.
11 MR. RUCKERT:
12 I second the motion.
13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
14 Okay. We have a motion and a second to
15 waive the penalty. Okay. I have a motion. Any
16 other questions or comments from the Board?
17 I want to point out that if -- and that is
18 if the Board chooses to do that, it is at least
19 my clear reading of the rules perhaps violating
20 the rules of this Board. And that may lead to a
21 problem with other companies who have been
22 similarly situated since 2018 and I don't know
23 what the Board's decision in every one of those
24 are, but I don't recall at least any time that
25 this penalty was waived under the circumstances.

1 That doesn't mean that I am right, but that's my
2 memory.
3 So if the Board chooses to pass this
4 motion that's been made, that's your
5 prerogative. My suggestion would be let's let
6 the lawyers take a look at it and come back and
7 give us some guidance on it, but that's going to
8 be up to the Board. Any other comments or
9 questions?
10 MR. NASSAR:
11 I substitute a motion in order to defer.
12 CHAIRMAN JONES:
13 We have a substitute motion to defer.
14 Mr. Callais, would you accept the substitute
15 motion?
16 MR. CALLAIS:
17 Yes.
18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
19 Mr. Ruckert, would you accept the
20 substitute motion?
21 MR. RUCKERT:
22 Yes.
23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
24 All right. We have a substitute motion to
25 defer. Do we have a second on a substitute

1 motion? Okay. We have a second. Any questions
2 or comments on the motion to defer? Any other
3 comments from the public? Mr. Roussel, any
4 other comments?
5 MR. ROUSSEL:
6 Thank you for your consideration and we do
7 appreciate working in the state.
8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
9 Yes. This is one of those situations
10 where the rules, it feels particularly harsh and
11 I get it. But we just need to be sure that we
12 follow.
13 MR. ROUSSEL:
14 Obviously, it was our error.
15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
16 We understand. We understand.
17 All right. All in favor say "Aye." (All
18 responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
19 none. The motion carries.
20 MR. ROUSSEL:
21 Thank you.
22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
23 Thank you. All right. We have the
24 remaining -- so we got a motion to defer on
25 Arrow Aviation, Bollinger Houma Shipyards, and

1 Bollinger Quick Repair Shipyard, LLC. We have
 2 remaining applications. I will entertain a
 3 motion on the remaining applications. A motion
 4 by Mr. Nassar to approve. Second from Mayor
 5 Toups. Any questions or comments from the
 6 Board? There being none. Any comment from the
 7 public? There is none. All in favor say "Aye."
 8 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There
 9 is none. The motion carries.
 10 MS. JOHNSON:
 11 Next, we have three Post-EO 2024 Emergency
 12 Rules applications. 20240454, CF Industries
 13 Blue Point, LLC, in Ascension Parish. 20240171,
 14 Cortec, LLC, West Baton Rouge Parish. And
 15 20240110 Kleinpeter Farms Dairy, LLC, in East
 16 Baton Rouge Parish.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 All right. Do we have a motion on these
 19 three applications? A motion from Mr. Moss.
 20 MR. POLOZOLA:
 21 Mr. Chair.
 22 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 23 Yes.
 24 MR. POLOZOLA:
 25 I have to recuse myself from CF Industries

Page 30

1 and Cortec, please.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 Okay. So note that recusal on those two
 4 contracts -- applications, I mean. So we have a
 5 motion from Mr. Moss. I have a second from
 6 Mr. Mele. Any questions or comments from the
 7 Board? There is none. Any comments from the
 8 public? Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye."
 9 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 10 none. The motion carries.
 11 MS. JOHNSON:
 12 We have 8 Pre-EO renewals. 20150156-C-PT,
 13 Louisiana Integrated Polyethylene JV, LLC,
 14 Calcasieu Parish. 20150264-C, Matheson Tri-Gas,
 15 Inc., Calcasieu Parish. 201100659-G Sabine Pass
 16 LNG, LP, Cameron Parish. 20110659-H, Sabine
 17 Pass LNG, LLC, Cameron Parish. 20110659-G,
 18 Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC, Cameron Parish.
 19 2011659-H, Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC,
 20 Cameron Parish. 20150156-C, Sasol USA
 21 Corporation, Calcasieu Parish. And 20150945-B,
 22 Shell Chemical Company, LP, Ascension Parish.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 All right. Before we entertain any
 25 motions, I have a request to speak from Ms. Nina

Page 31

1 Stofberg of Sasol. If you would come forward,
 2 please.
 3 MR. POLOZOLA:
 4 Mr. Chair, I would like to recuse myself
 5 from two matters, Sasol and Shell Chemical.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 All right. Note those recusals for Sasol
 8 and Shell Chemical.
 9 Thank you, Ms. Stofberg. Thank you being
 10 here today.
 11 MS. STOFBERG:
 12 Thank you, sir, and thank you to the
 13 Board. Good morning. My name is Nina Stofberg.
 14 I'm the vice president of finance and tax for
 15 Sasol International Chemical Business. I am
 16 here today to ask two things of you. Firstly,
 17 to thank you and thank the Board for its time
 18 and all of our joint ventures approval of our
 19 five-year ITEP renewal package. And, secondly,
 20 to answer this Board's call on its return on its
 21 ITEP investment.
 22 For a bit of background, Sasol is an
 23 international chemical and energy company
 24 headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. We
 25 safely and sustainably source, produced, and

Page 32

1 market a range of high quality products in 22
 2 countries globally. We show a return to our
 3 stakeholders. Our joint venture in Louisiana
 4 Integrated Polyethylene is a partnership between
 5 Sasol and LyondellBasell in our Lake Charles
 6 facility and house some of our project assets.
 7 The renewal application in front of you today is
 8 about three of our project assets. They are the
 9 ethane cracker, linear low density polyethylene
 10 unit, and the ethylene oxide/ethylene glycol
 11 unit. Products from these units go to things
 12 that we use every day, like medical
 13 sterilization, clothing, cosmetics, packaging,
 14 disinfectants, and many more.
 15 Over a decade ago, Sasol and Louisiana
 16 entered into a public-private partnership. And
 17 as with any good agreement, these partnerships
 18 should benefit both parties. In short, Sasol
 19 agreed to make its largest capital investment in
 20 its history of \$13.9 billion in the state of
 21 Louisiana. We also agreed to create hundreds of
 22 jobs. In return, the State agreed to a ten-year
 23 100 percent abatement for ad valorem taxes on
 24 these assets.
 25 What I can tell you today is that the

Page 33

1 State of Louisiana's return on its investment
2 far exceeds what we initially envisioned with
3 this agreement. We have delivered 900 direct
4 jobs in Louisiana. 85 percent of these jobs are
5 Louisiana residents. That's 900 full-time
6 quality manufacturing jobs with an annual income
7 of \$120,000 each. We have delivered more than
8 6500 construction jobs annually here in the
9 construction phase of our project. We delivered
10 more than \$4.3 billion of spend with Louisiana
11 businesses. We have delivered more than \$200
12 million of sales tax payments to state and
13 local. We have delivered more than \$40 million
14 of infrastructure investment mostly in the city
15 of Westlake. These infrastructure investments
16 has also had economic ripples in other
17 industries. We have paid and we will continue
18 to pay ad valorem taxes of about \$10 million per
19 year. Our most recent estimate of our 2024 ad
20 valorem taxes with Sasol and LIP JB will be \$40
21 million to Calcasieu Parish in 2024.
22 We have invested more than \$9 million in
23 community identified special investment
24 initiatives. That includes a \$1 million
25 investment in a STEM children's museum in Lake

Page 34

1 Charles that will open next year and more than
2 \$1 million in scholarships for Southern
3 University, McNeese University, and SOWELA
4 Technical Community College.
5 Before I close, I do have a full request
6 to leave the Board with. By 2057 when our
7 facilities are still running and I will be well
8 into my retirement, and many of these new hires
9 will be well into their careers with Sasol,
10 Dr. Jim Richardson estimates that the State's
11 return on its investment on the Sasol project
12 will be 2-to-1 and that was on our original
13 numbers.
14 As I said before, any good business
15 arrangement should benefit both parties. What I
16 hope to have demonstrated today is that this one
17 does. The State made a good investment. The
18 returns are already there. And on behalf of
19 more than 2,000 Louisiana employees and
20 contractors at our Lake Charles facility, we
21 thank you for the investment.
22 I would also like to thank the LED staff
23 for their continued support and helping us with
24 all of our operations that we have. And I would
25 like to wish you-all a safe and happy festive

Page 35

1 season. Thank you.
2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
3 Thank you, Ms. Stofberg. Any questions or
4 comments from the Board. Mr. Moss.
5 MR. MOSS:
6 I speak because y'all are in my backyard.
7 I kind of laughed when I looked at this when
8 seven of the eight that are up for renewals are
9 sitting right there in southwest Louisiana. But
10 I have worked with Ms. Cusimano for many years
11 now. And for the Board, they really have been a
12 great corporate neighbor. They have put money
13 back into the community. You have seen it. I
14 like going through Lake Charles now, because I
15 live in Sulphur, seeing the new children's
16 museum, the STEM center sitting right there at
17 the base of the I-10 bridge. That is a
18 tremendous benefit to the citizens. Thank you
19 for being a good corporate. Thank you, Kim, for
20 always being there for the community.
21 MS. STOFBERG:
22 Thank you, sir.
23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
24 Any other comments? Ms. Villa.
25 MS. VILLA:

Page 36

1 I will just add. If Secretary Bourgeois
2 was here, I am sure that she would say the same
3 things I will say. Other than I was here
4 actually 12 years ago when Sasol was starting up
5 as a project in the state and we have a lot of
6 people that are on LED staff that's here in this
7 room, that was a long time ago. And to see
8 where you guys have come and how community
9 involved y'all have been is really a testament
10 to your commitment that you have, not just to
11 Lake Charles in that parish, but also to the
12 state of Louisiana. I just wanted to publicly
13 thank you for that and your ongoing, you know,
14 support and growth that you have in that region.
15 So thank you for your commitment to Louisiana
16 and your investment that you have made.
17 MS. STOFBERG:
18 Thank you very much.
19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
20 I have got to say to all of that, but one
21 thing that I have got, I got to pile on just a
22 little bit. Sasol ITEP contract was
23 pre-executive order which means that essentially
24 have 100 percent property tax exemption for five
25 years and then renewal. And they still paid

Page 37

1 over \$200 million in taxes even though -- even
 2 with 100 percent exemption. So the program
 3 worked. You are right. It was a great bet that
 4 Louisiana made on Sasol and y'all have been a
 5 fantastic partner. And the one thing that I
 6 love, and I will say this to all of the other
 7 companies out there, if you look at Sasol's
 8 numbers, they have always overdelivered. It's
 9 sometimes more art than science, but you got to
 10 learn the talent of underpromising and
 11 overdelivering and they have done that in
 12 spades.

13 So I thank you for your continued
 14 investment for the 6500 construction jobs over
 15 the last four years -- five years -- each year
 16 for the last 4 years.

17 MS. STOFBERG:
 18 Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 20 Not counting the 900 permanent employees.
 21 So to say that Sasol has been -- has had a
 22 tremendous impact on Calcasieu Parish as well as
 23 the entire region of the state, is obviously an
 24 understatement. But thank you for your
 25 investment. We look forward to hearing about

Page 39

1 the rest of the journey.

2 MS. STOFBERG:
 3 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 Any other questions or comments?

6 MR. MELE:
 7 I would like to add that I recall when this
 8 all first came up and I recall the opposition
 9 that y'all faced and some of it was aggressive.
 10 And this is a great example of sometimes the
 11 Board, you know, we need to step up and have
 12 faith in companies that we're investing in and
 13 partnering with. You did a great job.

14 MS. STOFBERG:
 15 Thank you, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 And the only thing that I would love to
 18 know, but I am not asking today, but if you ever
 19 decide you want to share it with me, that will
 20 be great, when the exemption rolls off, I would
 21 love to get an idea of what the tax payments to
 22 Calcasieu Parish will be. I think that will be
 23 an interesting discussion as well.

24 MR. MOSS:
 25 Mr. Chair, when you see our streets in

Page 39

1 gold in Southwest Louisiana.

2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 I often said that Cameron and Calcasieu
 4 Parish at some point in time will be the Dubai
 5 of Louisiana because of the extreme wealth of
 6 the local government from the development that
 7 happened. And y'all, we were talking about
 8 Sasol, but just look up the five lines above,
 9 Sabine Pass, you add those numbers up, that is
 10 now \$3 billion of investment there that we are
 11 going to be voting on in a minute. So who knows
 12 in that part of the state what work is coming
 13 up. Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

14 MR. MELE:
 15 Sasol is a good marketing program for LED.

16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Absolutely. With that, I will entertain a
 18 motion --

19 MR. CALLAIS:
 20 Move.

21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 I'm sorry. We have a motion from Mr.
 23 Callais.

24 MR. MOSS:
 25 Second. We have multiple seconds. I will

Page 40

1 give it to Mr. Moss because he lives in the
 2 parish. Any other questions or comments from
 3 the Board? Hearing none. Any comments from the
 4 public? Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye."
 5 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There
 6 is none. There is none. The motion carries.
 7 Thank you very much.

8 And again, is there anyone here from
 9 Sabine Pass? Rhonda. Well, obviously you
 10 count. I would love to hear from the company.

11 MS. BOATNER:
 12 Rhonda Boatner, DDA Consultants. Andrea
 13 Carter was not able to make it, the
 14 representative from the company, but she
 15 certainly would be happy to come back in
 16 February to make comments if needed. Because
 17 that's a -- just like Sasol, they are a good
 18 corporate partner and they have invested
 19 billions of dollars.

20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Yes. It's been amazing stories coming out
 22 of that part of the parish.

23 MS. BOATNER:
 24 And they may have numbers for you to be
 25 able to tell you what these assets certainly are

Page 41

1 and what they are going to be paying.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 Exactly. Thank you, Ms. Boatner. Please
 4 pass along our appreciation for the company.
 5 Thank you very much.
 6 All right. Let's move on. Post-EO 2017
 7 Rules.
 8 MS. JOHNSON:
 9 Yes, sir. It's 2017 Rules Renewals --
 10 timely renewals, 31 deferral. And that's
 11 2018164, Air Liquide Advanced Technologies U.S.,
 12 LLC in Allen Parish.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 I will recuse myself from the Air Liquide
 15 matter, but I will facilitate a vote for
 16 deferral.
 17 MR. POLOZOLA:
 18 I also need to recuse myself on Air
 19 Liquide.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Mr. Polozola and I recuse. Do I have a
 22 motion? I have a motion from Mr. Miller.
 23 Second by Mr. Nassar. Any questions or comments
 24 from the Board? There is none. Any comments
 25 from the public? Hearing none. All in favor

Page 42

1 say "Aye." (All responded "Aye.") Any
 2 opposition? There is none. The motion carries.
 3 The Air Liquide matter is deferred.
 4 MS. JOHNSON:
 5 There are seven remaining timely 2017
 6 renewals. 20180030, Cortec Technologies, West
 7 Baton Rouge Parish. 20180030-A, Cortec, LLC,
 8 West Baton Rouge Parish. 20180030-A-PT, Cortec
 9 Properties, LLC, West Baton Rouge Parish.
 10 20180072-A Cortec, LLC, Terrebonne Parish.
 11 20180072-A-PT, Cortec Properties, LLC,
 12 Terrebonne Parish. 20180245, Sugarfield
 13 Properties, LLC, in Ascension Parish. 20180244
 14 Sugarfield Spirits, LLC, in Ascension Parish.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 All right. Do we have a motion? A motion
 17 by Mayor Toups.
 18 MR. POLOZOLA:
 19 I need to recuse myself from all of the
 20 Cortec matters, all five.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 Okay. Note that recusal. A second? A
 23 second from Mr. Moss. Any questions or
 24 comments? Hearing none. Any comments from the
 25 public? Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye."

Page 43

1 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There
 2 is none. The motion carries.
 3 MS. JOHNSON:
 4 Next we have one Post-EO 2017 late renewal
 5 application and that's 20180081, Mele Printing,
 6 Inc., in St. Tammany Parish. Their initial
 7 contract expiration date was 12/31/23 and the
 8 last renewal request date was 1/18 of '24.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 Mr. Mele is a member of the Board so he
 11 will need to recuse himself from any action on
 12 this matter. But, Mr. Mele, do you want to --
 13 would you come to the front here and address the
 14 Board as to what happened on this late renewal.
 15 MR. MELE:
 16 We have representatives from the company.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 Oh, okay. Fantastic.
 19 Great. State your name and position with
 20 the company, please.
 21 MR. GOULD:
 22 Good morning. My name is Jimmy Gould. I
 23 am the plant manager representing Mele.
 24 Unfortunately, the CEO was unable to attend.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 44

1 Okay. And?
 2 MR. NICKENS:
 3 Jake Nickens, Summit Credits.
 4 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 5 All right. Can you tell us what happened
 6 here?
 7 MR. GOULD:
 8 Unfortunately, we were in the transition
 9 of switching consultants and the previous
 10 consultant didn't take care of business
 11 correctly. And our new consultant immediately
 12 recognized that we were a few days late and
 13 submitted the application. And we would ask for
 14 your consideration to waive any penalties and
 15 approve the application.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Okay. Did you have something else that
 18 you wanted to say?
 19 MR. NICKENS:
 20 Sure. From the timing standpoint, the
 21 company since they started working using the
 22 ITEP program, they used prior consultants.
 23 Around the end of '23, they transitioned away
 24 from using them and we signed on in early '24.
 25 And as soon as we noticed the error, we quickly

Page 45

1 filed a renewal. It ended up being about 18
2 days past the date, so.
3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
4 So this is a situation, it sounds like,
5 where it was a transition between old consultant
6 and new consultant. And was -- when did the old
7 consultant -- when was that contract terminated?
8 MR. NICKENS:
9 Officially, in the first quarter -- or I'm
10 sorry, the last quarter of '23.
11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
12 Okay. So prior to the filing date?
13 MR. NICKENS:
14 Yes.
15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
16 Is that right? So there wasn't anybody
17 watching -- nobody from the consultants was
18 watching --
19 MR. NICKENS:
20 Right.
21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
22 -- the filing deadlines.
23 MR. NICKENS:
24 Our firm started working with Mele Printing
25 on new projects at the end of '23. We weren't

Page 46

1 really touching any of their preexisting data.
2 The other consultant that they were working with
3 for that and he essentially retired at the end
4 of the year. And it wasn't until 2024 before
5 all of those contracts were rolled into ours.
6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
7 Okay. To the Board, this situation is
8 frankly very analogous to the Bollinger
9 situation that we dealt with earlier in the
10 contract because the penalty for both situations
11 is shall be one year, and, frankly, that bill is
12 harsh in this situation just as it felt harsh in
13 the Bollinger situation. I would suggest the
14 same resolution, that we defer this matter
15 because I am interested in hearing from the LED
16 lawyers, you know, how do we manage this.
17 MR. RUCKERT:
18 There are no lawyers here today?
19 CHAIRMAN JONES:
20 No. Apparently, the governor expected
21 them at a CLE today.
22 So that is where we are. So I would
23 suggest that we treat this one the same way we
24 treated the Bollinger situations. Defer to the
25 February meeting and give staff an opportunity

Page 47

1 to see if there is a way to avoid the harshness
2 of this penalty given the circumstances.
3 So I will entertain a motion to defer. We
4 have a motion from Mr. Austin and a second from
5 Mr. Miller. Any questions or comments from the
6 Board? There is none. Any comments from the
7 public? Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye."
8 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
9 none. The motion carries.
10 Thank you, gentlemen.
11 MS. JOHNSON:
12 Next, we have three 2018 Rules timely
13 renewals. That's 20190444, ADDP Property, LLC,
14 Lafayette Parish. 20190003-A, C&C Marine and
15 Repair, LLC, Plaquemines Parish. And 20190173,
16 Jackson Hardwood, LLC, East Feliciana Parish.
17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
18 All right. Do we have a motion to approve
19 these renewals? Motion by Mr. St. Blanc. I
20 have a second from Mr. Austin. Any questions or
21 comments from the Board? Hearing none. Any
22 comments from the public? There being none.
23 All in favor say "Aye." (All responded "Aye.")
24 Any opposition? There is none. The motion
25 carries.

Page 48

1 Before we move on from those, one thing
2 that I know the Board feels frustration, I am
3 sure the public does as well, is working through
4 all of these different rules. Believe me, for
5 staff that's a problem as well we have got
6 pre-JED Executive Order, we have '17 rules, '18
7 rules, '18 rules, '24 emergency rules, and then
8 now we are going to have '24 new rules. And the
9 one thing that the rules committee took into
10 account as we were working through the ITEP
11 program, our goal was to put every bill -- put
12 every one back into one system of rules.
13 Unfortunately, the administrative difficulties
14 of doing that made that virtually impossible.
15 But there is a light at the end of tunnel for
16 those of you who are working under the old --
17 the pre-2024 rules. Under the new rules,
18 presuming they are adopted which I trust them to
19 be, they are going to provide that anyone
20 operating under the previous rules at your
21 choice can sign an amended contract with LED
22 which will take you out of the jobs and payroll
23 requirements of the '17 and '18 rules. And that
24 will -- that to me will be to renew the biggest
25 differences between the old rules and the new

Page 49

1 rules. We'll still have to deal with a lot of
 2 matters on the agenda, but I think this will put
 3 the companies under those old rules more closely
 4 in alignment with the folks that are operating
 5 under the new rules.
 6 I hope that was clear. But I think
 7 getting rid of the jobs and payroll requirements
 8 under the old rules will be a significant
 9 assistance to folks operating under those rules.
 10 Ms. Johnson, am I on point there? Did I
 11 misstate anything?
 12 MS. JOHNSON:
 13 No. That's correct. I just want to make
 14 sure it's understood that it's not until the
 15 rules are final.
 16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 17 Exactly. Yes. Don't flood Ms. Johnson's
 18 email about request to start amending. We still
 19 have got to get the new rules finalized, but,
 20 hopefully, that will be in very short order.
 21 And we will make sure everyone understands the
 22 opportunities out there to take advantage of
 23 what I just described. Fair enough?
 24 MS. JOHNSON:
 25 Yes.

Page 50

1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 2 Thank you. Let's move and finish.
 3 MS. JOHNSON:
 4 We have three transfer tax exemption
 5 contracts. CF Industries Nitrogen, LLC,
 6 20220290, is being transferred to Blue Point
 7 Number One, LLC, in Ascension Parish. ToMakk
 8 Glass Partners, LLC, 20190204, is being
 9 performed to Glaz-Tech Industries, Inc., in
 10 Caddo Parish. And Veolla North America
 11 Regeneration Services, LLC, 20170649, is being
 12 transferred to Nexpra, LLC, in Ascension Parish.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 All right. Do we have a motion on these
 15 transfers? Motion by Mr. Nassar. Second from
 16 Mayor Toups. Any questions or comments from the
 17 Board? Hearing none. Any comments from the
 18 public? Hearing none. All in favor say "Aye."
 19 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There
 20 is none. The motion carries.
 21 MS. JOHNSON:
 22 We have one cancellation of contract
 23 request for Plastipak Packaging, Inc.,
 24 20200526-A. LED requests cancellation upon
 25 being informed by the parish assessor of 100

Page 51

1 percent being billed and paid for the first year
 2 of exemption, the 2022 year. Per section 517(B)
 3 of ITEP rules, the addition not eligible for the
 4 exemption. Per Section 531(C) of ITEP rules,
 5 the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry may
 6 terminate or otherwise modify the contract. And
 7 this is located in Rapides Parish.
 8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 9 Okay. We have yet another situation where
 10 the harshness of the cold application rules
 11 appears difficult, but I think the rules in this
 12 situation may give us an opportunity.
 13 Mr. Leonard, can you come forward?
 14 MR. LEONARD:
 15 Right. If you state your name and
 16 position with Plastipak, please.
 17 MR. MEYER:
 18 I am Kevin Meyer. I am the formal tax
 19 collector for Plastipak Packaging.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Great. Mr. Leonard, go ahead and state
 22 your name for the record.
 23 MR. LEONARD:
 24 Jimmy Leonard, Advantous Consulting.
 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:

Page 52

1 Tell us what happened so the Board can
 2 understand the circumstances surrounding this.
 3 MR. MEYER:
 4 We mistakenly -- we were using a different
 5 vendor and we mistakenly added the exempt assets
 6 to the property tax return. And upon getting
 7 the invoice, we paid the bill. And after filing
 8 that property tax return and paying the bill, we
 9 switched to a new vendor who noticed the error
 10 and informed us of the error at that time. We
 11 don't have an issue with continuing it to have
 12 the parish have the bill that we paid, but we
 13 would just like to get that nine remaining years
 14 exemption honored on our behalf.
 15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 16 I know what you mean by the nine, but it's
 17 really four with the possibility for renewal of
 18 five.
 19 MR. MEYER:
 20 Right.
 21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 22 All right. Mr. Leonard, do you have
 23 anything to add?
 24 MR. LEONARD:
 25 Just that the application -- the advance

Page 53

1 notification and the application had been timely
 2 filed and the effective date of the exemption
 3 was December 2022, taxes were paid in 2023. So
 4 the assets were technically under an exempt
 5 contract at the time that they paid.
 6 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 7 So if I can put all of that into English
 8 for the Board. Essentially, they got a tax bill
 9 and they paid it. And under our rules then
 10 that -- that gives us, LED, the ability to
 11 terminate the contract. However, the rules also
 12 say that we have the ability to modify -- not
 13 just terminate, but we can modify the contract.
 14 And I think the discussion that is going on
 15 between the Plastipak folks and LED staff is
 16 rather than destroy -- again, a mistake, destroy
 17 the contract for the life of the contract, we
 18 simply reduce the term of the initial five years
 19 from five to four years so that they can enjoy
 20 the remaining four years of the exemption. And
 21 then assume that they meet qualification, and
 22 they come back for renewal of the additional
 23 five.
 24 So I will entertain a motion to that
 25 effect from Mr. Doss.

Page 54

1 MR. DOSS:
 2 Stated very well, Mr. Chairman.
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 Thank you. I tried so hard. Second from
 5 Mr. Moss. Do we have any other questions or
 6 comments from the Board? Hearing none. Any
 7 comments from the public? There being none.
 8 All in favor say "Aye." (All responded "Aye.")
 9 Any position? There is none. The motion
 10 carries.
 11 MR. LEONARD:
 12 Thank you-all very much.
 13 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 14 Thank you. Last.
 15 MS. JOHNSON:
 16 Lastly, we have five 2017 rules
 17 noncompliance issues for 20161674, Guin Machine,
 18 Inc., in Bienville Parish. They are
 19 noncompliant in 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022
 20 reporting periods. They did meet the job and
 21 payroll requirements, but they were late filing
 22 for each year.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 Okay. We have someone here from Guin
 25 Machine. State your name and position with the

Page 55

1 company, please.
 2 MR. GUIN:
 3 My name is Chris Guin. I am the president
 4 of the company.
 5 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 6 And so, essentially, we have late filings,
 7 but otherwise the contracts are compliant; is
 8 that correct, Ms. Johnson?
 9 MS. JOHNSON:
 10 Yes, sir.
 11 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 12 And so just tell us what happened on the
 13 late filings if you will, Mr. Guin.
 14 MR. GUIN:
 15 Okay. So I just got thrown into this like
 16 the last day or so, the CPA was supposed to be
 17 here with us and he bailed out yesterday.
 18 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 19 Well, tell him the chairman called him a
 20 chicken.
 21 MR. GUIN:
 22 Yes. And I am a little nervous.
 23 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 24 That's all right. Relax.
 25 MR. GUIN:

Page 56

1 Yeah. My son has got -- we are in
 2 transition with my two sons are taking over the
 3 company, too, and they are kicking me out
 4 basically. So, anyway, he was -- we were coming
 5 together and he had a last thing with his family
 6 and he just couldn't come.
 7 I will just kind of read out how I think
 8 the facts -- the facts that we know and I hope
 9 y'all get it all right.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 That's fine.
 12 MR. GUIN:
 13 There was an error in communication
 14 between the CPA and us. He does all of our
 15 filings and he does all of our document files,
 16 all of our fees, and all of this stuff. He
 17 handles all of that stuff. The person that was
 18 handling it back then is not there now, of
 19 course. And he -- it wasn't until November when
 20 we found out that this has happened, November of
 21 2023. So all of the late filings, we didn't
 22 find out until it was over with. So I got the
 23 emails here that -- all the documentation of
 24 that. And as to why the company is being
 25 informed of the noncompliance now, there was a

Page 57

1 delay in compliance processing and we have only
2 been able to fully process the compliance
3 documentation recently. So that is where we
4 are. That's the facts.
5 I do want to note two things. We met and
6 exceeded the criteria of all -- you know, the
7 criteria of the program. And it's been really a
8 blessing for our company. We are a small
9 company. We are in a small town. I say we are
10 strategically located by a Walmart in five
11 directions and we have a four-way stop. There
12 won't be any gold bricks laid in our town, but
13 we do employ a lot of rural people that would
14 otherwise have to drive an hour to go to work.
15 So we are vital to the community. Probably -- I
16 guess we are the biggest employer as far as
17 employees in the community there. We are still
18 a very small company, but we are growing. My
19 sons are taking it to another level. And so we
20 are -- we just ask for consideration. And the
21 way this played out, it wasn't anything
22 purposely. We didn't know that we were doing
23 anything wrong. We thought we were doing
24 everything right. So it kind of caught me
25 blindsided, you know, really and truly. I am

Page 58

1 sure we did some things wrong, but, I, mean we
2 are trying to run company, too, you know. Like
3 I don't have a lot of administrative, you know,
4 it's a family deal.
5 And also, the noncompliance due to late
6 filing was brought to our local governing
7 authorities. They have already all three voted
8 to, you know --
9 MS. JOHNSON:
10 We do have resolutions and letters from
11 all of the local bodies, the police jury and
12 school board passes resolutions stating not to
13 take any action and not penalize them. And so
14 did the sheriff.
15 CHAIRMAN JONES:
16 All right. Mr. Guin, I think we
17 understand the situation. Obviously, the local
18 government believes in the company and doesn't
19 want to see it penalized.
20 So I will take a motion from
21 Mr. St. Blanc.
22 MR. MELE:
23 I have a question.
24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
25 Just hold on one second and I will get to

Page 59

1 you. Let me get the motion and then you can ask
2 your question. I have a motion from
3 Mr. St. Blanc and a second by Mr. Moss.
4 Now, Mr. Mele, your question.
5 MR. MELE:
6 So I want to acknowledge you for being
7 compliant. So that's great in all aspects.
8 MR. GUIN:
9 I am sorry. I didn't hear you.
10 MR. MELE:
11 I want to acknowledge your company for
12 being compliant. What I would like to know is
13 on five -- one of the years, each year, there
14 was a delay in being -- with the filing. So
15 what could have been done better? Is there
16 anything that could have been done better by
17 LED? I mean, I heard you say it was the CPA.
18 It sounds like a communication thing. So I ask
19 this question. I want to support your business.
20 I think you guys are doing a great job offering
21 all of the things that you just described. But
22 in order for us to be able to avoid such -- it
23 sounds like a communication thing. Were you,
24 you know, just involved? Was it just the CPA?
25 MS. JOHNSON:

Page 60

1 Every year, this Exhibit A of this
2 contract, it requires the compliance is filed by
3 April 30. And LED does send emails after that
4 is missed to let them have time to file still
5 and that is why these were filed, but they would
6 still be considered late if they were not filed.
7 They would be a non-filing. So they did file
8 late, but it was past the deadline that is
9 stated in their agreement.
10 MR. MELE:
11 And you acknowledge that, you or somebody
12 within authority would receive the noncompliant
13 notices, right?
14 MR. GUIN:
15 As far as --
16 MR. MELE:
17 The question is whether or not you
18 received the information about being
19 noncompliant. There would have been an
20 additional message that said it is coming up.
21 MR. GUIN:
22 This has always been confusing to me.
23 This program has been great for us and it's
24 allowed us some growth and helped the community,
25 but it's always been confusing to me. And you

Page 61

1 got to understand, with a small company, we wear
 2 many hats. And we have actually four companies
 3 in that building and this is just one of them
 4 and things get confusing. You don't have a lot
 5 of office staff, you know, it was me and my wife
 6 in 2018. And I am not a bean counter. I work.
 7 I run the machines. I do that. That's my
 8 thought process.
 9 So, yes, something could have been done
 10 better. I could have done better. Everybody
 11 could have done better. I don't remember. It's
 12 a long time ago and now, like I say, now I am
 13 trying to catch up from four, five, six years
 14 ago.
 15 MR. MELE:
 16 Sir, I am asking this question so we can
 17 learn to do better on our side -- from our side
 18 to help you be better because you are clearly
 19 meeting all of the requirements.
 20 MR. GUIN:
 21 I didn't know the seriousness of it. When
 22 you drive 4 1/2 hours to Baton Rouge and you are
 23 come in cold, you know. I don't know that -- I
 24 didn't know that I was doing anything wrong.
 25 And I want to say we didn't know that it would

Page 62

1 be a big deal until, like, November of 2023.
 2 That's when we were like, oh, this is kind of
 3 serious sounding. And we just work, you know.
 4 MR. CALLAIS:
 5 So, sir, I wanted to make sure. I think
 6 generally speaking, you know, the Board doesn't
 7 usually go against the locals, what the locals
 8 recommend, you know. But just a matter of like,
 9 form, you know, now you know the seriousness.
 10 Now you know we have a time. So it's every
 11 other year -- every year it's come up. You
 12 know, it is not like it is once or twice. You
 13 know, so we don't want to go against the locals,
 14 I believe, you know, of course, the Board is
 15 going to vote. But I just wanted to make a
 16 special mention from my personal and my
 17 perspective and the Board has a perspective, I
 18 get it. I understand, but, like, come on. At a
 19 certain point you can get a new CPA, you know,
 20 or whatever it is. You have to comply with the
 21 rules.
 22 MR. GUIN:
 23 I agree with you in that fact, but what
 24 you have to look at in this miscommunication
 25 with the CPA, when you entrust in someone that's

Page 63

1 professional and dealing with these issues and
 2 you entrust your whole business with this
 3 gentleman, you entrust in him to, you know,
 4 that's what I am paying him for. I pay him to
 5 keep me from making mistakes. And to -- you
 6 know, and I didn't know that I had made a big
 7 mistake. Again, it won't be a problem from now
 8 on for sure. I hope you never see me again.
 9 MR. CALLAIS:
 10 That's what we want to hear.
 11 MR. GUIN:
 12 But you are correct. I understand that.
 13 But, like I said, we didn't know and I don't
 14 know, you know, from year to year, I don't
 15 remember. I do not remember what the
 16 correspondence was, but I read it -- I read the
 17 correspondence from and when really, okay. 2023
 18 November everything was over by then. And I
 19 don't know what --
 20 MS. JOHNSON:
 21 I think that he is referring to in 2023
 22 with the noncompliance notices were eventually
 23 sent to the locals every year when they were
 24 late they were -- eventually reached out
 25 concerning the missed filing and that's why they

Page 64

1 were filed late every year, but they were filed.
 2 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 3 I think Mr. Callais is correct given the
 4 recommendations from local government. I think
 5 we have a motion and a second to approve this
 6 without any penalty. I think we already had a
 7 motion and second. Is that right, Ms. Simmons?
 8 MS. SIMMONS:
 9 Yes, sir.
 10 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 11 So the only other comment that I would
 12 make is not -- does have anything to do with the
 13 machine, but this issue of filing deadlines, we
 14 have tried to make that much simpler in the new
 15 rules going forward. To Mr. Mele's point, I
 16 think part of the problem has been this program
 17 is very valuable, but I think it has been
 18 needlessly complicated. And we hope that under
 19 the new rules, it will -- I am not going to say
 20 it's going to be uncomplicated, but it will be
 21 less complicated. Hopefully, we can ultimately
 22 move to where -- I wanted it to be a postcard,
 23 but I was overruled on that. But having said
 24 all of that, I think the good news is obviously
 25 your community supports you because you are an

Page 65

1 important part of the community. We thank you
 2 for that, especially in part of the state that
 3 doesn't get to see the \$3 billion in
 4 development. Bienville doesn't get to see that.
 5 So with that, I will entertain a vote.
 6 All in favor approval without penalty.
 7 MS. JOHNSON:
 8 This is just noncompliance.
 9 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 10 I am sorry. This is noncompliance.
 11 Basically no penalty.
 12 MS. JOHNSON:
 13 Yes, sir.
 14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 15 All in favor say "Aye." (All responded
 16 "Aye.") Any opposition? There is none. The
 17 motion carries.
 18 MR. GUIN:
 19 Thank you.
 20 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 21 Mr. Guin, have a safe trip home.
 22 MR. GUIN:
 23 Thank you.
 24 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 25 Thank you, sir.

Page 66

1 MS. JOHNSON:
 2 This concludes ITEP.
 3 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 4 And on our agenda now, we turn to our
 5 Secretary, Ms. Bourgeois, any comments for us?
 6 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS:
 7 Yes. Good morning. I will be brief. I
 8 apologize for joining y'all so late in the
 9 meeting. I was on a Zoom with our partners from
 10 Meta, which is obviously a part of what I want
 11 to talk to y'all today about the exciting
 12 announcement last week, the significance to our
 13 state, not just in that one project.
 14 You know, many of you have heard me say
 15 for ten months now about the need for a
 16 narrative change in Louisiana and that was a
 17 giant leap towards a narrative change in
 18 Louisiana what we announced last week. And we
 19 have a very robust dialogue going on with the
 20 company, not just about their project, which is
 21 amazing, but what else they can bring to bear in
 22 Louisiana to change some of our outcomes.
 23 So I apologize for being -- for missing
 24 the first 45 minutes of our meeting, but that is
 25 why. And I did want to -- and I want to say

Page 67

1 publicly again, I have said it every chance I
 2 get. First and foremost, we succeeded in that
 3 project because this was an all-of-Louisiana
 4 approach to win this thing. It was across all
 5 forms of government. It was the Legislature.
 6 It was the administration. It was the PSC. It
 7 was across the board from a public policy
 8 perspective. Everyone was pulling on the rope,
 9 but as importantly, the private sector was doing
 10 the same thing. And it just shows the kind of
 11 success Louisiana can have when we do it that
 12 way. So thank you to all of the partners who
 13 made that possible. It was really marketable.
 14 The second piece I want to tell you is
 15 that we are well underway with our strategic
 16 plan. Hopefully, you all heard about the
 17 insistence of ours to have that. We have
 18 engaged through our partners at Committee 100.
 19 We have engaged a partnership of strategic
 20 planners between McKinsey giving us a global
 21 perspective research and really leading
 22 partnering with Emergent, a Louisiana firm, to
 23 do both the grass roots organization side of the
 24 plan, but also for the Louisiana nuances on the
 25 reality of the McKinsey plan. And we think that

Page 68

1 will be a very useful product with an aggressive
 2 time frame of the February delivery of that
 3 plan. So stand by.
 4 We've already done six regional workshops.
 5 We have two more. We were in Shreveport on
 6 Monday and that was the launch of the
 7 stakeholder engagement and we will go from
 8 there. But again, a very aggressive timeframe on
 9 that.
 10 And the last thing I want to share with
 11 the Board, you know, we track things now in the
 12 department. And I think we are on the path, but
 13 it is pretty important to me, how do you know if
 14 you are successful if you don't know what you
 15 are doing. So every week I get a report on our
 16 active projects. And so just the work that we
 17 do here in the state, I think it's important for
 18 you-all to hear this.
 19 We have a grading system, as anybody does
 20 in business, where A and B are our priorities.
 21 So the list that I am about to give you is our
 22 A, B projects. Just the projects that rank A,
 23 B. We work them weekly, some daily. We have a
 24 pipeline of, right now, 186 active A, B
 25 projects, more than 31,000 potential new jobs,

Page 69

1 more than 16,000 retained jobs, and more than
 2 \$80 billion in potential capital.
 3 So I am going to give y'all those updates
 4 at these meetings as we go, because I think it's
 5 really important for y'all to hear on the front
 6 end what we have going on at the department to
 7 hear what ultimately we hope to cross this next.
 8 But just a remarkable amount of activity in the
 9 department.
 10 The announcement last week was just the
 11 beginning and just really grateful for all of
 12 you and our partners in the private sector and
 13 others in the public sector who are investing
 14 your time and interest in making sure we succeed
 15 at LED so the state can succeed.
 16 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.
 17 CHAIRMAN JONES:
 18 Thank you, Ms. Bourgeois. A lot of good
 19 things happening and we thank you for what your
 20 leadership and what you are bringing to LED and
 21 to state.
 22 Any other business to come forward? Any
 23 other questions or comments from the Board
 24 members? Hearing none. I entertain a motion to
 25 adjourn. I have a motion from Mr. Callais and a

Page 70

1 second from Mr. Moss. All in favor say "Aye."
 2 (All responded "Aye.") Any opposition? There is
 3 none. We are adjourned. Thank you very much.
 4
 5 (Meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.)
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Page 71

1 CERTIFICATE
 2
 3 I, BETTY D. GLISSMAN, a Certified Court
 4 Reporter, Certificate #86105, in good standing
 5 with the State of Louisiana, as the officer
 6 before whom this hearing was taken;
 7 That this hearing 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
 11 true and correct transcript to the best of my
 12 ability 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,
 16 that I have acted in compliance with the
 17 prohibition on contractual relationships, as
 18 defined by Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure
 19 Article 1434 and in rules and advisory opinions
 20 of the Board; that I am not of counsel nor
 21 related to any person participating
 22 in this cause and am in no way interested in the
 23 outcome of this event.
 24
 25

Page 72

1
 2 This certification is valid only for a
 3 transcript accompanied by my handwritten or
 4 digital signature and the image of my
 5 State-authorized seal on this page.
 6
 7 January 2, 2025, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 8
 9
 10
 11

 12 BETTY D. GLISSMAN, CCR
 13 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
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Page 73

[& - 31,000]

&	186 69:24	20180244 43:13	20230002 15:8
& 21:15,20	1:30 9:22	20180245 43:12	20230086 15:9
1	2	2018164 42:11	20230097 16:16
1 1:11 2:7 17:7 24:2 34:24 35:2,12 1/1/20 17:24 1/18 44:8 1/2 62:22 1/2/2025 17:20 1/3/2020 17:20 10 19:13 34:18 36:17 10/3/2022 18:4 100 33:23 37:24 38:2 51:25 68:18 10190333 12:19 10:00 9:24,25 10:41 71:5 12 1:10 37:4 12/31 23:13 12/31/2022 17:25 12/31/2024 17:24 12/31/23 44:7 120,000 34:7 13.9 33:20 1434 72:19 16,000 70:1 17 11:3 49:6,23 18 11:3 46:1 49:6,7,23	2 17:8 35:12 73:7 2,000 35:19 20 9:18 200 34:11 38:1 201100659 31:15 20110659 31:16 31:17 2011659 31:19 20150156 31:12 31:20 20150264 31:14 20150945 31:21 20160670 17:22 20160735 16:14 20161674 55:17 2017 42:6,9 43:5 44:4 55:16 20170589 15:23 20170649 51:11 2018 19:11,13 25:23 27:22 48:12 55:19 62:6 20180030 43:6 43:7,8 20180072 43:10 43:11 20180081 44:5	2019 55:19 20190003 48:14 20190173 48:15 20190204 51:8 20190309 17:18 20190444 48:13 20190451 18:5 20190517 14:2 20200066 18:9 20200110 18:1 20200526 51:24 2020474 11:22 2020534 21:11 2021 55:19 20210133 13:6 20210484 11:21 20210492 21:13 2022 52:2 54:3 55:19 20220043 21:19 20220075 21:20 21:22 20220131 21:16 20220290 51:6 20220355 11:23 12:11 20220367 21:17 20220468 16:17 20220535 21:12 2023 54:3 57:21 63:1 64:17,21	20230086 15:9 20230097 16:16 21:15 20230489 19:15 2024 1:10 8:18 23:10 30:11 34:19,21 47:4 49:17 20240110 30:15 20240171 30:13 20240454 30:12 2025 73:7 2057 35:6 22 33:1 23 8:18 23:13 45:23 46:10,25 24 44:8 45:24 49:7,8 28th 24:21
			3
			3 2:9 5:5 40:10 66:3 3/1/2023 18:12 3/1/2025 18:11 3/2/20 18:11 3/30 23:10,17 3/31 22:11,12 30 5:5 9:21,25 17:8 61:3 30th 9:24 31 42:10 31,000 69:25

[4 - announced]

4	900 34:3,5 38:20 9:30 9:22	ad 33:23 34:18 34:19 add 37:1 39:7 40:9 53:23 added 53:5 addition 52:3 additional 54:22 61:20 addp 48:13 address 44:13 adegbe 4:8 11:13,15,19 12:17 13:4,25 adjourn 70:25 adjourned 71:3 71:5 administration 68:6 administrative 10:24 49:13 59:3 adopted 49:18 advance 53:25 advanced 42:11 advantage 50:22 advantous 52:24 advise 26:13 advisory 72:19 africa 32:24 agenda 16:9 25:5 50:2 67:4	aggressive 39:9 69:1 ago 33:15 37:4 37:7 62:12,14 agree 25:21 63:23 agreed 33:19 33:21,22 agreement 33:17 34:3 61:9 agrees 27:4 agressive 69:8 ahead 52:21 aided 72:8 air 42:11,14,18 43:3 airways 13:6,8 alignment 50:4 allen 42:12 allowed 61:24 amazing 41:21 67:21 amended 49:21 amending 50:18 america 51:10 amoss 3:5 5:20 5:21 amount 70:8 analogous 47:8 andrea 41:12 anne 4:7 7:12 announced 67:18
4 38:16 62:22 4.3 34:10 4/2/2025 18:3 4/3/20 18:3 40 34:13,20 45 67:24	a abatement 33:23 ability 54:10,12 72:12 able 41:13,25 58:2 60:22 above 40:8 absolutely 20:1 40:17 accept 18:14 28:14,19 accompanied 73:3 accordance 17:4 account 24:7 49:10 acknowledge 23:3 60:6,11 61:11 acquisition 16:16 act 10:25 acted 72:16 action 44:11 59:13 active 69:16,24 activity 70:8 actually 10:9 22:22 23:10 37:4 62:2		
5	5 2:11 503 25:5 517 52:2 531 52:4		
6	617 1:11 6500 34:8 38:14		
7	7/29/2025 18:7 18:8 7/3/2022 17:21 7/30/20 18:7 717.d 17:4 73 2:13		
8	8 22:22,25 31:12 80 70:2 85 34:4 86105 72:4		
9	9 34:22 90 23:11		

[announcement - believe]

<p>announcement 67:12 70:10 annual 34:6 annually 34:8 answer 26:15 32:20 anybody 46:16 69:19 anyway 57:4 apologies 14:23 15:2 apologize 67:8 67:23 apparently 20:22 47:20 appearances 2:9 3:1 appears 52:11 application 10:16 12:18 15:22 23:24 33:7 44:5 45:13,15 52:10 53:25 54:1 applications 11:20 12:2 15:8 16:14 19:14 22:8,13 22:18 30:2,3 30:12,19 31:4 applies 24:13 appreciate 11:10 16:11 27:1 29:7 40:13</p>	<p>appreciation 42:4 approach 68:4 appropriate 17:11 approval 32:18 66:6 approve 8:19 13:10 15:14 16:21 30:4 45:15 48:18 65:5 approved 9:1 15:13 17:13 april 24:2 61:3 ardoin 3:6 8:2 8:3 10:4 16:3 arrangement 35:15 arrived 3:12,14 arrow 19:15,18 19:24 20:7,12 20:18,22 29:25 art 38:9 article 72:19 ascension 30:13 31:22 43:13,14 51:7 51:12 asking 39:18 62:16 aspects 60:7 assessor 51:25 assets 33:6,8,24 41:25 53:5</p>	<p>54:4 assistance 50:9 associated 16:15 assume 54:21 attend 44:24 audience 4:13 austin 3:7 5:24 5:25 48:4,20 authorities 59:7 authority 61:12 authorized 73:5 aviation 13:7 19:15,19 20:18 29:25 avoid 48:1 60:22 aye 8:23,24 12:15,15 13:1 13:2,22,22 14:14,15 15:18 15:19 16:5,6 16:25,25 18:19 18:20 21:5,6 29:17,18 30:7 30:8 31:8,9 41:4,5 43:1,1 43:25 44:1 48:7,8,23,23 51:18,19 55:8 55:8 66:15,16 71:1,2</p>	<p>b</p> <p>b 3:11 25:3 31:21 52:2 69:20,22,23,24 back 20:18 28:6 36:13 41:15 49:12 54:22 57:18 background 32:22 backyard 36:6 bailed 56:17 balance 21:9 balmy 5:6 barry 3:13 6:7 base 36:17 basically 57:4 66:11 baton 1:12 11:24 12:19 17:19 18:2,6 30:14,16 43:7 43:8,9 62:22 73:7 bean 62:6 bear 67:21 beginning 70:11 begins 9:19 behalf 35:18 53:14 believe 9:22 10:11,14 23:11 49:4 63:14</p>
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[believes - certainly]

<p>believes 59:18 benefit 33:18 35:15 36:18 best 27:3 72:11 bet 38:3 beth 3:16 7:2 better 60:15,16 62:10,10,11,17 62:18 betty 1:16 72:3 73:11 bienville 55:18 66:4 big 63:1 64:6 biggest 49:24 58:16 bill 47:11 49:11 53:7,8,12 54:8 billed 52:1 billion 33:20 34:10 40:10 66:3 70:2 billions 41:19 bit 32:22 37:22 blanc 3:9 6:12 6:14 15:15 48:19 59:21 60:3 blessing 58:8 blindsided 58:25 blue 30:13 51:6 board 1:9 3:2 5:8 8:17,21 12:4,13,24</p>	<p>13:20 14:7,12 15:14,16 16:4 16:23 17:13 18:17 19:21 20:20 26:5,6,8 27:2,4,16,18,20 28:3,8 30:6 31:7 32:13,17 35:6 36:4,11 39:11 41:3 42:24 44:10,14 47:7 48:6,21 49:2 51:17 52:5 53:1 54:8 55:6 59:12 63:6,14,17 68:7 69:11 70:23 72:15,20 board's 9:3 17:17 22:23 27:23 32:20 boatner 41:11 41:12,23 42:3 bodies 59:11 bollinger 21:11 21:12 22:7 25:15 29:25 30:1 47:8,13 47:24 bourgeois 3:4 7:12 9:9 37:1 67:5,6 70:18 brand 9:15 breeze 13:6,7,8</p>	<p>bricks 58:12 bridge 36:17 bridges 11:23 12:8,11 brief 9:3 67:7 bring 67:21 bringing 70:20 brought 59:6 building 62:3 business 17:5,9 17:22 24:8 32:15 35:14 45:10 60:19 64:2 69:20 70:22 businesses 34:11</p>	<p>64:9 65:3 70:25 called 14:24 56:19 cameron 31:16 31:17,18,20 40:3 cancellation 51:22,24 capital 17:18 33:19 70:2 caption 2:7 care 15:8 45:10 careers 35:9 carries 8:25 12:16 13:3,24 14:16 15:20 16:7 17:1 18:21 21:7 29:19 30:9 31:10 41:6 43:2 44:2 48:9 48:25 51:20 55:10 66:17 carter 41:13 catch 62:13 caught 58:24 cause 72:22 ccr 1:16 73:11 center 36:16 ceo 44:24 certain 63:19 certainly 23:2 41:15,25</p>
		c	
		<p>c 31:12,14,20 52:4 72:1,1 c&c 48:14 caddo 51:10 calcasieu 31:14 31:15,21 34:21 38:22 39:22 40:3 calendar 22:15 24:8 call 5:7,9 32:20 callais 3:8 7:21 7:22 14:8,11 15:15 18:16 25:9,12,13 27:8 28:14,16 40:19,23 63:4</p>	

[certificate - companies]

<p>certificate 72:4 certification 73:2 certified 72:3 73:12 cf 30:12,25 51:5 chair 14:9 20:3 25:10 30:21 32:4 39:3,25 chairman 3:3 5:1 6:23 8:15 11:17,25 12:9 12:21 13:9,14 13:18 14:4,10 14:18,22 15:11 15:25 16:10,19 18:13,24 19:4 19:8,17,25 20:4,9,14 21:1 21:24 23:6,14 23:19,24 24:9 24:14,23 25:11 25:20 26:3,21 27:13 28:12,18 28:23 29:8,15 29:22 30:17,22 31:2,23 32:6 36:2,23 37:19 38:19 39:4,16 40:2,16,21 41:20 42:2,13 42:20 43:15,21 44:9,17,25 45:4,16 46:3</p>	<p>46:11,15,21 47:6,19 48:17 50:16 51:1,13 52:8,20,25 53:15,21 54:6 55:2,3,13,23 56:5,11,18,19 56:23 57:10 59:15,24 65:2 65:10 66:9,14 66:20,24 67:3 70:16,17 chance 68:1 change 13:5,10 67:16,17,22 charles 3:15 8:6 33:5 35:1 35:20 36:14 37:11 chatham 4:10 chemical 21:14 31:22 32:5,8 32:15,23 chicken 56:20 children's 34:25 36:15 choice 49:21 chooses 27:18 28:3 chris 4:18 56:3 christmas 14:25 cindy 12:3 circumstances 27:25 48:2</p>	<p>53:2 citizens 36:18 city 17:19 34:14 civil 72:18 cle 25:1 47:21 clear 26:23 27:19 50:6 clearly 62:18 cleveland 5:4 click 12:19 client 26:7 clinic 18:5,9 close 35:5 closely 50:3 clothing 33:13 coastal 21:14 code 72:18 cold 52:10 62:23 collector 52:19 college 35:4 come 22:2 28:6 32:1 37:8 41:15 44:13 52:13 54:22 57:6 62:23 63:11,18 70:22 coming 40:12 41:21 57:4 61:20 comment 9:19 16:4 30:6 65:11</p>	<p>comments 8:21 8:22 10:1 12:4 12:12,13,24,25 13:20,21 14:7 14:12,13 15:16 15:17 16:3,22 16:23 18:17,18 19:21,22 20:20 20:21 27:16 28:8 29:2,3,4 30:5 31:6,7 36:4,24 39:5 41:2,3,16 42:23,24 43:24 43:24 48:5,6 48:21,22 51:16 51:17 55:6,7 67:5 70:23 commerce 1:9 5:8 17:13 52:5 commitment 37:10,15 committee 9:4 9:13 10:4,20 11:9 49:9 68:18 communication 57:13 60:18,23 community 34:23 35:4 36:13,20 37:8 58:15,17 61:24 65:25 66:1 companies 27:21 38:7</p>
--	---	---	--

[companies - day]

<p>39:12 50:3 62:2 company 13:5 13:6,7 14:2,2,3 19:16,19 21:21 21:23 22:4 31:22 32:23 41:10,14 42:4 44:16,20 45:21 56:1,4 57:3,24 58:8,9,18 59:2 59:18 60:11 62:1 67:20 complete 9:11 22:14 completed 9:14 completion 23:12 compliance 58:1,2 61:2 72:14,16 compliant 56:7 60:7,12 complicated 65:18,21 comply 63:20 computer 72:8 concerning 9:6 64:25 concession 23:4 concludes 16:9 18:23 67:2 concordia 11:21</p>	<p>confusing 61:22,25 62:4 consideration 22:24 25:19 29:6 45:14 58:20 considered 61:6 construction 34:8,9 38:14 consultant 45:10,11 46:5 46:6,7 47:2 consultants 41:12 45:9,22 46:17 consulting 52:24 continue 34:17 continued 35:23 38:13 continuing 53:11 contract 17:3,7 17:7,14,20,24 18:3,6,10,15 37:22 44:7 46:7 47:10 49:21 51:22 52:6 54:5,11 54:13,17,17 61:2 contractee 17:16</p>	<p>contractors 35:20 contracts 17:12 17:16,17 31:4 47:5 51:5 56:7 contractual 72:17 copies 8:17 corporate 36:12,19 41:18 corporation 1:8 31:21 correct 9:25 14:25 50:13 56:8 64:12 65:3 72:11 corrected 10:18 correctly 45:11 corresponde... 64:16,17 cortec 30:14 31:1 43:6,7,8 43:10,11,20 cosmetics 33:13 counsel 72:20 count 41:10 counter 62:6 counting 38:20 countries 33:2 coupee 14:20 course 9:5 10:22 15:12 57:19 63:14 court 72:3 73:12</p>	<p>covered 9:10 cpa 56:16 57:14 60:17,24 63:19,25 cracker 33:9 craig 4:14 22:2 22:6 crawfish 22:17 create 33:21 credits 45:3 crescent 15:8 crisp 5:3 criteria 58:6,7 cross 70:7 current 13:6 14:2 cusimano 4:16 36:10</p>
			d
			<p>d 1:16 2:1 3:21 72:3 73:11 daily 69:23 dairy 30:15 daryl 3:9 6:12 data 47:1 date 17:21 18:8 22:12 23:8,10 23:17 24:4,18 26:12 44:7,8 46:2,12 54:2 david 3:5,11,23 5:16,20 6:3 day 24:19,21 25:5 33:12 56:16</p>

[days - enjoy]

<p>days 23:11 24:8 24:8 45:12 46:2 dba 13:8 dda 41:12 deadline 22:11 22:23 23:20 61:8 deadlines 46:22 65:13 deal 50:1 59:4 63:1 dealing 64:1 dealt 47:9 debate 10:12 debating 10:11 deborah 4:11 decade 33:15 december 1:10 5:3,7 9:18 54:3 decide 39:19 decision 17:17 27:23 defer 19:18 26:8 27:5 28:11,13,25 29:2,24 47:14 47:24 48:3 deferral 19:15 20:18,21 42:10 42:16 deferred 21:8 43:3 defined 72:18</p>	<p>delay 58:1 60:14 delivered 34:3 34:7,9,11,13 delivery 69:2 demonstrated 35:16 density 33:9 department 69:12 70:6,9 described 50:23 60:21 deshotel 3:10 6:13 desoto 16:16 21:16 destroy 54:16 54:16 determination 17:3 development 1:8 40:6 66:4 dialogue 67:19 differences 49:25 different 49:4 53:4 difficult 52:11 difficulties 49:13 difficulty 25:22 digital 73:4 direct 34:3 direction 72:10</p>	<p>directions 58:11 discussion 39:23 54:14 disinfectants 33:14 document 57:15 documentation 57:23 58:3 documents 17:11 doing 17:22 49:14 58:22,23 60:20 62:24 68:9 69:15 dollars 41:19 doss 3:11 6:3,4 54:25 55:1 dr 35:10 drive 58:14 62:22 dubai 40:4 duchamp 15:9 due 23:8,11 24:4 26:16 59:5 duration 26:12</p>	<p>18:2,5 30:15 48:16 eating 22:17 economic 1:8 34:16 effect 17:8 54:25 effective 10:23 10:25 54:2 eight 36:8 eligible 52:3 email 50:18 emails 57:23 61:3 emergency 30:11 49:7 emergent 68:22 emerson 3:12 7:6 employ 58:13 employees 35:19 38:20 58:17 employer 25:16 58:16 employs 25:18 ended 46:1 energy 32:23 engaged 68:18 68:19 engagement 69:7 english 54:7 enjoy 54:19</p>
		<p>e</p>	
		<p>e 2:1 72:1,1 earlier 22:9 47:9 early 45:24 east 11:24 12:19 17:19</p>	

[entered - firm]

<p>entered 33:16 enterprise 17:5 17:7,15 18:23 entertain 8:19 12:1 19:18 30:2 31:24 40:17 48:3 54:24 66:5 70:24 entire 38:23 entrust 63:25 64:2,3 envisioned 34:2 eo 19:11,13 30:11 31:12 42:6 44:4 error 22:20 29:14 45:25 53:9,10 57:13 erwin 7:20 especially 66:2 essentially 37:23 47:3 54:8 56:6 estimate 34:19 estimates 35:10 et 20:7,13,16 21:15 ethane 33:9 ethylene 33:10 33:10 event 72:23 eventually 64:22,24</p>	<p>everybody 20:22 21:2 62:10 exactly 24:15 42:3 50:17 example 39:10 exceeded 58:6 exceeds 34:2 exchange 16:17 exciting 67:11 executive 9:6 9:11 22:7 37:23 49:6 exempt 53:5 54:4 exemption 9:7 9:12 37:24 38:2 39:20 51:4 52:2,4 53:14 54:2,20 exercise 10:21 exhibit 61:1 existing 17:20 17:24 18:2,6 18:10 expected 47:20 expiration 44:7 extreme 25:24 26:11 40:5</p>	<p>facility 22:9,10 33:6 35:20 fact 63:23 facts 57:8,8 58:4 fair 50:23 fairly 26:23 faith 39:12 fall 23:17 family 57:5 59:4 fantastic 25:16 38:5 44:18 far 34:2 58:16 61:15 farms 30:15 fashion 11:6 fault 23:2 favaloro 4:3 favor 8:23 12:14 13:1,22 14:14 15:18 16:5,25 18:19 21:5 29:17 30:7 31:8 41:4 42:25 43:25 48:7,23 51:18 55:8 66:6,15 71:1 february 27:5 41:16 47:25 69:2 feels 29:10 49:2 fees 17:11 57:16</p>	<p>feliciana 21:17 21:18 48:16 fell 23:8,20 felt 5:6 11:10 47:12 fern 15:23 festive 35:25 file 22:11 24:18 24:19,20 26:19 61:4,7 filed 22:8,21 23:25 24:2 46:1 54:2 61:2 61:5,6 65:1,1 files 57:15 filing 17:10 22:23 46:12,22 53:7 55:21 59:6 60:14 61:7 64:25 65:13 filings 56:6,13 57:15,21 final 17:17 50:15 finalized 50:19 finance 32:14 financial 22:14 find 10:16,17 57:22 fine 57:11 finish 51:2 firm 46:24 68:22</p>
	<p>f</p>		
	<p>f 72:1 faced 39:9 facilitate 42:15 facilities 35:7</p>		

[first - guidelines]

<p>first 19:10 22:21 39:8 46:9 52:1 67:24 68:2 firstly 32:16 fish 18:1 five 17:3 32:19 37:24 38:15 40:8 43:20 53:18 54:18,19 54:23 55:16 58:10 60:13 62:13 flood 50:17 floor 1:11 foil 6:17 folks 50:4,9 54:15 follow 29:12 following 17:12 foremost 68:2 form 63:9 formal 52:18 format 72:14 forms 17:11 68:5 forward 10:14 10:19 22:3 32:1 38:25 52:13 65:15 70:22 found 57:20 foundation 18:5,9</p>	<p>foundry 21:16 four 38:15 53:17 54:19,20 58:11 62:2,13 frame 69:2 frank 4:3 franklin 6:17 frankly 10:6 47:8,11 friday 22:16 24:20 front 33:7 44:13 70:5 frustration 49:2 fry 18:1 ftc 17:22 full 14:1 34:5 35:5 fully 58:2</p>	<p>giant 67:17 gift 15:1,1 give 9:3 11:5,11 15:1,1 23:4 27:6 28:7 41:1 47:25 52:12 69:21 70:3 given 26:11 48:2 65:3 gives 54:10 giving 68:20 glass 51:8 glaz 51:9 glissman 1:16 72:3 73:11 global 68:20 globally 33:2 glycol 33:10 go 33:11 52:21 58:14 63:7,13 69:7 70:4 goal 49:11 going 9:24 10:10,14 26:5 26:7 28:7 36:14 40:11 42:1 49:8,19 54:14 63:15 65:15,19,20 67:19 70:3,6 gold 40:1 58:12 good 5:2,12 6:15 11:16,18 15:7 16:12,20 18:25 19:3</p>	<p>22:6,16 24:20 32:13 33:17 35:14,17 36:19 40:15 41:17 44:22 65:24 67:7 70:18 72:4 gould 4:20 44:21,22 45:7 govern 24:12 governed 10:24 governing 59:6 government 40:6 59:18 65:4 68:5 governor 9:6 47:20 grading 69:19 grange 16:16 grass 68:23 grateful 70:11 great 5:2 11:9 15:12 36:12 38:3 39:10,13 39:20 44:19 52:21 60:7,20 61:23 group 13:7 growing 58:18 growth 37:14 61:24 guess 58:16 guidance 28:7 guidelines 72:14</p>
	g		
	<p>g 31:15,17 gamble 21:21 21:22 gas 31:14 gathering 20:8 20:13 21:15 generally 63:6 gentleman 64:3 gentlemen 48:10 george 3:18 7:16 getting 50:7 53:6</p>		

[guin - insistence]

<p>guin 4:18 55:17 55:24 56:2,3 56:13,14,21,25 57:12 59:16 60:8 61:14,21 62:20 63:22 64:11 66:18,21 66:22 guys 10:11 24:25 25:3 37:8 60:20</p>	<p>harshness 48:1 52:10 harvey 22:10 hats 62:2 headquartered 32:24 hear 41:10 60:9 64:10 69:18 70:5,7 heard 60:17 67:14 68:16 hearing 8:21 9:20 12:13 13:1,21 14:13 15:16 16:4,5 16:23 18:17,18 31:8 38:25 41:3,4 42:25 43:24,25 47:15 48:7,21 51:17 51:18 55:6 70:24 72:6,7 heavy 10:9 held 1:10 help 11:4 16:11 62:18 helped 61:24 helping 35:23 high 33:1 hill 15:23 hires 35:8 history 33:20 hold 59:25 holders 17:14</p>	<p>holiday 23:1 24:5 holidays 24:13 26:23,24 home 66:21 honest 22:16 honored 53:14 hope 35:16 50:6 57:8 64:8 65:18 70:7 hopefully 10:17 50:20 65:21 68:16 hotels 17:22 houma 21:11 22:9 29:25 hour 5:5 58:14 hours 10:11,12 10:12 22:22,25 62:22 house 15:10 33:6 howell 21:16 hundreds 33:21</p>	<p>impact 38:22 imperfections 10:17 important 66:1 69:13,17 70:5 importantly 68:9 impossible 24:18 49:14 includes 17:10 34:24 income 34:6 industrial 9:7 9:12 industries 30:12,25 34:17 51:5,9 industry 1:9 5:8 10:7 11:6 17:13 52:5 information 22:14 61:18 informed 51:25 53:10 57:25 infrastructure 34:14,15 initial 44:6 54:18 initially 34:2 initiatives 34:24 input 22:24 insistence 68:17</p>
h			
<p>h 31:16,19 hal 3:8 half 19:5 handle 26:10 27:4 handles 57:17 handling 57:18 handwritten 73:3 happened 5:4 40:7 44:14 45:5 53:1 56:12 57:20 happening 70:19 happy 35:25 41:15 hard 55:4 hardwood 48:16 harold 3:8 7:21 harsh 25:6 29:10 47:12,12</p>			
		i	
		<p>iberville 21:20 idea 39:21 identified 34:23 ii 3:8 iii 7:20 image 73:4 immediately 22:20 45:11</p>	

[integrated - know]

<p>integrated 31:13 33:4 interest 70:14 interested 47:15 72:22 interesting 39:23 international 32:15,23 invested 34:22 41:18 investing 39:12 70:13 investment 32:21 33:19 34:1,14,23,25 35:11,17,21 37:16 38:14,25 40:10 investments 15:23 34:15 invoice 53:7 involved 37:9 60:24 issue 53:11 65:13 issues 9:10 55:17 64:1 itep 9:16 11:1 22:18 32:19,21 37:22 45:22 49:10 52:3,4 67:2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">j</p> <p>j 3:8,14 jackson 48:16 jake 4:21 45:3 james 16:15 january 9:21 9:24,25 73:7 jb 34:20 jed 11:2 49:6 jefferson 13:8 18:10 21:13 gerald 3:3 6:22 jim 35:10 jimmy 4:17,20 44:22 52:24 job 12:2 39:13 55:20 60:20 jobs 9:2 11:12 33:22 34:4,4,6 34:8 38:14 49:22 50:7 69:25 70:1 johannesburg 32:24 john 3:7 5:24 johnson 4:6 19:1,2,6,12 21:10 23:9,16 24:1,6 30:10 31:11 42:8 43:4 44:3 48:11 50:10,12 50:24 51:3,21 55:15 56:8,9 59:9 60:25</p>	<p>64:20 66:7,12 67:1 johnson's 50:17 joining 67:8 joint 32:18 33:3 jones 3:3 5:1 6:22,23 8:15 11:17,25 12:9 12:21 13:9,14 13:18 14:4,10 14:22 15:11,25 16:10,19 18:13 18:24 19:3,4,8 19:17,25 20:4 20:9,14 21:1 21:24 23:6,14 23:19 24:9,14 24:23 25:11,20 26:3,21 27:13 28:12,18,23 29:8,15,22 30:17,22 31:2 31:23 32:6 36:2,23 37:19 38:19 39:4,16 40:2,16,21 41:20 42:2,13 42:20 43:15,21 44:9,17,25 45:4,16 46:3 46:11,15,21 47:6,19 48:17 50:16 51:1,13</p>	<p>52:8,20,25 53:15,21 54:6 55:3,13,23 56:5,11,18,23 57:10 59:15,24 65:2,10 66:9 66:14,20,24 67:3 70:17 journey 39:1 joyce 4:5 julie 3:12 7:6 jury 59:11 jv 31:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">k</p> <p>keep 21:3 64:5 kevin 4:19 52:18 kicking 57:3 kim 4:16 36:19 kind 24:22 36:7 57:7 58:24 63:2 68:10 kleinpeter 30:15 know 9:4 14:23 25:4,17 26:4 27:22 37:13 39:11,18 47:16 49:2 53:16 57:8 58:6,22 58:25 59:2,3,8 60:12,24 62:5 62:21,23,23,24 62:25 63:3,6,8 63:9,9,10,12,13</p>
--	--	---	---

[know - lp]

63:14,19 64:3 64:6,6,13,14,14 64:19 67:14 69:11,13,14 knows 40:11 kristin 4:6 kyle 3:19,21 6:18 8:10 10:5	lead 11:13 27:20 leadership 70:20 leading 68:21 leap 23:11 67:17 learn 38:10 62:17 leave 35:6 led 10:8,20 26:7 35:22 37:6 40:15 47:15 49:21 51:24 54:10,15 60:17 61:3 70:15,20 legal 24:5,12,25 26:23,23 legislature 68:5 leonard 4:17 52:13,14,21,23 52:24 53:22,24 55:11 letters 59:10 letti 3:6 8:2 10:4 lettia 3:6 level 58:19 lie 22:18 life 54:17 lifting 10:9 light 26:11 49:15	limited 18:2 linear 33:9 lines 40:8 lip 34:20 liquefaction 31:18,19 liquide 42:11 42:14,19 43:3 list 69:21 listed 17:14 literally 9:15 little 37:22 56:22 live 36:15 lives 41:1 liz 4:4 llc 11:21 12:19 15:9,23 16:15 16:17 17:22 19:16 21:13,14 21:15,16,18,19 30:1,13,14,15 31:13,17,18,19 42:12 43:7,9 43:10,11,13,14 48:13,15,16 51:5,7,8,11,12 lng 31:16,17 local 34:13 40:6 59:6,11 59:17 65:4 locals 15:13 63:7,7,13 64:23	located 52:7 58:10 long 23:1 37:7 62:12 longer 10:23 look 9:12 25:4 26:9 27:6,7 28:6 38:7,25 40:8 63:24 looked 36:7 looking 20:22 21:3 lot 25:18 37:5 50:1 58:13 59:3 62:4 70:18 louisiana 1:7,8 1:12 9:18 18:1 21:19 22:10 26:25 31:13 33:3,15,21 34:4,5,10 35:19 36:9 37:12,15 38:4 40:1,5 52:5 67:16,18,22 68:3,11,22,24 72:5,18 73:7 louisiana's 34:1 love 38:6 39:17 39:21 41:10 low 33:9 lowe 3:6 lp 16:16 31:16 31:22
l			
la 16:16 labelle 1:11 lafayette 11:23 48:14 laid 58:12 lake 33:5 34:25 35:20 36:14 37:11 landry's 9:6 largest 33:19 lastly 55:16 late 3:12,14 22:22,25 24:22 25:3,6 26:17 44:4,14 45:12 55:21 56:6,13 57:21 59:5 61:6,8 64:24 65:1 67:8 laughed 36:7 launch 69:6 lawyer 26:6 27:2 lawyers 26:5,7 26:9,13 28:6 47:16,18			

[lyondellbasell - monday]

lyondellbasell 33:5	marketable 68:13	27:6 47:25 62:19 67:9,24 71:5	mile 5:5
m	marketing 40:15	meetings 70:4	miller 3:15 8:6 8:7 10:4 12:23 13:12 14:6 16:2 19:20 42:22 48:5
m 3:5,13 ma'am 8:16 18:25 machine 55:17 55:25 65:13 72:8 machines 62:7 made 28:4 35:17 37:16 38:4 49:14 64:6 68:13 make 9:9,23 10:15 14:18 23:7 27:9 33:19 41:13,16 50:13,21 63:5 63:15 65:12,14 making 64:5 70:14 manage 26:14 47:16 manager 44:23 mandatory 25:1 manufacturing 21:18,21,23 34:6 march 22:13 marching 9:9 marine 48:14 market 33:1	martin 15:10 19:16 matheson 31:14 matter 20:12 20:13,13 21:7 42:15 43:3 44:12 47:14 63:8 matters 32:5 43:20 50:2 mayor 12:2 14:6,19,19,24 15:2 30:4 43:17 51:16 mccain 4:4 mckinsey 68:20 68:25 mcneese 35:3 mean 24:21 28:1 31:4 53:16 59:1 60:17 means 24:20 37:23 medical 33:12 meet 54:21 55:20 meeting 5:7 8:18 9:22 19:7 22:22 26:9	mele 3:13 6:7,8 31:6 39:6 40:14 44:5,10 44:12,15,23 46:24 59:22 60:4,5,10 61:10,16 62:15 mele's 65:15 member 11:8 44:10 members 3:2 4:1 10:3 70:24 memory 28:2 mention 63:16 message 61:20 met 17:9 58:5 meta 67:10 metoyer 4:5 16:12,13 17:2 18:22 meyer 4:19 52:17,18 53:3 53:19 mic 20:10 michael 3:22 7:8 michaela 4:8 midcity 15:8 miguez 3:14 7:25 12:6 19:23	million 34:12 34:13,18,21,22 34:24 35:2 38:1 minus 5:5 minute 40:11 minutes 8:18 8:25 67:24 miscommuni... 63:24 missed 22:12 61:4 64:25 missing 26:12 67:23 misstate 50:11 mistake 54:16 64:7 mistakenly 53:4,5 mistakes 64:5 mizell 3:16 7:2 7:3 8:20 12:3 modify 52:6 54:12,13 moment 20:16 monday 5:4 22:21 24:2 69:6

[money - october]

<p>money 36:12 months 9:5 10:22 17:8 67:15 mooring 16:15 morning 5:2,3 5:6,12 6:15 11:16,18 15:7 16:12 18:25 19:3 22:6,21 32:13 44:22 67:7 moss 3:17 5:12 5:13 8:20 10:5 12:23 13:16,19 18:16 30:19 31:5 36:4,5 39:24 40:24 41:1 43:23 55:5 60:3 71:1 motion 8:19,25 12:1,2,16,22 13:3,10,15,23 14:5,5,16 15:13,14,20 16:1,2,7,20 17:1 18:14,15 18:21 19:18,19 20:19,23 21:7 22:1 27:9,12 27:14,15 28:4 28:11,13,15,20 28:24 29:1,2 29:19,24 30:3 30:3,9,18,19</p>	<p>31:5,10 40:18 40:22 41:6 42:22,22 43:2 43:16,16 44:2 48:3,4,9,18,19 48:24 51:14,15 51:20 54:24 55:9 59:20 60:1,2 65:5,7 66:17 70:24,25 motions 31:25 move 9:2 11:12 13:13 40:20 42:6 49:1 51:2 65:22 moves 10:18 multiple 40:25 museum 34:25 36:16</p>	<p>nature 26:11 need 12:7 16:21 29:11 39:11 42:18 43:19 44:11 67:15 needed 41:16 needlessly 65:18 neighbor 36:12 neither 9:24 nervous 56:22 never 64:8 new 9:8,15 11:20 13:7 14:2,3 15:7 16:14 35:8 36:15 45:11 46:6,25 49:8 49:17,25 50:5 50:19 53:9 63:19 65:14,19 69:25 news 65:24 nexpra 51:12 nickens 4:21 45:2,3,19 46:8 46:13,19,23 niemeyer 6:11 nina 4:15 31:25 32:13 nine 53:13,16 nitrogen 51:5 non 61:7 noncompliance 55:17 57:25</p>	<p>59:5 64:22 66:8,10 noncompliant 55:19 61:12,19 north 1:11 51:10 note 31:3 32:7 43:22 58:5 noted 20:17 notice 9:19 noticed 45:25 53:9 notices 9:23 61:13 64:22 notification 54:1 november 57:19,20 63:1 64:18 nuances 68:24 number 12:11 25:17 51:7 numbers 35:13 38:8 40:9 41:24 nuts 9:16</p>
	n		o
	<p>n 2:1 3:3 naheem 3:18 name 13:5,6,7 13:11 14:25 22:3,6 32:13 44:19,22 52:15 52:22 55:25 56:3 narrative 67:16 67:17 nassar 3:18 7:16,17 16:21 19:20 28:10 30:4 42:23 51:15</p>		<p>obviously 25:21 29:14 38:23 41:9 59:17 65:24 67:10 ochsner 18:5,9 october 8:18</p>

[offended - payroll]

<p>offended 14:24 offering 60:20 office 62:5 officer 72:5 officially 46:9 oh 12:5 44:18 63:2 ohio 5:4 okay 14:11 19:9 20:10 23:15,20 24:10 24:24 27:14,15 29:1 31:3 43:22 44:18 45:1,17 46:12 47:7 52:9 55:24 56:15 64:17 old 46:5,6 49:16,25 50:3 50:8 once 10:23,25 63:12 ongoing 37:13 open 35:1 opera 15:10 operating 11:1 25:17,23 49:20 50:4,9 operations 35:24 opinions 72:19 opportunities 50:22</p>	<p>opportunity 11:5 27:6 47:25 52:12 opposition 8:24 12:15 13:2,23 14:15 15:19 16:6 17:1 18:20 21:6 29:18 30:8 31:9 39:8 41:5 43:2 44:1 48:8 48:24 51:19 66:16 71:2 order 5:8 9:6 9:11 28:11 37:23 49:6 50:20 60:22 orders 9:9 organization 68:23 original 35:12 orleans 14:3 15:9 16:17 outcome 72:23 outcomes 67:22 overdelivered 38:8 overdelivering 38:11 overruled 65:23 ownership 14:1 oxide 33:10</p>	<p>p p 3:19 package 32:19 packaging 33:13 51:23 52:19 packet 23:12 page 2:4,13 73:5 paid 34:17 37:25 52:1 53:7,12 54:3,5 54:9 parish 11:22,23 11:24 12:20 13:8 14:3,20 14:21 15:9,10 15:24 16:15,17 16:18 17:19,23 18:2,6,10 19:16 21:12,13 21:14,16,17,19 21:20,21,23 30:13,14,16 31:14,15,16,17 31:18,20,21,22 34:21 37:11 38:22 39:22 40:4 41:2,22 42:12 43:7,8,9 43:10,12,13,14 44:6 48:14,15 48:16 51:7,10 51:12,25 52:7 53:12 55:18</p>	<p>part 10:21 40:12 41:22 65:16 66:1,2 67:10 participating 72:21 particularly 29:10 parties 33:18 35:15 partner 38:5 41:18 partnering 39:13 68:22 partners 51:8 67:9 68:12,18 70:12 partnership 33:4,16 68:19 partnerships 33:17 pass 28:3 31:15 31:17,18,19 40:9 41:9 42:4 passes 59:12 past 46:2 61:8 path 69:12 pay 34:18 64:4 paying 42:1 53:8 64:4 payments 34:12 39:21 payroll 49:22 50:7 55:21</p>
--	--	---	---

[penalize - professional]

<p>penalize 59:13 penalized 59:19 penalties 45:14 penalty 22:25 25:6 26:11 27:15,25 47:10 48:2 65:6 66:6 66:11 people 25:18 37:6 58:13 percent 33:23 34:4 37:24 38:2 52:1 perfect 10:15 performed 51:9 period 9:19,19 periods 55:20 permanent 38:20 person 57:17 72:21 personal 10:19 63:16 72:10 perspective 63:17,17 68:8 68:21 phase 34:9 piece 68:14 pile 37:21 pipeline 69:24 plan 68:16,24 68:25 69:3 planners 68:20</p>	<p>plant 44:23 plaquemines 48:15 plastipak 51:23 52:16,19 54:15 played 58:21 please 5:10 11:14 15:5 22:3,3,4 31:1 32:2 42:3 44:20 52:16 56:1 pleased 9:13 point 26:15 27:17 30:13 40:4 50:10 51:6 63:19 65:15 pointe 14:20 police 59:11 policy 68:7 polozola 3:19 6:18,19 10:5 16:22 20:2,6 20:11 23:23 24:3,11,16 26:18,22 30:20 30:24 32:3 42:17,21 43:18 polozola's 26:15 polyethylene 31:13 33:4,9 popped 22:16</p>	<p>position 22:4 44:19 52:16 55:9,25 possibility 26:14 53:17 possible 68:13 possibly 23:4 post 19:11,13 30:11 42:6 44:4 postcard 65:22 potential 69:25 70:2 pre 11:2 31:12 37:23 49:6,17 preexisting 47:1 prepared 72:13 prerogative 28:5 present 4:1 5:14,18,22 6:1 6:9,24 7:14,18 7:23 8:4 president 14:20 22:7 32:14 56:3 presuming 49:18 pretty 25:24 69:13 previous 45:9 49:20 previously 17:12</p>	<p>printing 44:5 46:24 prior 45:22 46:12 priorities 69:20 private 33:16 68:9 70:12 privileged 11:11 probably 10:15 25:19 58:15 problem 27:21 49:5 64:7 65:16 procedure 72:18 procedures 10:24 proceedings 2:11 process 58:2 62:8 processing 21:15 58:1 procter 21:20 21:22 produce 17:19 produced 32:25 product 69:1 products 18:1 33:1,11 professional 64:1</p>
---	--	---	---

[program - regs]

<p>program 9:7,12 9:16 11:1,13 15:4 17:5,10 17:11 38:2 40:15 45:22 49:11 58:7 61:23 65:16</p> <p>programs 25:17</p> <p>prohibition 72:17</p> <p>project 33:6,8 34:9 35:11 37:5 67:13,20 68:3</p> <p>projects 46:25 69:16,22,22,25</p> <p>prokeep 14:2,3</p> <p>properties 21:18 43:9,11 43:13</p> <p>property 37:24 48:13 53:6,8</p> <p>proud 10:13</p> <p>provide 49:19</p> <p>psc 68:6</p> <p>pt 31:12 43:8 43:11</p> <p>public 8:22 9:20,20 10:1 12:14,25 13:21 14:13 15:17 16:5,24 18:18 19:22 20:21 29:3 30:7 31:8</p>	<p>33:16 41:4 42:25 43:25 48:7,22 49:3 51:18 55:7 68:7 70:13</p> <p>publicly 37:12 68:1</p> <p>published 9:17</p> <p>publishing 12:19</p> <p>pulling 68:8</p> <p>purposely 58:22</p> <p>put 22:24 36:12 49:11,11 50:2 54:7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">q</p> <p>qualification 54:21</p> <p>quality 9:2 11:12 12:1 33:1 34:6</p> <p>quarter 46:9,10</p> <p>question 12:22 25:2 59:23 60:2,4,19 61:17 62:16</p> <p>questions 8:21 12:4,12,24 13:19 14:7,12 15:16 16:3,22 18:17 19:20 20:20 27:16 28:9 29:1 30:5 31:6 36:3 39:5</p>	<p>41:2 42:23 43:23 48:5,20 51:16 55:5 70:23</p> <p>quick 21:12 30:1</p> <p>quickly 45:25</p> <p>quorum 8:14</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>r 72:1</p> <p>range 33:1</p> <p>rank 69:22</p> <p>rapides 21:21 21:23 52:7</p> <p>rather 54:16</p> <p>reached 64:24</p> <p>reactivated 17:18</p> <p>read 10:13 25:4 57:7 64:16,16</p> <p>reading 10:10 27:19</p> <p>real 10:6 25:2</p> <p>reality 68:25</p> <p>realized 22:20</p> <p>really 22:17 24:18,22 36:11 37:9 47:1 53:17 58:7,25 64:17 68:13,21 70:5,11</p> <p>recall 27:24 39:7,8</p> <p>receive 61:12</p>	<p>received 8:17 9:8 61:18</p> <p>recent 34:19</p> <p>recently 58:3</p> <p>recognized 45:12</p> <p>recommend 63:8</p> <p>recommenda... 65:4</p> <p>record 20:17 25:15 52:22</p> <p>recusal 12:10 14:9 31:3 43:22</p> <p>recusals 20:16 32:7</p> <p>recuse 12:7 19:24 20:7,12 30:25 32:4 42:14,18,21 43:19 44:11</p> <p>recusing 14:11</p> <p>redlines 10:10</p> <p>reduce 54:18</p> <p>referring 64:21</p> <p>regards 23:5</p> <p>regeneration 51:11</p> <p>region 37:14 38:23</p> <p>regional 69:4</p> <p>register 9:17,18</p> <p>regs 26:24</p>
--	---	---	---

[regulation - rousset]

<p>regulation 25:24</p> <p>reinstated 17:18</p> <p>related 72:21</p> <p>relationships 72:17</p> <p>relax 56:24</p> <p>remaining 29:24 30:2,3 43:5 53:13 54:20</p> <p>remarkable 70:8</p> <p>remedies 3:20 7:1</p> <p>remember 62:11 64:15,15</p> <p>remind 22:15</p> <p>reminder 22:15</p> <p>renew 49:24</p> <p>renewal 12:18 12:22 15:22 32:19 33:7 37:25 44:4,8 44:14 46:1 53:17 54:22</p> <p>renewals 31:12 36:8 42:9,10 43:6 48:13,19</p> <p>repair 21:13 30:1 48:15</p> <p>report 9:3,13 69:15</p>	<p>reported 1:16 72:7</p> <p>reporter 72:4 73:12</p> <p>reporter's 2:13</p> <p>reporting 55:20</p> <p>representative 3:9,12 6:12,14 7:6 41:14</p> <p>representatives 10:7,8,9 44:16</p> <p>representing 44:23</p> <p>request 17:6,15 18:3 19:14 22:1 31:25 35:5 44:8 50:18 51:23</p> <p>requested 17:21,25 18:7 18:11</p> <p>requests 17:4 51:24</p> <p>required 72:15</p> <p>requirements 17:9 49:23 50:7 55:21 62:19</p> <p>requires 61:2</p> <p>research 68:21</p> <p>residents 34:5</p> <p>resolution 47:14</p>	<p>resolutions 59:10,12</p> <p>responded 8:24 12:15 13:2,22 14:15 15:19 16:6,25 18:19 21:6 29:18 30:8 31:9 41:5 43:1 44:1 48:8 48:23 51:19 55:8 66:15 71:2</p> <p>response 6:11 6:17 7:1,7,20 7:25 8:1</p> <p>rest 39:1</p> <p>retained 70:1</p> <p>retired 47:3</p> <p>retirement 35:8</p> <p>return 32:20 33:2,22 34:1 35:11 53:6,8</p> <p>returns 35:18</p> <p>revised 24:13</p> <p>reworks 9:16</p> <p>rhonda 41:9,12</p> <p>richardson 35:10</p> <p>rid 50:7</p> <p>ridge 3:14 7:25</p> <p>right 11:8 12:12 15:3 16:1 18:14 19:10,13 20:15 20:23 21:5</p>	<p>26:22 28:1,24 29:17,23 30:18 31:24 32:7 36:9,16 38:3 42:6 43:16 45:5 46:16,20 48:18 51:14 52:15 53:20,22 56:24 57:9 58:24 59:16 61:13 65:7 69:24</p> <p>ripples 34:16</p> <p>robby 3:15 8:6 10:4</p> <p>robust 67:19</p> <p>roll 5:9</p> <p>rolled 47:5</p> <p>rolls 39:20</p> <p>ronald 3:20 7:1</p> <p>room 1:11 9:21 10:1 37:7</p> <p>roots 68:23</p> <p>rope 68:8</p> <p>rosenberg 4:9 15:3,6,21 16:8</p> <p>rouge 1:12 11:24 12:20 17:19 18:2,6 30:14,16 43:7 43:8,9 62:22 73:7</p> <p>rousset 4:14 22:2,2,5,6 29:3 29:5,13,20</p>
--	---	--	---

[rta - simply]

<p>rta 15:4 16:9 ruckert 3:21 8:10,11 26:1 27:11 28:19,21 47:17 rule 19:13 25:7 rules 9:3,8,13 9:15,21 10:2,6 10:10,12,20,23 10:25 11:2,2,3 11:3,9 17:5 19:11 24:7 25:4,23 26:24 27:19,20 29:10 30:12 42:7,9 48:12 49:4,6,7 49:7,7,8,9,12 49:17,17,20,23 49:25 50:1,3,5 50:8,9,15,19 52:3,4,10,11 54:9,11 55:16 63:21 65:15,19 72:15,19 run 26:24 59:2 62:7 running 35:7 rural 58:13</p>	<p>safely 32:25 sales 34:12 sasol 31:20 32:1,5,7,15,22 33:5,15,18 34:20 35:9,11 37:4,22 38:4 38:21 40:8,15 41:17 sasol's 38:7 saturday 23:18 24:17 26:20 scholarships 35:2 school 59:12 science 38:9 scott 6:11 seal 73:5 season 36:1 second 8:20 12:3,23 13:15 13:17,19 14:6 15:15 16:2,21 16:21 18:16 19:20 20:19,23 27:12,14 28:25 29:1 30:4 31:5 40:25 42:23 43:22,23 48:4 48:20 51:15 55:4 59:25 60:3 65:5,7 68:14 71:1 secondly 32:19</p>	<p>seconds 40:25 secretary 3:4 7:12 9:9 37:1 67:5,6 section 17:4 25:5 52:2,4 sector 68:9 70:12,13 see 5:2 15:3 21:25 26:10,19 37:7 39:25 48:1 59:19 64:8 66:3,4 seeing 36:15 seen 36:13 senator 3:16 7:2,3 8:20 send 61:3 sent 64:23 sentiment 25:21 serious 63:3 seriousness 62:21 63:9 services 11:22 51:11 set 9:8,15 22:15 sets 11:1 seven 36:8 43:5 share 39:19 69:10 shawn 4:2 shell 31:22 32:5 32:8</p>	<p>sheriff 59:14 shintech 20:8 20:13,15 21:19 shipyard 30:1 shipyards 21:11 22:8 29:25 short 26:12 33:18 50:20 shorthand 72:8 show 33:2 shows 68:10 shreveport 69:5 sic 12:3 14:6 side 62:17,17 68:23 sign 49:21 signature 73:4 signed 45:24 significance 67:12 significant 50:8 similarly 27:22 simmons 4:11 5:9,11,15,19,23 6:2,6,10,16,21 6:25 7:5,11,15 7:19,24 8:5,9 8:13 20:24 21:2 23:21 65:7,8 simpler 65:14 simply 54:18</p>
s			
<p>sabine 31:15,16 31:18,19 40:9 41:9 safe 35:25 66:21</p>			

[sir - sunday]

<p>sir 16:11 32:12 36:22 39:15 42:9 56:10 62:16 63:5 65:9 66:13,25 sitting 36:9,16 situated 27:22 situation 26:10 46:4 47:7,9,12 47:13 52:9,12 59:17 situations 29:9 47:10,24 six 62:13 69:4 small 58:8,9,18 62:1 somebody 61:11 son 57:1 sons 57:2 58:19 soon 45:25 sorry 12:5 22:11 40:22 46:10 60:9 66:10 sounding 63:3 sounds 46:4 60:18,23 soup 9:16 source 32:25 south 32:24 southern 35:2 southwest 36:9 40:1</p>	<p>sowela 35:3 spades 38:12 speak 22:1 31:25 36:6 speakers 4:13 speaking 63:6 special 34:23 63:16 spend 34:10 spirits 43:14 springhill 17:23 st 3:9 6:12,14 15:10,15,23 16:15 17:23 19:16 44:6 48:19 59:21 60:3 staff 4:1 10:8 10:20 25:1 27:6 35:22 37:6 47:25 49:5 54:15 62:5 stakeholder 10:7,8 69:7 stakeholders 10:21 33:3 stand 69:3 standing 72:4 standpoint 45:20 start 50:18 started 22:12 45:21 46:24</p>	<p>starting 37:4 state 1:7 22:3 25:16 26:25 29:7 33:20,22 34:1,12 35:17 37:5,12 38:23 40:12 44:19 52:15,21 55:25 66:2 67:13 69:17 70:15,21 72:5 73:5 state's 35:10 stated 55:2 61:9 stating 59:12 statute 72:15 statutes 24:10 24:12,13 26:22 27:1,7 stem 34:25 36:16 stenographic 72:8 step 10:14 39:11 sterilization 33:13 stofberg 4:15 32:1,9,11,13 36:3,21 37:17 38:17 39:2,14 stop 58:11 stories 41:21 straight 21:3</p>	<p>strangely 21:3 strategic 68:15 68:19 strategically 58:10 streamline 11:5 11:6 street 1:11 streets 39:25 stuart 3:17 5:12 10:5 stuff 57:16,17 subject 11:9 submit 17:6 submitted 9:14 17:15 45:13 substitute 28:11,13,14,20 28:24,25 succeed 70:14 70:15 succeeded 68:2 success 68:11 successful 69:14 sugarfield 43:12,14 suggest 47:13 47:23 suggestion 28:5 suites 17:23 sulphur 36:15 summit 45:3 sunday 23:8</p>
---	---	---	--

[supervision - timeframe]

<p>supervision 72:10</p> <p>support 35:23 37:14 60:19</p> <p>supports 65:25</p> <p>supposed 56:16</p> <p>sure 9:23 14:18 23:7 29:11 37:2 45:20 49:3 50:14,21 59:1 63:5 64:8 70:14</p> <p>surrounding 53:2</p> <p>susan 3:4</p> <p>sustainably 32:25</p> <p>switched 53:9</p> <p>switching 45:9</p> <p>syrah 11:21</p> <p>system 49:12 69:19</p>	<p>tanner 3:22 7:8 7:9</p> <p>tax 9:7,12 32:14 34:12 37:24 39:21 51:4 52:18 53:6,8 54:8</p> <p>taxes 33:23 34:18,20 38:1 54:3</p> <p>team 19:5,9</p> <p>tech 51:9</p> <p>techneaux 11:22</p> <p>technical 35:4</p> <p>technically 54:4</p> <p>technologies 11:21 42:11 43:6</p> <p>technology 11:22</p> <p>tedra 4:10</p> <p>tell 33:25 41:25 45:5 53:1 56:12,19 68:14</p> <p>ten 33:22 67:15</p> <p>term 17:21 54:18</p> <p>terminate 17:6 17:15 18:4,7 18:11 52:6 54:11,13</p> <p>terminated 46:7</p>	<p>termination 17:25</p> <p>terminations 18:15</p> <p>terrebonne 21:12 43:10,12</p> <p>testament 37:9</p> <p>thank 8:16 10:3 11:10 12:10 13:15 14:16 15:1,2 16:11 18:25 20:1 21:2,4 29:6,21 29:23 32:9,9 32:12,12,17,17 35:21,22 36:1 36:3,18,19,22 37:13,15,18 38:13,24 39:3 39:15 40:13 41:7 42:3,5 48:10 51:2 55:4,12,14 66:1,19,23,25 68:12 70:16,18 70:19 71:3</p> <p>thanks 10:19</p> <p>thibaut 12:3 14:6,19</p> <p>thing 22:21 37:21 38:5 39:17 49:1,9 57:5 60:18,23 68:4,10 69:10</p>	<p>things 11:4 32:16 33:11 37:3 58:5 59:1 60:21 62:4 69:11 70:19</p> <p>think 24:7,10 24:25 25:2,15 25:18 27:3,3 39:22 50:2,6 52:11 54:14 57:7 59:16 60:20 63:5 64:21 65:3,4,6 65:16,17,24 68:25 69:12,17 70:4</p> <p>third 1:11</p> <p>thompson 7:20</p> <p>thought 58:23 62:8</p> <p>three 11:20 16:14 30:11,19 33:8 48:12 51:4 59:7</p> <p>thrown 56:15</p> <p>thursday 1:10</p> <p>time 10:18 11:7 27:24 32:17 34:5 37:7 40:4 53:10 54:5 61:4 62:12 63:10 69:2 70:14</p> <p>timeframe 69:8</p>
t			
<p>t 72:1,1</p> <p>take 9:5,11 10:1 26:9 28:6 45:10 49:22 50:22 59:13,20</p> <p>taken 72:6</p> <p>takes 9:15</p> <p>talent 38:10</p> <p>talk 11:7 67:11</p> <p>talking 40:7</p> <p>tammany 15:24 17:23 44:6</p>			

[timely - want]

<p>timely 17:10 42:10 43:5 48:12 54:1 timing 45:20 today 5:6 14:25 19:7 25:1 32:10,16 33:7 33:25 35:16 39:18 47:18,21 67:11 together 57:5 tomakk 51:7 took 10:21 49:9 touching 47:1 toups 3:23 5:16 5:17 14:17,19 30:5 43:17 51:16 towards 67:17 town 58:9,12 track 69:11 transcribed 72:9 transcript 72:11,13,14 73:3 transcription 72:9 transfer 14:1 51:4 transferred 51:6,12 transfers 51:15 transition 45:8 46:5 57:2</p>	<p>transitioned 45:23 travis 4:9 treat 47:23 treated 47:24 tremendous 36:18 38:22 tri 31:14 tried 55:4 65:14 trip 66:21 true 72:11 truly 58:25 trust 49:18 trying 59:2 62:13 tunnel 49:15 turn 9:7 67:4 twice 63:12 two 15:7 22:8 31:3 32:5,16 57:2 58:5 69:5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">u</p> <p>u.s. 42:11 ultimately 65:21 70:7 unable 44:24 uncomplicated 65:20 under 11:1 25:4,23 27:25 49:16,17,20 50:3,5,8,9 54:4 54:9 65:18 72:9</p>	<p>underpromisi... 38:10 understand 23:7 29:16,16 53:2 59:17 62:1 63:18 64:12 understanding 72:12 understands 17:16 50:21 understatement 38:24 understood 50:14 underway 68:15 unfortunately 44:24 45:8 49:13 unit 33:10,11 units 33:11 university 35:3 35:3 updates 70:3 usa 31:20 use 33:12 used 45:22 useful 69:1 using 45:21,24 53:4 usually 63:7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <p>valid 73:2 valorem 33:23 34:18,20 valuable 65:17 vendor 53:5,9 venture 33:3 ventures 32:18 veolla 51:10 vermilion 21:14 vice 22:7 32:14 villa 4:7 7:12 7:13 36:24,25 vincent 3:9 6:12 violating 27:19 virtually 49:14 vital 58:15 vote 42:15 63:15 66:5 voted 59:7 voting 40:11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">w</p> <p>w 3:20 waiting 22:13 waive 26:2 27:10,15 45:14 waived 27:25 walk 15:4 19:10 walked 5:6 walmart 58:10 want 10:3 14:18 27:17</p>
--	--	---	---

[want - zoom]

<p>39:19 44:12 50:13 58:5 59:19 60:6,11 60:19 62:25 63:13 64:10 67:10,25,25 68:14 69:10 wanted 9:2 37:12 45:18 63:5,15 65:22 waskey 11:23 12:7,11 watching 46:17 46:18 way 25:4 26:10 26:13,13 27:3 47:23 48:1 58:11,21 68:12 72:22 we've 69:4 wealth 40:5 wear 62:1 week 67:12,18 69:15 70:10 weekend 23:1 23:20 24:5,5 weekly 69:23 welcome 4:2 wesley 8:1 west 21:17,18 30:14 43:6,8,9 westlake 34:15 wife 62:5 willis 8:1</p>	<p>win 68:4 winds 5:5 wish 35:25 word 25:24 work 9:14 10:6 10:13,17 11:6 40:12 58:14 62:6 63:3 69:16,23 worked 36:10 38:3 working 9:4 29:7 45:21 46:24 47:2 49:3,10,16 workshops 69:4 worried 22:17 worth 25:19 wrong 58:23 59:1 62:24</p>	<p>52:1,2 55:22 60:13 61:1 63:11,11 64:14 64:14,23 65:1 years 14:25 36:10 37:4,25 38:15,15,16 53:13 54:18,19 54:20 60:13 62:13 yesterday 56:17</p>
		z
		<p>zone 17:5,7,16 18:23 zoom 67:9</p>
	x	
	x 2:1	
	y	
	<p>y'all 5:2 36:6 37:9 38:4 39:9 40:7 57:9 67:8 67:11 70:3,5 yeah 57:1 year 22:9,25 23:11 25:6 32:19 33:22 34:19 35:1 38:15 47:4,11</p>	