



## LOUISIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Thursday, January 16, 2020  
Bluebonnet Regional Library  
Baton Rouge, LA  
1:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, pursuant to lawful notice, was called to order by its Chairman Frank Holthaus on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at the Bluebonnet Regional Library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at approximately 1:00 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Zita Andrus	Chris Bowman	Flozell Daniels
Patrick Fanning	W. Ross Foote	Michael Ginart
Frank Holthaus	Lyn Lawrence	Donald North
Chaz Roberts	Moses Williams	

The following members of the Board's staff were present:

Richard Pittman, Interim State Public Defender  
Barbara Baier, General Counsel  
Natashia Carter, Budget Administrator  
Jean Faria, Capital Case Coordinator  
Anne Gwin, Executive Assistant  
Tiffany Simpson, Juvenile Compliance Officer/Legislative Director  
Erik Stilling, Information and Technology Director

Chairman Holthaus thanked everyone for their participation in the State Public Defender application process. He explained that the meeting would include more than one executive session.

2. Adoption of the Agenda. There was no action taken on this item.
3. Call for Public Comment. No one presented for Public Comment.
4. Executive Session. Mr. Flozell Daniels moved to go into Executive Session. Mr. Pat Fanning seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

Upon return to the regular session, the Chair noticed quorum. Ms. Zita Andrus moved to leave executive session and Mr. Fanning seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

The Chair then welcomed new Board member Mr. Lyn Lawrence. He thanked outgoing member Ms. Katherine Gilmer for her work with the Board.

He then reported on the rigorous debate about the process for selecting the next State Public Defender. He indicated that each board member is going to select three candidates ranked in order and asked Ms. Anne Gwin to collect each ballot to be tallied by the Chairman. He indicated that if six Board members choose the same person as their first choice, that person will be the State Public Defender and the vote will be closed. If there are not six votes for one person, the process will continue.

The ballots were collected from each member alphabetically and turned over to the Chair. After a brief period, the Chair expressed his concern about the process and asked to go again in Executive Session for further discussions. Professor Donald North moved to go into Executive Session. Chaz Roberts seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Mr. Chris Bowman moved to leave Executive Session. Judge Foote seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

Mr. Holthaus again thanked everyone. He indicated an in-depth process by everyone on the Board. Mr. Bowman then moved to hire Mr. Rémy Starns as the next Chief Public Defender for the State of Louisiana. Mr. Lyn Lawrence seconded the motion. Mr. Holthaus asked that the roll be called for vote. Upon vote, the motion passed with six in favor. Mr. Holthaus welcomed Mr. Starns as the new State Public Defender.


Mr. Starns addressed the Board. He thanked everybody for their deliberation and their consideration. He thanked the other candidates and assured everyone that he will work with everyone.

5. The next meeting of the Board is February 20, 2020 at the Bluebonnet Regional Library.
6. Adjournment. Mr. Fanning moved to adjourn. Mr. Lyn Lawrence seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

Guests:

Deirdre Fuller	Herman A. Castete	John W. Lindner
Harry Fontenot	Alan Robert	Bruce Unangst
Steven Thomas	Brian McRae	Richie Tompson
Renee Bourg	Michelle AndrePont	Jacob Howell-Jones
Chanel D. Long	Kenn Barnes	Derwyn Bunton
Mitch Bergeron	Paul Marx	Bob Noel
Rémy Starns	Michael Mitchell	Lindsey Blouin

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct account of the proceedings of the Louisiana Public Defender Board meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020, as approved by the Board on the 20th day of February, 2020 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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C. Frank Holthaus, Chairman