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STATE OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
BEING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024
AT THE LASALLE BUILDING
617 North Third Street, FLOOR 1, LABELLE ROOM
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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

COURT REPORTERS OF LOUISIANA - A VERITEXT COMPANY
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1	I N D E X		1	APPEARANCES CONTINUED:
2	PAGE		2	RIDGE MIGUEZ
3	CAPTION	1	3	HAROLD J. CALLAIS, II (ABSENT)
4	APPEARANCES	3-5	4	STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:
5	PROCEEDINGS	6	5	ROBIN PORTER
6	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE	145	6	DEBORAH SIMMONS
7			7	FRANK FAVALORO
8			8	KRISTIN CHENG JOHNSON
9			9	HUD USIE
10			10	TRAVIS ROSENBERG
11			11	JOYCE METOYER
12			12	STEPHANIE LE GRANGE
13			13	TEDRA CHEATHAM
14			14	JOLEASIA CAMPBELL
15			15	EMMA WAGNER
16			16	SPEAKERS FROM THE PUBLIC:
17			17	DAVID NGO, DIRECTOR OF PROPERTY TAX, AIR LIQUIDE
18			18	ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES U.S., LLC
19			19	GUS FONTENOT, DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS, SWLA
20			20	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE, AIR LIQUIDE
21			21	ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES U.S., LLC
22			22	WILLIAM SHOCKEY, SHOCKEY & ASSOCIATES, COUNSEL FOR
23			23	KEROTEST MANUFACTURING, CORP.
24			24	JENNA FISHER, PURCHASING MANAGER, FISHER
25			25	MANUFACTURING SERVICES, LLC
		Page 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:		1	APPEARANCES CONTINUED:
2	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:		2	CHAD FOSTER, PRESIDENT GATOR MILLWORKS, INC.
3	CHAIRMAN JERALD JONES		3	BILLY TAYLOR, LIVINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL, DISTRICT 3
4	REPRESENTATIVE DARYL A. DESHOTEL (ABSENT)		4	RICKY GOFF, LIVINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL, DISTRICT 7
5	STUART A. MOSS		5	RUSSELL TWILLEY, GENERAL MANAGER, KIBBERIA FOODS,
6	KYLE RUCKERT, DESIGNEE FOR GOVERNOR		6	FOR KITCHEN MAJGEK, LLC - REN'S KITCHEN
7	ANNE VILLA, DESIGNEE FOR SECRETARY SUSAN BONNETT		7	CLAY HARGETT, SALES MANAGER, GLAZ-TECH INDUSTRIES,
8	BOURGEOIS		8	FORMERLY TOMAKK GLASS PARTNERS
9	CHARLES "ROBBY" MILLER		9	ROBERT SMITH, GENERAL MANAGER, TRI-STATE INDUSTRIES
10	MICHAEL J. TANNER		10	OF LOUISIANA, LLC
11	LETICIA A. "LETTI" LOWE-ARDOIN, (ABSENT)		11	
12	MAYOR DAVID H. TOUPS		12	
13	NAHEEM "GEORGE" NASSAR, JR.		13	
14	VINCENT ST. BLANC		14	
15	REPRESENTATIVE JULIE EMERSON		15	
16	BARRY M. MELE		16	
17	DAVID B. DOSS		17	
18	SENATOR FRANKLIN FOIL		18	REPORTED BY:
19	RONALD W. REMEDIES		19	KELLY S. PERRIN, CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
20	KYLE P. POLOZOLA		20	
21	DAVID M. AMOSS		21	
22	SCOTT A. NIEMEYER		22	
23	SENATOR BETH MIZELL		23	
24	ERWIN G. THOMPSON, III		24	
25	WESLEY BLAKE WHEELIS		25	
		Page 3		Page 5

<p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>3 Good morning. It's good to see everyone</p> <p>4 this morning. Welcome to the Board of</p> <p>5 Commerce and Industry, Wednesday, October 23.</p> <p>6 It's 9:30. It's good for me to be back. I</p> <p>7 missed last month's meeting or the last</p> <p>8 meeting. And I heard Mr. Miller did an</p> <p>9 admiral job to the point that I had several</p> <p>10 members ask me to not to come back, but sorry,</p> <p>11 the pay is so good, I couldn't avoid coming</p> <p>12 back.</p> <p>13 But at any rate, the meeting is called to</p> <p>14 order. Ms. Simmons, would you call the roll</p> <p>15 and make sure we have a quorum?</p> <p>16 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>17 Good morning, everyone.</p> <p>18 Stuart Moss?</p> <p>19 MR. MOSS:</p> <p>20 Here.</p> <p>21 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>22 Mayor David Toups?</p> <p>23 MAYOR TOUPS:</p> <p>24 Here.</p> <p>25 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p>	<p>1 (No response.)</p> <p>2 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>3 Kyle Polozola?</p> <p>4 MR. POLOZOLA:</p> <p>5 Here.</p> <p>6 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>7 Jerald Jones?</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Present.</p> <p>10 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>11 Ronald Remedies?</p> <p>12 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>13 Here.</p> <p>14 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>15 Senator Beth Mizell?</p> <p>16 SENATOR MIZELL:</p> <p>17 Here.</p> <p>18 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>19 Representative Julie Emerson?</p> <p>20 (No response.)</p> <p>21 Michael Tanner?</p> <p>22 MR. TANNER:</p> <p>23 Here.</p> <p>24 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>25 Anne Villa for Secretary Susan Bourgeois?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p>
<p>1 David Amoss?</p> <p>2 MR. AMOSS:</p> <p>3 Present.</p> <p>4 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>5 John Austin?</p> <p>6 (No response.)</p> <p>7 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>8 David Doss?</p> <p>9 MR. DOSS:</p> <p>10 Here.</p> <p>11 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>12 Barry Mele?</p> <p>13 MR. MELE:</p> <p>14 Here.</p> <p>15 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>16 Scott Niemeyer?</p> <p>17 (No response.)</p> <p>18 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>19 Representative Vincent St. Blanc, proxy</p> <p>20 for Daryl Deshotel?</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC:</p> <p>22 Here.</p> <p>23 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>24 Thank you.</p> <p>25 Senator Franklin Foil?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p>	<p>1 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>2 Here.</p> <p>3 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>4 George Nassar?</p> <p>5 MR. NASSAR:</p> <p>6 Here.</p> <p>7 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>8 Erwin Thompson?</p> <p>9 MR. THOMPSON:</p> <p>10 Here.</p> <p>11 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>12 Harold Callais?</p> <p>13 (No response.)</p> <p>14 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>15 Ridge Miguez?</p> <p>16 (No response.)</p> <p>17 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>18 Wesley Wheelis?</p> <p>19 MR. WHEELIS:</p> <p>20 Here.</p> <p>21 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>22 Lettie Ardoin?</p> <p>23 (No response.)</p> <p>24 MS. SIMMONS:</p> <p>25 Robby Miller?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p>

<p>1 (No response.) 2 MS. SIMMONS: 3 Kyle Ruckert? 4 MR. RUCKERT: 5 Here. 6 MS. SIMMONS: 7 We have a quorum. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 Thank you, ma'am. I believe everyone has 10 had an opportunity -- has received the minutes 11 from the last meeting and an opportunity to 12 review, I trust. And I would at this time 13 entertain a motion to approve those minutes. 14 I have motion from Mr. Moss. Do I have a 15 second? 16 MR. MELE: 17 Second. 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 Second from Mr. Mele. Any questions or 20 comments from the Board? 21 Hearing none, any comments from the 22 public? 23 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 24 ALL: 25 Aye.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p>	<p>1 A motion from Mr. Moss. Second from Mr. 2 Remedies. Any questions or comments from the 3 Board? 4 Hearing none, any comments from the 5 public? 6 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 7 ALL: 8 Aye. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Any opposition? 11 There is none, the motion carries. 12 MR. FAVALORO: 13 We have one Quality Jobs renewal 14 application: 20170648, Bunge Loders Croklaan 15 USA, LLC in Jefferson Parish. That concludes 16 the renewals. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 Okay. Do we have a motion? Motion to 19 approve, Mizell. Second from Mr. Nassar. Any 20 questions or comments from the Board? 21 Hearing none, any comments from the 22 public? 23 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 24 ALL: 25 Aye.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p>
<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES: 2 Any opposition? 3 There is none, the motion carries. 4 Quality Jobs Program, and I understand 5 Ms. Adegbe is out and Mr. Favaloro is taking 6 her place. 7 MR. FAVALORO: 8 Yes, sir. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Thank you. 11 MR. FAVALORO: 12 Yes, sir. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 Good luck to you, sir. 15 MR. FAVALORO: 16 There are four new Quality Jobs 17 applications: 200220302, Bienville Lumber 18 Company, LLC in Bienville; 20220397, Crying 19 Eagle Brewing Company LLC in Calcasieu; 20 20220045, Greenberry Industrial, LLC in 21 Jefferson Davis; and 20220356, Westlake 22 Management Services, Inc. in Ascension. That 23 concludes the applications. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 I'll entertain a motion to approve these.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p>	<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES: 2 Any opposition? 3 There is none, the motion carries. 4 MR. FAVALORO: 5 We have three requests for full transfer 6 of ownership to new company: 20210454, 1,4 7 Group, Inc. to Skyfall Biologicals, LLC in 8 Ascension; 20210571, Tellurian Services, LLC 9 to Driftwood Asset Services, LLC in Calcasieu; 10 and 20140903, Vantage Health Plan, Inc. and 11 Affinity Health Group, LLC to Louisiana Health 12 Service & Indemnity Company in Ouachita. That 13 concludes the transfer of ownerships. 14 MR. POLOZOLA: 15 Mr. Chairman? 16 CHAIRMAN JONES: 17 Yes? 18 MR. POLOZOLA: 19 I need to recuse myself from the matter 20 of Tellurian Services and Vantage Health Plan, 21 Inc. 22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 All right. So Mr. Polozola will be 24 recusing. He will not be participating in the 25 discussion or the vote on those matters.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p>

<p>1 Do we have a motion to approve? A</p> <p>2 motion, I'm sorry, from Mr. Ruckert. Second</p> <p>3 from Mr. Miller. Any questions or comments</p> <p>4 from the Board?</p> <p>5 Hearing none, any comments from the</p> <p>6 public?</p> <p>7 There being none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>8 ALL:</p> <p>9 Aye.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>11 Any opposition?</p> <p>12 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p>13 MR. FAVALORO:</p> <p>14 Lastly, we have a request to add</p> <p>15 affiliates or LLC members to Schedule 1 of the</p> <p>16 following contract: 20220048, RNGD Prefab,</p> <p>17 LLC, adding 1001 McDermott, LLC, RNGD, LLC</p> <p>18 formerly known as Palmisano, LLC in Jefferson.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 All right. Do we have a motion? Motion</p> <p>21 from Mr. Nassar. Second from Mr. Polozola.</p> <p>22 Any questions or comments from the Board?</p> <p>23 Hearing none, any comments from the</p> <p>24 public?</p> <p>25 There being none, all in favor say aye.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p>	<p>1 There is none. Any comments from the</p> <p>2 public?</p> <p>3 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>4 ALL:</p> <p>5 Aye.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>7 Any opposition?</p> <p>8 There being none, the motion carries.</p> <p>9 MR. ROSENBERG:</p> <p>10 There is one renewal application:</p> <p>11 20151972 for Arendale Oaks Apartments, LLC in</p> <p>12 East Baton Rouge Parish.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>14 We have a motion on this renewal? We</p> <p>15 have a motion? A motion from Mr. Moss. A</p> <p>16 second from Mr. Nassar.</p> <p>17 Any questions or comments from the Board?</p> <p>18 Hearing none, any comments from the</p> <p>19 public?</p> <p>20 There being none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>21 ALL:</p> <p>22 Aye.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>24 Any opposition?</p> <p>25 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p>
<p>1 ALL:</p> <p>2 Aye.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>4 Any opposition?</p> <p>5 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p>6 MR. FAVALORO:</p> <p>7 That concludes Quality Jobs.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Thank you, Mr. Favaloro. Good morning,</p> <p>10 Mr. Rosenberg. Restoration Abatement Program,</p> <p>11 please.</p> <p>12 MR. ROSENBERG:</p> <p>13 There are six new applications: 20230193</p> <p>14 for Bayou Courtableau Investments, LLC in St.</p> <p>15 Landry Parish; 20200075, 20200139, 20200140,</p> <p>16 and 20200141 all for Echo Development Ruston,</p> <p>17 LLC in Lincoln Parish; and 20220545 for Lisa</p> <p>18 Keiffer, LLC in St. Tammany Parish.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 These -- all applications have already</p> <p>21 been approved by the local government. Any</p> <p>22 motion on this? Do I have motion to approve?</p> <p>23 A motion from Mr. Doss. A second from</p> <p>24 Mr. Polozola. Any questions or comments from</p> <p>25 the Board?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p>	<p>1 MR. ROSENBERG:</p> <p>2 That concludes the RTA agenda.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>4 Thank you, Mr. Rosenberg. Good morning,</p> <p>5 Ms. Metoyer.</p> <p>6 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>7 Good morning. There are six new</p> <p>8 applications for EZ: 20161062, 501EFA Hotel,</p> <p>9 LLC, Orleans Parish; 20210460, Benny's Car</p> <p>10 Wash, LLC, Ascension Parish; 20210357, Hunt</p> <p>11 Forest Products, LLC, Grant Parish; 20210098,</p> <p>12 Jackson Hardwood, LLC, East Feliciana Parish;</p> <p>13 20210190, Opulence Krishna Hospitality, LLC,</p> <p>14 Calcasieu Parish; and 20190341, Placid</p> <p>15 Refining Company, LLC, West Baton Rouge</p> <p>16 Parish.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>18 Before I ask for a motion, I just want to</p> <p>19 note for the Board that we have two of these</p> <p>20 projects that are basically taking advantage</p> <p>21 of the Enterprise Zone Amendments to the Act</p> <p>22 that were enacted by the Legislature during</p> <p>23 the COVID pandemic, basically allowing some</p> <p>24 hotels to take advantage. Normally, hotels</p> <p>25 would not be able to take advantage of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p>

<p>1 Enterprise Zone, excuse me.</p> <p>2 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>3 Okay. 20161062, 501EFA Hotel, LLC --</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>5 Yeah.</p> <p>6 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>7 -- that advance was filed while hotels</p> <p>8 were allowed --</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>10 Okay.</p> <p>11 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>12 -- under Act 423, but Act 18 ended that</p> <p>13 on 4/1/16. This advance was filed 3/31 of</p> <p>14 '16.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>16 Got it. Thank you for that</p> <p>17 clarification.</p> <p>18 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>19 The other one, Opulence Krishna</p> <p>20 Hospitality, that advance was filed between</p> <p>21 July 1, '20 and 12/31/21.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>23 Okay.</p> <p>24 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>25 Yes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p>	<p>1 the Board?</p> <p>2 Hearing none, any comments from the</p> <p>3 public?</p> <p>4 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>5 ALL:</p> <p>6 Aye.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>8 Any opposition?</p> <p>9 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p>10 All right. And for the record, that was</p> <p>11 Mr. Miguez who recused himself. I'm sorry, I</p> <p>12 didn't make that clear.</p> <p>13 Next?</p> <p>14 MS. METOYER:</p> <p>15 We have three Terminations. In</p> <p>16 accordance with Section 717.D of the EZ</p> <p>17 Program rules, a business may substitute -- or</p> <p>18 submit a request to terminate their Enterprise</p> <p>19 Zone contract if, one, the contracts have been</p> <p>20 in effect for at least 30 months and the</p> <p>21 business has met all the requirements of the</p> <p>22 program, which includes timely filing of all</p> <p>23 program forms, documents, and appropriate</p> <p>24 fees.</p> <p>25 The following contracts were previously</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p>
<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>2 Good. Thank you for that. That helps</p> <p>3 us. I just want to be sure, because sometimes</p> <p>4 there's confusion on that sort of thing on why</p> <p>5 did they get to and I didn't, so I wanted to</p> <p>6 make sure you understood what was going on</p> <p>7 here.</p> <p>8 All right. Do I have a motion?</p> <p>9 MR. POLOZOLA:</p> <p>10 Mr. Chairman, I just need to recuse</p> <p>11 myself from the Benny's Car Wash and Placid</p> <p>12 Refining Company.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>14 Okay. Mr. Polozola will be recusing</p> <p>15 himself from the Benny's Car Wash matter. A</p> <p>16 motion from Mayor Toups --</p> <p>17 MR. MIGUEZ:</p> <p>18 Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I</p> <p>19 need to recuse myself from Placid Refinery.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>21 Great. I got it. Okay. Now, now can I</p> <p>22 have a motion or does the whole Board need to</p> <p>23 recuse themselves? Can I get a motion? And a</p> <p>24 second from Senator Mizell.</p> <p>25 All right. Any questions or comment from</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p>	<p>1 approved by the Board of Commerce and Industry</p> <p>2 and the contract holders listed below have</p> <p>3 submitted a request to terminate their EZ</p> <p>4 contracts. The Contractee understands Board</p> <p>5 decision is final and contracts cannot be</p> <p>6 reinstated or reactivated:</p> <p>7 20180442, Exxon Mobile Corp., East Baton</p> <p>8 Rouge Parish, the existing contract is 11/1/18</p> <p>9 to 10/31/23. The requested term date is</p> <p>10 April 30, 2021; 20190168, Fabricated Steel</p> <p>11 Products, East Baton Rouge Parish, the</p> <p>12 existing contract is May 9, 2019 to May 8,</p> <p>13 2024. The requested term date is 5/8/2023;</p> <p>14 and 20190514, Associated Grocers,</p> <p>15 Incorporated, East Baton Rouge Parish, the</p> <p>16 existing contract is 1/1/20 to 12/31/24. And</p> <p>17 the requested term date is June 30, 2022.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>19 Do we have a motion concerning these</p> <p>20 Terminations?</p> <p>21 MR. POLOZOLA:</p> <p>22 Mr. Chairman, I need to recuse myself</p> <p>23 from the matters involving Exxon Mobile and</p> <p>24 Associated Grocers.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p>

<p>1 Mr. Polozola is so recusing himself. 2 Do we have a motion? 3 MR. DOSS: 4 So moved. 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 Okay. A motion from Mr. Doss. Second 7 from Senator Mizell. Any questions or 8 comments from the Board? 9 Any comments from the public? 10 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 11 ALL: 12 Aye. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 Any opposition? 15 There is none, the motion carries. 16 MS. METOYER: 17 That concludes EZ. 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 Thank you, ma'am. 20 Ms. Johnson, Mr. Usie, it's good to see 21 you this morning. 22 MS. JOHNSON: 23 Good morning. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 I got your name right, Ms. Johnson.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p>	<p>1 ALL: 2 Aye. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Any opposition? 5 There is none, the motion carries. 6 MR. USIE: 7 Next, we have four new applications 8 following the Post-EO 2024 Emergency Rules: 9 20240376, Exxon Mobile Corporation, East Baton 10 Rouge Parish; 20240355, Flopam, Inc., 11 Iberville Parish; 20240178, Marathon Petroleum 12 Company, LP, St. John the Baptist Parish; and 13 20240175, Metal Fab Guys, LLC, Livingston 14 Parish. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Do we have a motion? 17 MR. POLOZOLA: 18 Mr. Chairman, I need to recuse myself 19 from Exxon Mobile and Marathon Petroleum 20 matters, please. 21 CHAIRMAN JONES: 22 Yes, sir. All right. Any other 23 recusals? 24 All right. Do we have a motion to 25 approve? I have a motion from Mr. Wheelis.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p>
<p>1 MS. JOHNSON: 2 Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Welcome. 5 MR. USIE: 6 We have seven applications following the 7 Post-EO 2018 ITEP Rules: 8 20230090-A, Cyber Square, LLC, Bossier 9 Parish; 20180148-E, Flopam, Inc., Iberville 10 Parish; 20210538-A, Louisiana Sugar Refining, 11 LLC, St. James Parish; 20230253, McIlhenny 12 Company, Iberia Parish; 20220128, Noble 13 Plastics, LLC, St. Landry Parish; 20220100, 14 Packaging Corporation of America, Beauregard 15 Parish; and 20230161, Plastipak Packaging, 16 Inc. in Rapides Parish. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 All right. Do we have a motion on these? 19 Mr. Nassar. Second is Senator St. Blanc or 20 Representative St. Blanc or to motion, one. 21 We have a motion and a second. 22 Any comments or questions from the Board? 23 Hearing none, any comments from the 24 public? 25 There being none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p>	<p>1 Thank you. Forgive me. Second from Mr. 2 Ruckert. Any questions or comments from the 3 Board? 4 Hearing none, any comments from the 5 public? 6 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 7 ALL: 8 Aye. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Any opposition? 11 There is none, the motion carries. 12 MR. USIE: 13 Next, we have four Pre-Executive Order 14 timely renewals: 20152046, BASF Corporation, 15 Ascension Parish; 20141117-B Koch Methanol, 16 St. James, LLC, St. James Parish; 20141610-A, 17 Marathon Petroleum Company, LP, St. John the 18 Baptist Parish; and 20161492-A, Pod Pack 19 International, LLC, East Baton Rouge Parish. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Mr. Polozola? 22 MR. POLOZOLA: 23 I need to recuse myself from the BASF, 24 Koch Methanol, and Marathon Petroleum matters, 25 please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p>

<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES: 2 Okay. Mr. Polozola will be recusing 3 himself and I also will be recusing myself 4 from the Koch Methanol project as well. 5 All right. Any motion from the Board to 6 approve these renewals? I have a motion from 7 Senator Mizell, second from Representative St. 8 Blanc. Any questions or comments from the 9 Board? 10 There is none, any comments from the 11 public? 12 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 13 ALL: 14 Aye. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Any opposition? 17 There is none, the motion carries. 18 MR. USIE: 19 Next, we have one late renewal following 20 the Post-Executive Order 2017 Rules: 21 20170234, Talon Industrial, LLC in Ascension 22 Parish. Initial contract expiration date, 23 12/31/2022. Late renewal request date, 24 August 27, 2024. 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p>	<p>1 but they're not, so we have to go with what we 2 know. Again, the normal course here is a 3 one-year penalty for this -- a one-year 4 penalty for this, and this would be two years 5 late, so it will be a two-year penalty is 6 what's normal. 7 MS. JOHNSON: 8 I also want to add for the record that 9 since Mauser, who they share the Exhibit A 10 with in this contract, the manufacturer -- 11 CHAIRMAN JONES: 12 Right. 13 MS. JOHNSON: 14 -- on the site, they were noncompliant -- 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Right. 17 MS. JOHNSON: 18 -- and Ascension Parish locals penalized 19 them a loss of 11 percent in the last year of 20 their exemption. So this one-year renewal 21 would be 11 percent less than 80 percent. So 22 it would be a 69 percent exemption. 23 MR. MELE: 24 Who penalized who? 25 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p>
<p>1 Do we have someone here from Talon 2 Industrial? Okay. This one is going to be a 3 little bit interesting. Just to kind of put 4 some context for everyone, the 2017 rules are 5 a little bit different in that they basically 6 provide for a five-year initial term and then 7 a three-year renewal term. What makes that 8 interesting from this perspective, if you will 9 note that their contract expired in 12/31/22, 10 and they did not file a renewal until 8/27/24. 11 That would mean that we are probably looking 12 at a two-year penalty, which essentially would 13 wipe out their renewal penalty -- I mean their 14 renewal all together. I was hoping -- 15 MS. JOHNSON: 16 No, there will still be one year. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 There would still be one year left? 19 MS. JOHNSON: 20 Yes. 21 CHAIRMAN JONES: 22 Okay. So there will be one year left on 23 the renewal, so I wanted everybody to 24 understand the consequences. I was hoping 25 Talon would be here to explain what happened,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p>	<p>1 So Mauser USA is the manufacturer and 2 Talon is the real estate company that owns the 3 building and they share the job and payroll 4 requirements. And since Mauser was 5 noncompliant, the Ascension Parish locals 6 recommended the loss of 11 percent of 7 exemption in the last year of the contract, 8 and that's for both Mauser and for Talon. And 9 that was approved by the Board of Commerce and 10 Industry whenever that noncompliance matter 11 came up before y'all. 12 So if this is renewed, that would be the 13 last year of Talon's contract. So it would be 14 reduced by 11 percent. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 So let me -- let me -- because this can 17 get really confusing really quick. It's not 18 unusual for a project to have -- I mean, 19 you've got land and you've got the facilities 20 that sit on the land, both pay ad valorem 21 taxes. It's not unusual for a project to 22 either lease property from a landowner or have 23 it owned by a separate affiliate or something 24 like that. So what happens in these 25 situations, you essentially have -- I mean,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p>

<p>1 the landowner is, obviously, not -- there's no 2 jobs, there's no payroll involved with owning 3 the land. All the jobs and payroll are tied 4 to the folks that are operating the asset on 5 the land, but both of them have the benefit of 6 ITEP. 7 However, both of them are also -- the 8 landowner is going to be responsible for the 9 same jobs and payroll, even though they have 10 no control of it, but their lessee, if you 11 will, is responsible for maintaining jobs and 12 payroll. And when they don't, both of them 13 get penalized. 14 MS. JOHNSON: 15 Mr. Chairman, can I make one point of 16 clarification? 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 You want to correct me? Go right ahead. 19 MS. JOHNSON: 20 The land is not eligible, so it's the 21 building owner. 22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 Thank you. I know, I use that word very 24 loosely, I apologize. And that is an absolute 25 correct correction, so I won't hold that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p>	<p>1 recent years? 2 CHAIRMAN JONES: 3 All those issues were handled as they 4 came up, so I don't have the details, but they 5 were handled in previous years. When those 6 noncompliances came up, they were handled by 7 the Board at that time. So those issues that 8 when paid whatever penalty or not that the 9 Board thought appropriate at the time. 10 MR. MELE: 11 What is the penalty? 12 CHAIRMAN JONES: 13 The penalty would be a one year -- 14 MS. JOHNSON: 15 So the penalties, you know, you get a 16 recommendation from the local governmental 17 entities and they're presented it to the Board 18 of Commerce and Industry. For the first three 19 years of noncompliance, there was no penalty 20 because the Board and the locals said they 21 didn't want to penalize. Their recommendation 22 for penalty for the fourth year of 23 noncompliance was the reduction of 11 percent 24 of exemption on the last year of their 25 contract, whenever that may be.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p>
<p>1 against you, Ms. Cheng -- Johnson. 2 MS. JOHNSON: 3 I mean I can't get it right. 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 Correct me in public again -- no. So I 6 think you see the point though. What we have 7 here is Talon as the building owner is being 8 and has not filed as they should have and 9 they're also being penalized for their lessee, 10 if you will, not handling things the way they 11 should have. But at the end of the day, the 12 net effect here, if we can approve this 13 renewal or we can deny the renewal. But if we 14 do approve the renewal with penalty, it would 15 essentially be a two-year penalty. 16 MS. JOHNSON: 17 And Mauser did renew timely. These are 18 separate contracts. Even though they share 19 job and payroll requirements, Mauser did renew 20 timely, so they did get their full three year. 21 CHAIRMAN JONES: 22 Right. Right. 23 MR. MELE: 24 And what -- is there any explanation as 25 to why they were noncompliant in any of the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p>	<p>1 So if they had timely filed, that would 2 have been year eight of the contract or year 3 three of the renewal contract, I'm sorry. But 4 since this, if y'all assess the penalty of two 5 years on this three-year renewal, year -- the 6 first year of the renewal would be the only 7 year of renewal and it would be reduced by 8 11 percent from the 80 percent that they would 9 have been granted. 10 MR. MELE: 11 Thank you. 12 MS. JOHNSON: 13 You're welcome. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 Very good. 16 MR. REMEDIES: 17 Mr. Chairman? 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 Yes, Mr. Remedies? 20 MR. REMEDIES: 21 During those other two years, they've 22 already received the benefits? They've 23 already received the tax reductions? 24 MS. JOHNSON: 25 No. So this is a property exemption,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p>

1 those are just for future.
2 MR. REMEDIES:
3 Okay.
4 MS. JOHNSON:
5 That would be this year and next year.
6 So, actually, 2023 would have been their last
7 year of exemption.
8 CHAIRMAN JONES:
9 Under the initial term.
10 MS. JOHNSON:
11 Under the -- well, no, under the renewal
12 should y'all renewal it. So but we did
13 check -- the Assessor did confirm that they
14 had not been added to the rolls and they had
15 not been taxed, but they will if y'all renew
16 and have to go back.
17 MR. REMEDIES:
18 Yes, that was my question. If we voted,
19 would they be assessed taxes for the previous
20 two years?
21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
22 Yes, they will.
23 MS. JOHNSON:
24 Well, just for -- well, the penalty would
25 be for 2024 and 2025, what y'all are

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1 considering right now. So they would be taxed
2 for 2024 and 2025. 2023 is the only one-year
3 renewal that they would receive, and that
4 would be reduced to 69 percent of exemption.
5 And that's -- that's the -- an Assessor
6 question, but I think they would have to
7 submit a change order.
8 MR. REMEDIES:
9 So that would be a change order of 11
10 percent?
11 MS. JOHNSON:
12 A reduction of 11 percent, so it would be
13 a 69 percent exemption.
14 CHAIRMAN JONES:
15 Instead of 80 percent.
16 MR. REMEDIES:
17 But that was for last year, right?
18 MS. JOHNSON:
19 2023. So right now, they did receive an
20 80 percent exemption.
21 MR. REMEDIES:
22 So they would be assessed a bill for
23 11 percent if they did not.
24 MS. JOHNSON:
25 Not exactly sure how that works with the

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1 Assessor's Office, but they would have to
2 submit a change order, yes.
3 MR. REMEDIES:
4 All right. So that would be the only
5 thing they would be subject to in the past, so
6 they just wouldn't have anything moving
7 forward.
8 MS. JOHNSON:
9 Well, they would be taxed fully.
10 MR. REMEDIES:
11 Just normally, just like they would get a
12 normal assessment at full evaluation --
13 MS. JOHNSON:
14 Right.
15 MR. REMEDIES:
16 -- for this year and moving forward.
17 MS. JOHNSON:
18 Yes.
19 MR. REMEDIES:
20 Okay. I'm just a little concerned --
21 CHAIRMAN JONES:
22 No, absolutely.
23 MR. REMEDIES:
24 -- on penalties for previous years and
25 setting a precedence for that.

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1 CHAIRMAN JONES:
2 No. Thank you. A good question.
3 Mr. Mele?
4 MR. MELE:
5 Without there being representation here,
6 is it a fair assumption for the Board to make
7 it that they are aware of this; and since
8 they've been penalized once before, that they
9 have come to the conclusion that they can
10 afford the penalty?
11 MS. JOHNSON:
12 I did communicate with them the time and
13 date and location of this meeting and they
14 didn't sound like they would be here, so I'm
15 not sure.
16 CHAIRMAN JONES:
17 I hesitate to speculate as to why they
18 chose not to be here, but it's obvious they
19 knew of the meeting and the potential
20 penalties and they chose not to appear.
21 MR. MILLER:
22 Real quick point, if -- and for everybody
23 else's clarification, if it had been added to
24 the tax rolls, none of this would matter;
25 because once it's on the tax roll, all

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<p>1 exemptions are gone. 2 MS. JOHNSON: 3 That's correct. 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 Very good questions. And this is the 6 reason we have these meetings, because every 7 once in a while, there's a hiccup where we 8 need to understand what's going on and the 9 implications of it. 10 MR. REMEDIES: 11 What was the reason that they were at 12 80 percent already? 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 Because -- 15 MS. JOHNSON: 16 The 2017 Rules that they're under, the 17 2017 Rules allow for a five-year initial term 18 at 100 percent and then a renewal for three 19 years at 80 percent. 20 MR. REMEDIES: 21 Okay. 22 MS. JOHNSON: 23 So that was the maximum they could have 24 been allowed. 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p>	<p>1 Second from Mr. Moss. Any other questions or 2 comments from the Board? 3 This was a complicated one, so there's no 4 such thing as a stupid question. All right. 5 Any comments from the public? 6 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 7 ALL: 8 Aye. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Any opposition? 11 There is none, the motion carries. 12 MR. USIE: 13 Next, we have six timely filed 14 Post-Executive Order 2018 Rules Renewals: 15 20180323-A Bagwell Energy Services, Inc., 16 Iberia Parish; 20180403, Indorama Ventures 17 Olefins, LLC, Calcasieu Parish; 20180403-A, 18 Indorama Ventures Olefins, LLC, Calcasieu 19 Parish; 20170300, Packaging Corporation of 20 America, Beauregard Parish; 20170377-A, Pala 21 Interstate, LLC, Livingston Parish; and 22 20170378, Paladise, LLC, Livingston Parish. 23 CHAIRMAN JONES: 24 All right. Do we have a motion to 25 approve these renewals? Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p>
<p>1 All right. Excellent questions. Do we 2 have a motion and a second already or are we 3 just -- no, I think this was all -- okay. 4 Now, I'm ready for a motion. 5 Mr. Remedies? 6 MR. REMEDIES: 7 I'll make a motion to approve with the 8 penalties of one year for each late year. 9 That means they would get the tax abatement or 10 tax deduction for the 2023. 11 CHAIRMAN JONES: 12 So you have a two-year penalty? 13 MR. REMEDIES: 14 Yeah. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Okay. So we have a motion to approve the 17 renewal -- 18 MR. REMEDIES: 19 With a two-year penalty. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 -- with a two-year penalty. 22 MR. MOSS: 23 Second. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 We have a motion from Mr. Remedies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p>	<p>1 MR. POLOZOLA: 2 I need to recuse from Indorama and 3 Packaging Corporation, please. 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 All right. We have those recusals. You 6 ready for a motion? Mr. St. Blanc, and a 7 second from Mr. Miller. Any questions or 8 comments from the Board? 9 Hearing none, any comments from the 10 public? 11 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 12 ALL: 13 Aye. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 Any opposition? 16 There being none, the motion carries. 17 MR. USIE: 18 Next, we have one late Post-Executive 19 Order 2018 Rules Renewal: 20 20180110, Service Machine & Supply, Inc. 21 in Lafayette Parish. The initial contract 22 expiration date was 12/31/23. The late 23 renewal request date is July 2, 2024. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 All right. Here again, we have a late</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p>

<p>1 renewal. It's about seven months late. The 2 custom of this Board is one year for a 3 penalty, but it is the option of the Board. 4 So what is the pleasure of the Board? 5 Mr. Nassar, do you have a motion to 6 approve the renewal with the one-year penalty? 7 MR. NASSAR: 8 Yes, sir. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 We have that motion. We have a second 11 from Mr. Mele. Okay. Any questions or 12 comments? 13 Hearing none, any comments from the 14 public? 15 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 16 ALL: 17 Aye. 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 Any opposition? 20 There is none, the motion carries. 21 MR. USIE: 22 Next, we have three Contract 23 Cancellations: 24 Cargill, Inc., Contract 20200377 in St. 25 Martin Parish, company requests cancellation;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p>	<p>1 MR. USIE: 2 Next, we have noncompliant contracts 3 following the 2017 Post-Executive Order ITEP 4 Rules: 5 One contract number 20180164 for Air 6 Liquide Advanced Technologies US, LLC in Allen 7 Parish is noncompliant for the 2023 reporting 8 period. The Exhibit A for the contract 9 requires the company create and maintain three 10 jobs with \$150,000 in payroll. The company 11 failed to submit annual compliance by their 12 requested extended deadline of June 14, 2024. 13 The Parish, the school board, nor the Sheriff 14 responded with any recommendations. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Okay. I will be recusing myself from the 17 Air Liquide, but will facilitate any 18 discussion on the matter. 19 Do we have anybody here from Air Liquide? 20 MR. NGO: 21 Good morning. 22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 Just state your name and position with 24 the company, please. 25 MR. NGO:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p>
<p>1 Exxon Mobil Corporation, 20230071 in East 2 Baton Rouge Parish, company requests 3 cancellation; 4 And Origin US Megasite I, LLC, 20220013 5 in Ascension Parish, company requests 6 cancellation. 7 CHAIRMAN JONES: 8 All right. Do we have a motion to 9 approve the cancellations? 10 MR. POLOZOLA: 11 I just need to recuse myself from the 12 Exxon Mobil matter, please. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 All right. Mr. Polozola is recused. I 15 have a motion from Mr. Wheelies. Second from 16 Mr. Doss to approve these cancellations. Any 17 questions or comments from the Board? 18 Hearing none, any comments from the 19 public? 20 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 21 ALL: 22 Aye. 23 CHAIRMAN JONES: 24 Any opposition? 25 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p>	<p>1 I'm David Ngo, I'm the Director of 2 Property Tax for Air Liquide. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Okay. Thank you. 5 MR. NGO: 6 And I have with me Gus Fontenot with the 7 Southwest Alliance Economic Development. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 Very good. If you can explain to us the 10 reason for the noncompliance. 11 MR. NGO: 12 It's an administrative clerical error on 13 our part. We did create the job and the 14 salary requirement. It's a technicality in my 15 communication with Hud. And so we met all the 16 requirement. 17 In addition to that, we were working the 18 renewal, the contract that's expiring at the 19 end of the year. In our communication with 20 the Parish, we had their total support for the 21 ITEP contract that we are under and the 22 extension of the renewal with the adjustment 23 that we requested because of current economic 24 condition for our plants. And I have 25 Mr. Fontenot here if you have any questions</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p>

<p>1 that you want more directly to the Parish.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>3 Any questions from the Board?</p> <p>4 Mr. Fontenot, I know you had submitted a</p> <p>5 card, did you want to speak on behalf?</p> <p>6 MR. FONTENOT:</p> <p>7 Yes, sir. Thank you very much. We would</p> <p>8 just like to say that we are satisfied and</p> <p>9 have been working with the Parish, that they</p> <p>10 have met their employment and salary</p> <p>11 obligations under the initial terms of the</p> <p>12 ITEP. Thank you.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>14 Just one second. Anne?</p> <p>15 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>16 Just a quick question, it says that you</p> <p>17 failed to report your compliance. Have you</p> <p>18 since reported that to the Department?</p> <p>19 MR. NGO:</p> <p>20 Yes.</p> <p>21 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>22 Okay. Great. Thank you.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>24 And, Hud, you received that?</p> <p>25 MR. USIE:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p>	<p>1 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>2 Okay. So a couple of months. Thank you.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>4 Is there a motion?</p> <p>5 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>6 Motion to accept the report and, what's</p> <p>7 the right word, take no action, I guess.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Okay. So we have a motion from</p> <p>10 Mr. Miller to approve the contract with no</p> <p>11 penalty.</p> <p>12 MR. MELE:</p> <p>13 Second.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>15 Does that accurately reflect your motion,</p> <p>16 Mr. Miller?</p> <p>17 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>18 Yes.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 All right. Mr. Mele?</p> <p>21 MR. MELE:</p> <p>22 I'll second.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>24 And a second from Mr. Mele. All right.</p> <p>25 Any other questions or comments from the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p>
<p>1 Yes, he submitted it after.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>3 Mr. Miller.</p> <p>4 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>5 So this is a reporting noncompliance?</p> <p>6 MR. NGO:</p> <p>7 It's an administrative clerical error on</p> <p>8 our part. We had too many deadlines, and we</p> <p>9 prioritized our renewal with the Parish and</p> <p>10 the State for the ITEP. And this was a</p> <p>11 clerical on our part --</p> <p>12 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>13 Yes, sir.</p> <p>14 MR. NGO:</p> <p>15 -- with the times.</p> <p>16 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>17 This is for within the contract reporting</p> <p>18 that was noncompliant?</p> <p>19 MR. USIE:</p> <p>20 Yeah. So it was originally due April</p> <p>21 30th and the company requested an extension</p> <p>22 until June 14th and they never filed it. So</p> <p>23 the locals were notified for not filing it,</p> <p>24 and it's been filed since the locals were</p> <p>25 notified of the noncompliance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p>	<p>1 Board?</p> <p>2 Hearing none, any comments from the</p> <p>3 public?</p> <p>4 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>5 ALL:</p> <p>6 Aye.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>8 Any opposition?</p> <p>9 There being none, the motion carries.</p> <p>10 MR. NGO:</p> <p>11 Thank you, sir.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>13 Thank you.</p> <p>14 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>15 Next, we have one contract for Foster</p> <p>16 Poultry Farms, 20170088 in Lincoln Parish,</p> <p>17 they're noncompliant for the 2020 and 2021</p> <p>18 reporting periods. The Exhibit A for the</p> <p>19 contract requires the company create and</p> <p>20 maintain 50 new jobs with \$900,000 in new</p> <p>21 payroll.</p> <p>22 For 2020, the actual jobs created were 35</p> <p>23 new jobs with \$3,556,564 in new payroll.</p> <p>24 They're noncompliant for missing the jobs</p> <p>25 requirement only.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p>

<p>1 In 2021, the actual jobs and payroll 2 created were zero new jobs and zero in new 3 payroll. The Parish, school board, nor the 4 Sheriff responded with recommendations, and 5 they're not located within a municipality. 6 And they have since become compliant in 7 project year 2022. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 They have? 10 MS. JOHNSON: 11 Yes, they are compliant currently. 12 CHAIRMAN JONES: 13 Okay. Do we have someone here from 14 Foster Poultry? Could you please come 15 forward, please? 16 MR. LUCAS: 17 (Complies with request.) 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 Thank you. Would you state your name and 20 position in the company, please? 21 MR. LUCAS: 22 Good morning. My name is Vince Lucas, 23 Complex Manager for Foster Farms. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 Great. So tell us what was happening</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p>	<p>1 MR. AMOSS: 2 Yes. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Second from Mr. Amoss. Any questions or 5 comments from the Board? 6 There being none, any comments from the 7 public? 8 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 9 ALL: 10 Aye. 11 CHAIRMAN JONES: 12 Any opposition? 13 There is none, the motion carries. Thank 14 you, sir. 15 MR. LUCAS: 16 Yes, sir. Thank you. 17 MS. JOHNSON: 18 Next, we have one contract for Guin 19 Machine, Inc., 20161675 in Bienville Parish, 20 but the company is requesting that these be 21 deferred to the December meeting because they 22 couldn't make it here today. 23 CHAIRMAN JONES: 24 Okay. Do we have a motion to defer all 25 the matters on Guin Machine, Inc?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p>
<p>1 here that kept you from reaching your goals? 2 MR. LUCAS: 3 COVID deeply impacted Foster Farms the 4 years 2020 and 2021. Moving forward in the 5 years 2022 and 2023, we're 120 team members 6 above our baseline. Baseline is 1,027 7 employees and we have exceeded our salary 8 requirement, which is \$900,000. We're 9 currently at 2.83 for the last two years, sir. 10 CHAIRMAN JONES: 11 So you recovered from the pandemic and 12 more than met your goals. 13 MR. LUCAS: 14 Yes, sir. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Okay. Good deal. Thank you for your 17 work. All right. Any questions or comments 18 for Mr. Lucas? 19 All right. Do we have a motion? Okay. 20 A motion from Mr. Remedies. 21 MR. REMEDIES: 22 Yeah, a motion to take no action. 23 CHAIRMAN JONES: 24 So we approve and without any penalty? 25 Do I have a second?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p>	<p>1 We have a motion from Mayor Toups. 2 Second from Mr. Nassar. Any questions or 3 comments on that deferral from the Board? 4 There being none, any comments from the 5 public? 6 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 7 ALL: 8 Aye. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Any opposition? 11 There is none, the motion carries. That 12 matter will be heard at the next meeting. 13 MR. USIE: 14 Next, we have one contract, Number 15 20180076 for Kerotest Manufacturing Corp. in 16 Avoyelles Parish that is noncompliant for the 17 2022 and 2023 reporting periods. The Exhibit 18 A for the contract requires the company 19 create -- that the company retain 155 jobs 20 with a ramp-up of 55 new jobs for a total of 21 205 five new jobs by the end of 2026. 22 The total number of jobs required for the 23 2022 reporting period was 155 retained and 30 24 new for a total of 185 jobs. The 30 new jobs 25 had a payroll requirement of \$634,890, and the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p>

<p>1 retained jobs had a payroll requirement of 2 \$4,882,304 for a total required payroll of 3 \$5,517,194.</p> <p>4 The actual number of jobs for the 5 reporting period was 155 jobs with \$5,452,945 6 in payroll. The reporting period was also 7 filed late. It was due April 30th of 2023, 8 but not received until May 3, 2023 upon 9 notification by LED.</p> <p>10 The total number of jobs required for the 11 2023 reporting period was 155 retained and 35 12 new for a total of 190 jobs. The 35 new jobs 13 had a payroll requirement of \$740,705 and the 14 retained jobs had a payroll requirement of 15 \$5,028,773 for a total required payroll of 16 \$5,769,470. The actual number of jobs for 17 that reporting period was 119 jobs with 18 \$5,656,088 in payroll.</p> <p>19 The Parish, the school board, nor the 20 Sheriff responded with recommendations.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>22 Please state your name and position with 23 the company, please.</p> <p>24 MR. SHOCKEY:</p> <p>25 My name is Bill Shockey. I'm with the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p>	<p>1 The 2022 jobs requirement was 185 jobs. 2 Ninety percent of that was just a default, 3 benchmark in the contracts, 167, we had 159. 4 We were eight jobs short. That's like 5 7.2 percent. I don't mean to make light of 6 it, but we're not talking about thousands of 7 jobs that we missed the target by here.</p> <p>8 The 2022 payroll that was required was 9 \$5.17 million. Our payroll was \$5.452 million 10 or 98.9 percent of the payroll required under 11 the contract. Yes, they were late filing the 12 certificate of compliance. Chris White, now 13 retired, was the former president CEO of the 14 company, didn't file timely. I'm not 15 responsible for the program. I'm just a local 16 boots on the ground when they need someone 17 here. But one point of notice, as Hud 18 indicated, it was filed within three days. 19 The report was filed within three days of the 20 notice.</p> <p>21 There are three local governmental 22 entities affected by the Industrial Tax 23 Exemption under this contract, Avoyelles 24 Parish School Board, Avoyelles Parish Police 25 Jury, and Avoyelles Parish Sheriff. None of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p>
<p>1 Baton Rouge law firm of Shockey and 2 Associates. Kerotest is based in Pittsburgh. 3 That's where their executive team is. They're 4 manufacturing facility is up in Mansura, which 5 is by Marksville. I have been asked to come 6 today to be your sacrificial lamb, so if I 7 may.</p> <p>8 We deeply regret being here once again. 9 The -- it takes -- a little bit of background. 10 Kerotest manufactures valves. Their number 11 one product line is the polyethylene valves 12 that are used in natural gas delivery systems 13 by utilities, municipalities, and things of 14 that nature. So they make a lot of metal 15 valves that are also used in industrial 16 applications and oil fields. So they are a 17 valve manufacturer.</p> <p>18 Their plant is in Mansura, Louisiana and 19 has been for a number of years. We came in 20 under -- our contract was signed in 2019, so 21 can you imagine what turned out to be a worse 22 year for anyone to have signed a contract for 23 the Industrial Tax Exemption then in 2019 with 24 what was looming for us in 2020 that we didn't 25 already know.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p>	<p>1 them have responded despite written notice 2 requesting that any sort of penalty be exacted 3 for noncompliance. So we fell 7 percent short 4 on our jobs, but only 1.9, about 2 percent 5 short on the actual payroll.</p> <p>6 2023, now for the bad news. The 7 benchmark in the 2023 -- excuse me, the 8 contract for 2023 is 190 jobs. We ended the 9 year with only 119. I'm informed that the 10 employee count dropped because of cutbacks and 11 customer orders. I hate to bring this up, 12 driven by COVID, as a backlash to COVID.</p> <p>13 Remember during the early days of COVID, 14 we ran into supply chain problems. Once 15 supply became available, customers stocked up. 16 They ordered more inventory than they could 17 use in the ordinary course of business. Now, 18 our client, as a manufacturer is having to 19 deal with the runoff of that inventory that 20 the suppliers bought in 2022 and 2023 -- I'm 21 sorry, that their customers bought in 2022 and 22 2023 and haven't used up yet. So the count 23 did drop to 119.</p> <p>24 There is, however, some good news. The 25 2023 payroll per the agreement is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p>

<p>1 \$5.769 million. The total payroll reported 2 for 2023 was 5.656 percent, difference of 3 1.97 percent, so pretty close on the payroll 4 numbers. There are three local governmental 5 entities that are affected, they are the 6 Avoyelles School Board, Police Jury, and 7 Sheriff. And none of them had asked for any 8 action on the part of the Board.</p> <p>9 Now, this contract was signed under the 10 Post-Executive Order 2017 Rules. So it's a 11 five-year contract that's up for renewal in 12 2024. Because -- if -- the way the contracts 13 are written, it isn't that you've got to have 14 ten more jobs than you had last year, for 15 example, it's you have a finite number of jobs 16 that you're supposed to achieve every year and 17 it builds. If it's 160, then it's 170, then 18 it's 180, then it's 190. So if you miss out, 19 you've got ground to recover. If you can't 20 and it isn't good enough, you just have ten 21 more jobs than you had last year. We have 22 never been able to make up for lost ground on 23 the job.</p> <p>24 So Kerotest made the election not to 25 apply for a new one in 2024 because we've</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p>	<p>1 responsibilities under the contract seriously.</p> <p>2 Given the lack of opposition from the 3 three local governmental entities, I would beg 4 your indulgence and ask that no penalty be 5 assessed against Kerotest.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN JONES: 7 Any questions? Mr. Miller? Mr. St. 8 Blanc?</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC: 10 I had one question. I wish somebody 11 would have -- are you having problems with 12 having a job opening that you can't hire 13 because of what's happening right now in 14 Louisiana? Is there any -- you know, I can 15 understand the last time you came, I remember 16 COVID. We talked about this and that they 17 wanted -- they had job openings but couldn't 18 supply them. So there's a lot of businesses 19 right now that doesn't have them.</p> <p>20 Do you know anything about whether they 21 can make it with the amount of jobs that they 22 have an opening for, but the workforce is 23 really lacking right now?</p> <p>24 MR. SHOCKEY: 25 Senator Blanc, the answer is I don't</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p>
<p>1 consistently been in a deficit position and 2 unable to live up to our obligations. We've 3 come short. We've come close; but 4 nevertheless, we recognize we're short and 5 haven't fulfilled our obligations.</p> <p>6 While I recognize that what I'm about to 7 say is not a relevant factor in terms of 8 compliance with the contract, I would suggest 9 to you, it is a relevant factor to consider in 10 connection with what penalty, if any, to exact 11 from my client. Kerotest is an Esoft company. 12 That means though it's a Pennsylvania company, 13 it's Louisiana employees share in the 14 ownership of the company. I am informed that 15 in 2023, Louisiana residents were paid 16 \$1,042,141 for Kerotest company stock that 17 they would gain upon retirement or severance 18 from the company.</p> <p>19 So that is additional money that this 20 company had put into the local economy in 21 Avoyelles Parish area. I realize it's not 22 payroll. I realize it doesn't mean we didn't 23 violate the contract. I'm just suggesting to 24 you that it shows that Kerotest is a good 25 corporate citizen that's taken its</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p>	<p>1 know.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC: 3 Not Senator, okay.</p> <p>4 MR. SHOCKEY: 5 I asked if -- oh, I'm sorry. Forgive me. 6 Representative St. Blanc, I don't know. I'm 7 sure -- I asked if Greg Mayeux, who is the 8 manager of the plant in Mansura, could come 9 today, but there was something else and he 10 could not be spared. At one time, that was a 11 problem in the earlier years. Of course, 12 we've actually had, in 2023, a significant 13 reduction in employees because of the supply 14 chain backlash issues that I mentioned. So I 15 anticipate that there's been a reduction in 16 force as opposed to the workforce remaining 17 static. So we believe that, no, it's not that 18 they can't find employees, though I know 19 that's been a problem in the past, but rather 20 they just don't have enough customer orders.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC: 22 I'd like to know a number because we're 23 having a big problem with supplying labor 24 force.</p> <p>25 MR. SHOCKEY:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p>

<p>1 Yes, sir.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC:</p> <p>3 We're working on that hard. And if we</p> <p>4 know these jobs are not being created and</p> <p>5 trying to, and I really, really like to have</p> <p>6 someone get back with me so this Board can</p> <p>7 understand what's going on too.</p> <p>8 MR. SHOCKEY:</p> <p>9 I can tell you that in my asking</p> <p>10 questions of Management in Pittsburgh about</p> <p>11 why did the number of jobs go down and all,</p> <p>12 that was not mentioned. Rather, it was the</p> <p>13 lack of customer orders due to customers</p> <p>14 running off the inventory that they already</p> <p>15 have on hand.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>17 So it's the economy?</p> <p>18 MR. SHOCKEY:</p> <p>19 Perhaps overall, yes, sir. Again, they</p> <p>20 feel that there was a definite -- that their</p> <p>21 customers maybe overbought in 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>22 Once, Kerotest was able to meet whatever</p> <p>23 demand there was for their customers. And</p> <p>24 now, those customers are sitting there with</p> <p>25 inventory on their shelf that they haven't</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p>	<p>1 There being none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>2 ALL:</p> <p>3 Aye.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>5 Any opposition?</p> <p>6 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p>7 MR. SHOCKEY:</p> <p>8 Thank you all.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>10 Thank you, Mr. Shockey.</p> <p>11 MR. USIE:</p> <p>12 Next, we have a noncompliant contracts</p> <p>13 following the Post-EO 2018 ITEP Rules. One</p> <p>14 contract, Number 20190086 for Fisher</p> <p>15 Manufacturing Services, LLC in Tangipahoa</p> <p>16 Parish is noncompliant for the 2023 reporting</p> <p>17 period. The Exhibit A for the contract</p> <p>18 requires the company create and maintain one</p> <p>19 job with \$20,000 in payroll.</p> <p>20 The company failed to submit annual</p> <p>21 compliance by the requested extended deadline</p> <p>22 of June 29, 2024. The Parish, nor Sheriff</p> <p>23 responded with recommendations. And the</p> <p>24 school board did not approve the exemption at</p> <p>25 the time of the application.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p>
<p>1 used yet and they want to use that up down to</p> <p>2 some point before they --</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>4 If they used it faster, you would have</p> <p>5 more orders?</p> <p>6 MR. SHOCKEY:</p> <p>7 Yes, sir.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Got it.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC:</p> <p>11 Mr. Chairman, I make that motion to</p> <p>12 approve with no penalty.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>14 We have a motion from Mr. St. Blanc to</p> <p>15 approve with no penalty.</p> <p>16 SENATOR FOIL:</p> <p>17 Second.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>19 We have a second by Mr. -- Senator Foil.</p> <p>20 Senator Foil, forgive me. Bifocals aren't</p> <p>21 working that far. Forgive me. All right. We</p> <p>22 have a motion and a second. Any questions or</p> <p>23 comments from the Board?</p> <p>24 Hearing none, any comments from the</p> <p>25 public?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p>	<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>2 Do we have someone here from Fisher</p> <p>3 Manufacturing? Would please state your name</p> <p>4 and your position with the company, please?</p> <p>5 MS. FISHER:</p> <p>6 Jenna Fisher and I'm Purchasing Manager.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>8 Okay. Tell us what's going on.</p> <p>9 MS. FISHER:</p> <p>10 Just our renewal application was late and</p> <p>11 it was an oversight thinking that the</p> <p>12 compliance would come after the renewal was</p> <p>13 granted. So we have now complied, but it was</p> <p>14 still late, so we met all of our requirements.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>16 Wait. I'm --</p> <p>17 MS. FISHER:</p> <p>18 So we were late for --</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 You did not meet the job or the payroll</p> <p>21 requirement; is that correct, Hud?</p> <p>22 MR. USIE:</p> <p>23 They didn't file. So when they didn't</p> <p>24 file, they requested an extension to file, and</p> <p>25 they didn't file it by that extended deadline.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p>

<p>1 So the locals were notified of them not 2 filing. After the locals were notified of 3 them not filing compliance at all, they filed 4 it between then and this Board meeting. 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 So then, you met your compliance goals. 7 You just, because the no filing, no report, 8 you did not know whether you met the goal, is 9 that -- 10 MR. USIE: 11 Correct. 12 MS. FISHER: 13 Yes. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 So you met the job and the payroll. 16 Essentially, you have now a late filing issue, 17 is that correct? 18 MR. USIE: 19 Yes. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 When was the compliance report filed? 22 MR. USIE: 23 I don't have an exact date on me. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 Do you know, Ms. Fisher?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p>	<p>1 this compliance for the renewal. I'm new to 2 all this, so I'm learning. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 You're learning. 5 MS. FISHER: 6 Yes. Yes. 7 CHAIRMAN JONES: 8 Okay. All right. We're going to try to 9 make it simpler when we fix the rules. 10 MS. FISHER: 11 I hope so. 12 CHAIRMAN JONES: 13 I get it. All right. But at the end of 14 the day, what we have here is they met their 15 jobs and payroll requirements, they have a 16 late filing of, essentially, less than a 17 Month so I would entertain a motion. 18 MAYOR TOUPS: 19 Can I make a motion, no penalty? 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Motion from Mayor Touns, no penalty. 22 Second from Mr. Doss. 23 MR. MELE: 24 Can I ask a question? 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p>
<p>1 MS. FISHER: 2 Yes, somewhere -- it was the seventh 3 month. 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 It's not critical. Don't -- I thought 6 you might have it right there in front of you. 7 MS. FISHER: 8 I probably do. 7/22 of '24. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 I'm sorry? 11 MS. FISHER: 12 7/22 of '24. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 So it was about a month late then? 15 MS. FISHER: 16 Yeah. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 Okay. That gives me context. Thank you. 19 Now, the reason for the non-filing, what was 20 the -- 21 MS. FISHER: 22 It was just -- I thought with the renewal 23 not -- I was late on my renewal, so it's kind 24 of just a domino effect. I was late on the 25 renewal and I didn't think that I could do</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p>	<p>1 Absolutely. Mr. Mele? 2 MR. MELE: 3 What is the actual number of employees? 4 MS. FISHER: 5 It was supposed to be one, but we had 6 two. 7 CHAIRMAN JONES: 8 Okay. Thank you. All right. Any other 9 questions or comments from the Board? 10 Hearing none, any comments from the 11 public? 12 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 13 ALL: 14 Aye. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 Any opposition? 17 There is none, the motion carries. 18 MS. FISHER: 19 Thank you. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 You got it. 22 MS. JOHNSON: 23 We have one contract for Gator Millworks, 24 Inc., 20180108 in Livingston Parish. They're 25 noncompliant for the 2022 and 2023 reporting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p>

<p>1 periods. The Exhibit A for this contract 2 requires the company create and maintain five 3 new jobs and \$250,000 in new payroll. For the 4 2022 reporting period, the actual jobs and 5 payroll created was zero new jobs and zero 6 payroll. And for the 2023 reporting period, 7 the actual jobs and payroll were zero new jobs 8 and zero in new payroll.</p> <p>9 The Parish responded with a resolution 10 stating to take no action against Gator 11 Millworks by not penalizing them for every 12 year of noncompliance in the ITEP program. 13 The school board responded with a resolution 14 stating to recommend the Louisiana Board of 15 Commerce and Industry reduce by one year for 16 2022 and one year for 2023, the terms of the 17 tax exemptions previously granted to Gator 18 Millworks, Inc. from the current five-year 19 term to a three-year term. And the Sheriff 20 did not respond with a recommendation.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN JONES: 22 Do we have anyone here from Gator 23 Millworks? Would you state your name and your 24 position with the company? 25 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p>	<p>1 Forty-two. 2 CHAIRMAN JONES: 3 Forty-two. Okay. That gives me an idea 4 of the size of your operation. So it's a 5 matter of losing personnel to higher paying 6 jobs and not being able to maintain the count? 7 MR. FOSTER: 8 Yeah, we've never had a layoff in 30 9 years that we've been in business, not one 10 time, I'm proud to say that. And just, 11 unfortunately, just within the last week, a 12 young man texted me on Friday and said that he 13 got offered \$36 an hour to go be a turnaround 14 job, a two-one job, and he left us after nine 15 months. It's like -- I can't -- 16 CHAIRMAN JONES: 17 I understand. 18 MR. FOSTER: 19 I can't stop it. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Hud, help me understand. There are no 22 dates under the compliance due date and the 23 compliance receive date. 24 MS. JOHNSON: 25 They weren't late.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p>
<p>1 My name is Chad Foster with Gator 2 Millworks. I am the President. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Great. So tell us what was going on 5 here. 6 MR. FOSTER: 7 So this is our second time here. We have 8 not been able to maintain positions at our 9 company for the last several years. We've 10 been hiring, we've been a very competitive job 11 market, so people leaving for other higher 12 paying jobs in the plant work. For us, as a 13 custom millwork fabricator, it's challenging 14 to compete with that. 15 So I can say or report today that our 16 numbers of today, we are one job away from 17 being in compliance. And we also expect to be 18 very close to hitting our requirement of the 19 job payroll amount for the year as well. So 20 pretty big turn from just being able to keep, 21 maintain it, but it's been challenging.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 Help me with the context. How many total 24 employees do you have right now? 25 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p>	<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES: 2 They weren't late. 3 MS. JOHNSON: 4 They weren't late. 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 Okay. So it's just a matter of not 7 meeting -- 8 MS. JOHNSON: 9 Not meeting the new jobs. 10 CHAIRMAN JONES: 11 They filed the compliance reports timely. 12 MS. JOHNSON: 13 Yes. 14 MR. FOSTER: 15 One other thing I would like to add is 16 that, in these last two years as well, we've 17 been able to -- well, we haven't made the 18 jobs, but what we have been able to do is 19 offset all of our production as to add some 20 machinery, which that's not part of our ITEP, 21 it goes on the roll. We pay use tax on that 22 equipment, which is a little over a million 23 dollars in the last two years to help us move 24 with all the staffing needs, which has 25 generated additional sales and use tax for the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p>

<p>1 local economy and also even for even property 2 taxes that goes on also. 3 So in the last two to three years, it was 4 \$130,000 additional money that we did not 5 expect to pay when we went into this ITEP, 6 when we started. 7 MR. MELE: 8 I have a question. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Yes, sir. 11 MR. MELE: 12 So how has business been during these two 13 years? Your business going on these two 14 years, '22, '23, is it growing? 15 MR. FOSTER: 16 I would say it's been steady is the way 17 to say it. It's hard to take on too, too much 18 more work when it's hard to depend on people, 19 so. 20 MR. MELE: 21 Yeah. 22 MR. FOSTER: 23 But we've never been slow. 24 MR. MELE: 25 Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p>	<p>1 Any other questions? 2 MR. REMEDIES: 3 I have a question. 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 Mr. Remedies? 6 MR. REMEDIES: 7 Is this something the new rules will 8 address? 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Yes. 11 MR. REMEDIES: 12 Okay. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 Yes, there will be no jobs and payroll 15 requirements. There are none for anybody that 16 has filed since February '24, and so the new 17 rules will have no jobs and payroll 18 requirements because, I mean, we can talk pros 19 and cons of the Edwards changes. But the 20 reality is, and I've maintained this from the 21 day one, is that manufacturing by its nature 22 intends to make more glitches with fewer 23 people. That is its goal in life. 24 And requiring a job -- and, guys, these 25 jobs and payroll requirements were not</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p>
<p>1 MR. AMOSS: 2 Can I ask a question? 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Sure. 5 MR. AMOSS: 6 Thanks for being here. So I just want to 7 get the full context here. So with the 8 application numbers wise, you had 38 9 employees, you were going to add in five; is 10 that -- 11 MR. FOSTER: 12 And we did add them. It's just that in 13 each year of 2022, we had 62 W2s we issued in 14 a year. In 2023, we had 50, so well over the 15 numbers that we have. And in those numbers, 16 27 people of 2022 resigned to take other 17 positions. In 2023, we had 17 do the same. 18 So it's just competitive job market that I 19 cannot, I guess, fault them for that. 20 MR. AMOSS: 21 You answered the question I was going to 22 ask with that answer. 23 MR. FOSTER: 24 Sure. 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p>	<p>1 required for one year, they were required for 2 ten years. So, basically, you have a company 3 that's agreeing to have X number of jobs and 4 agreeing to have that many jobs ten years from 5 now. Well, with technology and with 6 everything else going on, not to mention the 7 economy, that's a bridge too far. 8 And so, fortunately, Governor Landry has 9 seen it's better to remove those requirements 10 and the new rules will no longer have jobs and 11 payroll requirements. Manufacturers will be 12 expected to manufacture. And we want them to 13 be as efficient as they possibly can, because 14 that's the way to ensure success. 15 MR. WHEELIS: 16 Just curious. What's happened to your 17 total payroll over that time period; not new 18 jobs, just total payroll? 19 MR. FOSTER: 20 It's increased. I'm paying more. 21 MR. WHEELIS: 22 Do you know approximately how much? 23 MR. FOSTER: 24 I don't have that figure. 25 MR. WHEELIS:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p>

<p>1 That's interesting.</p> <p>2 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>3 I know it's increased with less people.</p> <p>4 MR. WHEELIS:</p> <p>5 Yeah.</p> <p>6 MR. MELE:</p> <p>7 Question.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Yes, Mr. Mele?</p> <p>10 MR. MELE:</p> <p>11 The thing that I have, you know, this is</p> <p>12 a tough one. The only thing that I see is</p> <p>13 with the school board. So, basically, do they</p> <p>14 want to continue to reduce the term? Have you</p> <p>15 met with them?</p> <p>16 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>17 We did. And they actually had two</p> <p>18 resolutions that they voted on that night at</p> <p>19 the school board meeting. They actually had a</p> <p>20 resolution they voted on to defer at that</p> <p>21 vote. When it was one different vote, so it</p> <p>22 was six -- so it was 5-4 with one of the vote</p> <p>23 changed between its resolution, which was</p> <p>24 strange, because it was take to defer. Then</p> <p>25 the next resolution was to take one year for</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p>	<p>1 term of only a portion of the contract. That</p> <p>2 would mean -- you couldn't change the</p> <p>3 expiration date for only the school board</p> <p>4 portion. So it's one or the other, I would</p> <p>5 say, or whatever y'all decide.</p> <p>6 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>7 And we're asking --</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Before we get into that debate -- I'm</p> <p>10 sorry. Did you have something else?</p> <p>11 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>12 And I didn't say it, but we're asking for</p> <p>13 no penalty.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>15 All right. Nice to add, but we kind of</p> <p>16 assumed that. All right.</p> <p>17 MR. FONTENOT:</p> <p>18 I just -- make sure.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 But before we get into, we have a couple</p> <p>21 of other people that want to speak on this.</p> <p>22 So unless you have something else to add?</p> <p>23 Okay. We have a Mr. Billy Taylor from the</p> <p>24 Livingston Parish Council.</p> <p>25 MR. TAYLOR:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p>
<p>1 each of noncompliance.</p> <p>2 So it was kind of strange to see a vote</p> <p>3 change within seconds, I guess, to no</p> <p>4 deferment -- I'm sorry, six. I don't have my</p> <p>5 glasses. I can't see it. So 6-3 was what the</p> <p>6 resolution passed, and then it was 5-4 to take</p> <p>7 -- to defer it. So it was close to deferring</p> <p>8 it from the school board. And then the</p> <p>9 Council passed it 9-0 to take no action.</p> <p>10 MR. MELE:</p> <p>11 Thank you.</p> <p>12 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>13 Okay. And we're --</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>15 Anything else? Mr. Nassar?</p> <p>16 MR. NASSAR:</p> <p>17 Yeah. So I think in the past, we've had</p> <p>18 issues like this come up before, so we could</p> <p>19 actually make a motion to reduce the term by</p> <p>20 two years as per the resolution by the school</p> <p>21 board and take no action on the police jury</p> <p>22 and the sheriff; correct?</p> <p>23 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>24 We actually cannot do that because that</p> <p>25 would change the term. You can't change the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p>	<p>1 Good morning. My name is Billy Taylor,</p> <p>2 Livingston Parish Council, District 3.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>4 Great.</p> <p>5 MR. TAYLOR:</p> <p>6 So Gator Millworks has done amazing</p> <p>7 things, not only just being part of the</p> <p>8 Livingston Parish is that, I actually got to</p> <p>9 attend a school function that they did there.</p> <p>10 What they did was they brought all the kids</p> <p>11 that are in the wood shop in high school and</p> <p>12 brought them into their facility and showed</p> <p>13 them the cutting edge technology that they're</p> <p>14 producing, only stuff that's in Livingston</p> <p>15 Parish that's not even on the east coast. Not</p> <p>16 including the Council took a 9-0 vote of</p> <p>17 elected officials to take no action, that's</p> <p>18 what the council requests.</p> <p>19 They -- I believe that they will be</p> <p>20 finding one other person to become in</p> <p>21 compliance with this. And I know that they're</p> <p>22 working really hard to do that. And that's</p> <p>23 just our opinion.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>25 Any questions?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p>

<p>1 Thank you very much for being here today.</p> <p>2 Okay. Next, we have a Mr. Ricky Goff.</p> <p>3 MR. GOFF:</p> <p>4 Forewarned, I talk a lot more than</p> <p>5 anybody else. My name is Ricky Goff, I'm</p> <p>6 Livingston Parish Council, District 7. To</p> <p>7 kind of give a real quick synopsis, these</p> <p>8 people put in for their ITEP early on when</p> <p>9 there was no job requirements. Then, they</p> <p>10 fell into a flood of 2016. Then, they had to</p> <p>11 reapply. Then, they fell into what you're</p> <p>12 stating today that I agree with a hundred</p> <p>13 percent, which is kind of straightening up the</p> <p>14 people to do and make a healthy company. So</p> <p>15 then they fell into that category.</p> <p>16 And they have been the mirror, the great</p> <p>17 company that you want in your Parish and in</p> <p>18 your District. Not only competing in market</p> <p>19 across the Parish, across the nation, but</p> <p>20 they're also giving back, as my fellow</p> <p>21 councilman said, to the students. They're</p> <p>22 doing that sort of so they could also get</p> <p>23 something back out of those students when they</p> <p>24 get out. So they're doing, I believe,</p> <p>25 everything they humanly possibly can do.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p>	<p>1 Livingston Parish's door is open to companies</p> <p>2 of this nature. Thank you.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>4 Any questions for Mr. Goff?</p> <p>5 MR. MELE:</p> <p>6 So you have been in business for 25</p> <p>7 years?</p> <p>8 MR. GOFF:</p> <p>9 They have, yes, sir.</p> <p>10 MR. MELE:</p> <p>11 Right.</p> <p>12 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>13 Thirty, be 30 this month actually.</p> <p>14 MR. GOFF:</p> <p>15 Thirty.</p> <p>16 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p>17 Been in the Parish for a little over 25.</p> <p>18 MR. GOFF:</p> <p>19 And I want to restate one thing that he</p> <p>20 said, he has not let anyone go from his</p> <p>21 company with all the struggles that they've</p> <p>22 had with COVID, the flood, putting people's</p> <p>23 houses back together. All these people lived</p> <p>24 in that community and probably, I don't know</p> <p>25 what the percentage is, but if I had to guess,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p>
<p>1 And they are in compliance. They've</p> <p>2 filed their paperwork. They're doing their</p> <p>3 due diligence. But, unfortunately, they have</p> <p>4 found themselves at a flood, a COVID, and an</p> <p>5 extremely tough market that's competitive for</p> <p>6 a workforce. And I think our Governor sees</p> <p>7 that and realizes that. So our Council, on</p> <p>8 those reasons, voted 9-0 that we give them no</p> <p>9 penalties because our door is open to</p> <p>10 companies like this to be in our Parish for 25</p> <p>11 years, stay in our Parish for 25 years.</p> <p>12 So that being said, let's roll over to</p> <p>13 the school board. I know that is tough for</p> <p>14 some people, but our school board is in a</p> <p>15 really tough, tight spot from a tax base</p> <p>16 standpoint and they're getting a lot of</p> <p>17 political pressure to do everything that they</p> <p>18 can. So we had some school board members that</p> <p>19 had a lot of strings pulled on their hearts on</p> <p>20 what to do and what not to do and that's why</p> <p>21 you saw the vote that it was.</p> <p>22 So I simply ask you today that, you know,</p> <p>23 take no action, let these people continue to</p> <p>24 do what they're doing and, hopefully, others</p> <p>25 will look at that as well. And, again, I say</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p>	<p>1 at least a minimum of 80 percent of them got</p> <p>2 water in their house, but he didn't say, hey,</p> <p>3 we can't put you to work. He said, come back</p> <p>4 as soon as you can. So any questions?</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>6 Mr. Nassar?</p> <p>7 MR. NASSAR:</p> <p>8 Yeah. At the proper time, I'd like to</p> <p>9 make a motion.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>11 Okay. All right.</p> <p>12 MR. GOFF:</p> <p>13 Thank you very much.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>15 Thank you, Mr. Goff. Do we have anyone</p> <p>16 here from the school board by any chance? I</p> <p>17 did not get a card, but I wanted to give you</p> <p>18 an opportunity to speak if you're here.</p> <p>19 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>20 Can I ask Mr. Foster a question?</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>22 Absolutely. Mr. Foster, he has a</p> <p>23 question.</p> <p>24 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>25 I'm looking at your website, incredible</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p>

<p>1 work by the way. Would you have any idea of 2 how many of your workers are Livingston Parish 3 school graduates? 4 MR. FOSTER: 5 I don't have that exact number, but it's 6 definitely probably 60, 70 percent. 7 MR. MILLER: 8 That's what I wanted to know. Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN JONES: 10 Any other questions? 11 Do we -- Mr. Nassar, you have a motion to 12 make? 13 MR. NASSAR: 14 Yes, sir. I'd like to make a motion to 15 take no action. 16 CHAIRMAN JONES: 17 Okay. So we approve with no penalty? 18 MR. NASSAR: 19 Right. No action, no penalty. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Okay. We have a motion, Mr. Nassar; a 22 second from Mr. Mele. All right. Any other 23 questions or comments from the Board? 24 MR. AMOSS: 25 Yeah, just a quick comment. I think this</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p>	<p>1 Thank you. 2 CHAIRMAN JONES: 3 All right. We have a motion and a 4 second. Any other questions or comments? 5 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 6 ALL: 7 Aye. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 Any opposition? 10 There is none, the motion carries. Thank 11 you, Mr. Foster. 12 MR. FOSTER: 13 Thank you. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 Thank you for your investment in the 16 state. 17 MR. FOSTER: 18 Thank you. 19 CHAIRMAN JONES: 20 Thank you all for being here. 21 Next? 22 MR. USIE: 23 Next, we have one contract, 20200220, for 24 Gravois Aluminum Boats, LLC in St. Mary Parish 25 that is not compliant for the 2023 reporting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p>
<p>1 is the exact example of the type of businesses 2 in Louisiana that deserve leniency. And, 3 again, his employee base is 38. He had 62 W2s 4 issued in one year. We all know about the 5 issues that are going on in our state right 6 now, so I think this is a perfect example of a 7 take no action type of situation. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 Ms. Villa? 10 MS. VILLA: 11 Just a comment just for everyone here 12 today, I did have the honor to tour your 13 facility a couple years ago, I don't know if 14 you remember, but there was a contingency of 15 us that went out there. And it was a 16 beautiful facility in Livingston Parish, a new 17 facility. I can't remember how many years ago 18 you constructed it. But just the site, the 19 floor site walking through the mill and how 20 clean it was and the technology that he had in 21 place, and so thank you for your commitment to 22 Louisiana and for your employees that you 23 employ there, what you do in the community. 24 Thank you. 25 MR. FOSTER:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p>	<p>1 period. The Exhibit A for the contract 2 requires the company create and maintain two 3 jobs with \$72,800 in payroll. The company 4 failed to submit their annual compliance by 5 the April 30, 2024 deadline. The Parish, 6 school board, Sheriff, nor City responded with 7 recommendations. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 Do we have anyone here from Gravois? 10 MR. MIGUEZ: 11 Mr. Chairman, I need to recuse myself 12 from Gravois. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 Thank you, Mr. Miguez. Anybody here from 15 Gravois Aluminum Boats? Well, Board, the 16 world is your oyster. We don't have the 17 applicant here. 18 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC: 19 I'd like to make a motion to approve with 20 no penalty. 21 CHAIRMAN JONES: 22 Okay. We have a motion from Mr. St. 23 Blanc to approve with no penalty. We have a 24 second? We have a second from Mr. Remedies. 25 Any questions or comments from the Board?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p>

<p>1 Ms. Villa?</p> <p>2 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>3 So, Hud, have we since received the</p> <p>4 compliance?</p> <p>5 MR. USIE:</p> <p>6 Yes, they have since recieved -- sent in</p> <p>7 the compliance. They were still noncompliant</p> <p>8 for the jobs and payroll, but they did submit</p> <p>9 it.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>11 And, notably, the locals have made --</p> <p>12 MR. USIE:</p> <p>13 No recommendations.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>15 -- defer to the Board.</p> <p>16 MR. USIE:</p> <p>17 Right.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>19 We have a motion and a second to approve</p> <p>20 with no penalty. Any questions or comments</p> <p>21 from the Board?</p> <p>22 Any comments from the public?</p> <p>23 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.</p> <p>24 ALL:</p> <p>25 Aye.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p>	<p>1 And they did file their compliance after</p> <p>2 the notices were sent to the locals notifying</p> <p>3 them that they were out of compliance for</p> <p>4 non-filing. And they did meet the 13 required</p> <p>5 retained jobs and the payroll.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>7 So this, essentially, comes to down to a</p> <p>8 late filing?</p> <p>9 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>10 Yes.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>12 Is that it?</p> <p>13 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>14 Yes.</p> <p>15 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>16 I have a question.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>18 Sure.</p> <p>19 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>20 It says in our packet that it's not</p> <p>21 received, but we've seen more than one --</p> <p>22 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>23 Right.</p> <p>24 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>25 -- that it had been received. Is it --</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p>
<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>2 Any opposition?</p> <p>3 There is none, the motion carries.</p> <p>4 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>5 I have one contract for GUILDCO LLC,</p> <p>6 20180373 in St. Landry Parish. They're</p> <p>7 noncompliant for the 2022 and 2023 reporting</p> <p>8 periods. The Exhibit A for this contract</p> <p>9 requires the retention of 13 existing jobs and</p> <p>10 \$283,539 in payroll for the 2022 reporting</p> <p>11 period. They failed to submit their annual</p> <p>12 compliance by the 4/30/23 deadline. And for</p> <p>13 the 2023 reporting period, they also failed to</p> <p>14 submit annual compliance by the 4/30/24</p> <p>15 deadline.</p> <p>16 The Parish responded with a resolution</p> <p>17 recommending that the Louisiana Board of</p> <p>18 Commerce and Industry and/or LED adopt no</p> <p>19 remedial action for the alleged violations of</p> <p>20 program contract number 20180373-ITE, insofar</p> <p>21 as and only insofar as the failure of GUILDCO</p> <p>22 to meet the requirements of their contract for</p> <p>23 job creation, job retention, and/or annual</p> <p>24 payroll dictates. The school board and</p> <p>25 sheriff did not respond with recommendations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p>	<p>1 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>2 So the locals were notified of the</p> <p>3 non-filing. And then, so when the locals</p> <p>4 reached out, I guess, and asked why they</p> <p>5 didn't file, they then filed.</p> <p>6 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>7 Yeah, but from seeing the date, the sheet</p> <p>8 was printed.</p> <p>9 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>10 Well, right, because that's what the</p> <p>11 locals were notified. That's the</p> <p>12 noncompliance. That's why -- that's the</p> <p>13 reason the locals were notified of the</p> <p>14 noncompliance.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>16 Let's back up. They failed to file. We</p> <p>17 notified -- the LED notified the locals and</p> <p>18 had already notified the company. When the</p> <p>19 locals notified the company what's going on,</p> <p>20 they filed their compliance report.</p> <p>21 Fortunately, they've met all their goals, so</p> <p>22 there's no reason not to file a compliance</p> <p>23 report other than, I'm presuming somebody</p> <p>24 here will explain it in a minute. But now</p> <p>25 that they have filed a compliance report,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p>

<p>1 which came out before this report was created.</p> <p>2 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>3 Well, this is -- we provided the</p> <p>4 information this way because that is what it</p> <p>5 was reported to the locals as that is the</p> <p>6 reason for their noncompliance.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>8 I'm with you.</p> <p>9 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>10 That's -- okay.</p> <p>11 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>12 My question is that, but as far as</p> <p>13 administratively, how do we make a decision</p> <p>14 based on all of the information? You know, we</p> <p>15 just -- if we could get -- because this would</p> <p>16 lead me to believe that they had still not</p> <p>17 filed anything, you see what I'm saying. So</p> <p>18 when you look at this and it says it's not</p> <p>19 been received, and more than one time it had</p> <p>20 been received, then we look at the applicant a</p> <p>21 little bit differently than --</p> <p>22 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>23 No, because we already had notified them</p> <p>24 that they were late and gave them additional</p> <p>25 time to file as a late filing, and they still</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p>	<p>1 We can -- we have now determined that they</p> <p>2 didn't meet their jobs and payroll</p> <p>3 requirements, so we know there's not a</p> <p>4 compliance problem as far as the goals. So</p> <p>5 what it really comes down to now is a late</p> <p>6 filing problem. And so I think --</p> <p>7 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>8 I would --</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>10 And so I think Mr. Remedies's point is he</p> <p>11 wishes he'd known it before we got here today.</p> <p>12 I don't know if there is some way to change</p> <p>13 the template.</p> <p>14 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>15 Or maybe it's the matter might be or the</p> <p>16 question could be, why did they not file it.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>18 No, I'm going to get them here and I'm</p> <p>19 going to ask the questions.</p> <p>20 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>21 Okay.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>23 But I think the point is, is that when</p> <p>24 the Board is reviewing this sheet and we're</p> <p>25 seeing not received, not received, not</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p>
<p>1 did not take that additional time, so we</p> <p>2 considered it not received.</p> <p>3 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>4 But when we're making our decisions</p> <p>5 today, based on this column being filled out</p> <p>6 as not received, and that leads -- I don't</p> <p>7 know about anyone else, but it would make me</p> <p>8 think maybe they had not -- they were just</p> <p>9 ignoring the request for that, which kind of</p> <p>10 puts them in a different light.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>12 I agree with you, Mr. Remedies.</p> <p>13 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>14 And maybe it's not you guys, because you</p> <p>15 don't create the template in which to put the</p> <p>16 information in mass administration and</p> <p>17 consider it as of yesterday or the day before</p> <p>18 the meeting, we have what has been received.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 I think the way we can remedy the problem</p> <p>21 is that we give the applicant an opportunity</p> <p>22 to be here and we can clarify, as we have,</p> <p>23 that they have now filed a compliance report</p> <p>24 and so we can now have that information. We</p> <p>25 didn't have it until now, but we now have it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p>	<p>1 received, we're thinking they've just ignored</p> <p>2 us and that's one issue. If they -- if</p> <p>3 it's -- if they ignore us for a period of time</p> <p>4 but then file, that's another brick in the</p> <p>5 wall if you will. And it's more information</p> <p>6 that might be helpful if we can figure out</p> <p>7 some way to put that in a form.</p> <p>8 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>9 Because what creates the noncompliance is</p> <p>10 that they didn't file. And so that's what</p> <p>11 you're seeing there is that that's what</p> <p>12 created the noncompliance is we did not</p> <p>13 receive a compliance report which then, you</p> <p>14 know, then the system notifies them that they</p> <p>15 were late, and then notifies the locals that</p> <p>16 they were noncompliant. So that's what</p> <p>17 created the noncompliance. So in between them</p> <p>18 being noncompliant and today, they became --</p> <p>19 they filed a report.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>21 Right. So do we have anybody here from</p> <p>22 GUILDCO?</p> <p>23 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>24 So we have to basically tell the Board</p> <p>25 why they're noncompliant and why they're on</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p>

<p>1 this sheet.</p> <p>2 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>3 Yes, ma'am. But my question was that,</p> <p>4 that it states in the last column, it says,</p> <p>5 compliance received date. And it's not</p> <p>6 received, which tells us they have not</p> <p>7 received anything for compliance for this</p> <p>8 applicant.</p> <p>9 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>10 So we did not and that's why we notified</p> <p>11 the locals and told the locals, hey, they're</p> <p>12 noncompliant, they never filed anything. And</p> <p>13 maybe the locals told them, hey, you should</p> <p>14 file this.</p> <p>15 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>16 And it's the best context to come up here</p> <p>17 in the meeting. And but what I'm looking for</p> <p>18 here --</p> <p>19 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>20 And previous --</p> <p>21 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>22 -- is has anything before, the day before</p> <p>23 the meeting -- I wonder if the packet is</p> <p>24 printed. I want to be fair.</p> <p>25 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p>	<p>1 the reason they were noncompliant.</p> <p>2 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>3 Yes, ma'am. And I agree that should be</p> <p>4 on there, but maybe titled a little bit</p> <p>5 differently and the reason for the compliance.</p> <p>6 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>7 Yeah.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 All right. Again, do we have anybody</p> <p>10 here from GUILDCO?</p> <p>11 MR. MELE:</p> <p>12 I have a question.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>14 Yes, sir. Mr. Mele?</p> <p>15 MR. MELE:</p> <p>16 So on the timing of they're notified that</p> <p>17 they're noncompliant by the LED, they take no</p> <p>18 action, but then they -- then the letter goes</p> <p>19 out to the school board and whatnot and then</p> <p>20 they take action when they get contacted</p> <p>21 directly by them; is that correct?</p> <p>22 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>23 So their Exhibit A requires, all Exhibit</p> <p>24 As require annual compliance to be filed by</p> <p>25 April 30th of every year. And after</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p>
<p>1 Okay.</p> <p>2 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>3 Could we, if they in fact submitted</p> <p>4 everything like we see in many cases today,</p> <p>5 what, we've exceeded the jobs requirement, we</p> <p>6 are sorry, we made a filing two days late, but</p> <p>7 we have exceeded everything.</p> <p>8 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>9 We could -- I mean we could potentially,</p> <p>10 like, put in -- but by the time that we --</p> <p>11 because these are produced a couple of weeks</p> <p>12 ahead.</p> <p>13 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>14 Sure. That's fine.</p> <p>15 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>16 So but that time, if we have received it,</p> <p>17 we can put a little notation that it's since</p> <p>18 been received, just like we do on other</p> <p>19 things, just a little asterisk or something to</p> <p>20 say that it's since been received.</p> <p>21 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>22 Yes.</p> <p>23 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>24 But they do have to go on the report</p> <p>25 because they were noncompliant and that was</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p>	<p>1 April 30th passes, as a courtesy, Hud and I</p> <p>2 notify the people that don't file by</p> <p>3 April 30th, hey, we'll give you two months</p> <p>4 until, I think we've been giving them until</p> <p>5 June 29th, to file and we'll consider it late,</p> <p>6 but we will still review it. If you don't</p> <p>7 file by 6/29, we're notifying the locals that</p> <p>8 you did not file, and that's what happened</p> <p>9 here. So we notified the locals that these</p> <p>10 companies did not file their required annual</p> <p>11 compliance and that's why they are out of</p> <p>12 compliance.</p> <p>13 MR. MELE:</p> <p>14 Gotcha. I understand that part. So what</p> <p>15 I'm getting at is, is it fair to say that</p> <p>16 they're not being responsive to LED, but they</p> <p>17 were responsive to the locals? I mean, they</p> <p>18 could have just responded.</p> <p>19 MS. JOHNSON:</p> <p>20 I mean maybe the -- I couldn't speak for</p> <p>21 the company.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>23 That's what it feels like to me. We just</p> <p>24 don't know because there's nobody here to tell</p> <p>25 us. Okay. What's the pleasure of the Board</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p>

<p>1 today? We have, essentially, a late filing is 2 what it comes down to. They are compliant 3 with jobs and payroll. Once they filed their 4 compliance report -- and, guys, I'm just going 5 to tell you, for those of you who are 6 companies in the audience or those that are 7 representing companies in the audience, I 8 think you will perceive that, obviously, this 9 Governor and, in turn, this Board are going to 10 be relatively understanding of industry 11 issues. But, and I'm only one Board Member, 12 but I will tell you when industry -- we still 13 have a set of rules. 14 We still have a set of requirements that 15 this Board has approved. And when companies 16 ignore those rules or without -- I mean 17 there's always reasons and that's why we 18 want -- we bring companies up to explain. But 19 when they ignore the rules or flaunt the 20 rules, that tends to get on this Board 21 Member's under my skin. I don't know if it 22 bothers anybody else. But like I was telling 23 a Board Member earlier today, I don't like 24 filing my taxes, but I still do it by 25 April 15th because I know that there is</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p>	<p>1 listen, I want to hear what that is. But if 2 they don't think enough of the program to come 3 in and defend the compliance action, that's 4 problematic for me, but that's just me. 5 Mr. Remedies? 6 MR. REMEDIES: 7 And I would say, I would agree with that. 8 It makes their job extremely difficult when 9 they don't get the compliance. But even my 10 office, which is a small office, it's not a 11 corporation, but there may be times there are 12 things that get sent through the mail that may 13 get put on the wrong person's desk, may get 14 put in the paper shredder. And so if we're 15 rewriting the rules, maybe we would consider 16 some sort of standard penalty to even consider 17 that, and then we wouldn't have to jeopardize 18 if they had been in fact they were in 19 compliance in that period and can prove it. 20 But just to make it -- streamline the process 21 a little more. 22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 That's what we're hoping to do. 24 MR. REMEDIES: 25 Okay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p>
<p>1 consequences if I don't. I may not like it 2 any better, but I still do it. 3 MS. JOHNSON: 4 Can I mention? 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 Of course. 7 MS. JOHNSON: 8 Our practice was that we were not even 9 going to review these after they were -- after 10 they were deemed noncompliant due to 11 non-filing. But the first one we brought to 12 this Board, Board Members wanted to know if 13 they were in compliance with the jobs and 14 payroll or not, regardless of the non-filing 15 or not, so that's why we have been reviewing 16 them, but it's not noncompliant due to 17 non-filing. 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 I'm just -- again, this is just me, but 20 I'm conflicted on this one because they did, 21 they ignored LED, they're not here today to 22 explain and that, frankly, bothers me. I 23 would prefer they came here and they explained 24 and it was a legitimate explanation of why 25 they didn't file it. Then, I hear it, I</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p>	<p>1 MR. WHEELIS: 2 And payroll taxes, there's a late filing 3 fee. 4 MR. REMEDIES: 5 Exactly. 6 MR. WHEELIS: 7 (Inaudible). They had that penalty for 8 late filing, but we decided then based on did 9 they meet the requirements of the program or 10 not what our action is, but a late filing fee, 11 to me, would not be unreasonable and then 12 there are no questions. 13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 And we have -- some of the rules -- the 15 later rules have that. The 2018 Rules have 16 the one-year penalty for late filing. 17 MS. JOHNSON: 18 I don't think we have assessed fees. 19 CHAIRMAN JONES: 20 Well, we'll cross that bridge when we get 21 to it. But I think the point is, if people 22 understand the penalty for failure, perhaps it 23 becomes more meaningful. So we can -- we'll 24 take a look at that. 25 But at any rate, what is the pleasure of</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p>

<p>1 the Board on GUILDCO, LLC? We have a late 2 filing, they're not here to defend, how do you 3 want to handle it? 4 MR. REMEDIES: 5 I make a motion that we take no action. 6 Approve and take no action. 7 CHAIRMAN JONES: 8 We have a motion to approve and take no 9 action. Do I have a second? 10 MR. WHEELIS: 11 Second. 12 CHAIRMAN JONES: 13 Second, Mr. Wheelis. Any questions or 14 comments from the Board? 15 Hearing none, any comments from the 16 public? 17 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 18 ALL: 19 Aye. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Any opposed? That was a real weak -- I'm 22 going to ask for a vote again, because I heard 23 about three voices. All in favor, say aye. 24 ALL: 25 Aye.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p>	<p>1 they provided did not have the benefits that 2 the contract requires. 3 MR. USIE: 4 They still didn't meet their jobs and 5 payroll. 6 CHAIRMAN JONES: 7 They still didn't meet -- 8 MR. USIE: 9 They were short. Regardless, none of the 10 jobs could count because they didn't offer the 11 health benefits plan. 12 CHAIRMAN JONES: 13 Okay. Do we have someone here from 14 Kitchen MAJGEK? Would you state your name and 15 your position with the company, please? 16 MR. TWILLEY: 17 Good morning. My name is Russell 18 Twilley, I'm the General Manager of Kibberia 19 Foods for Kitchen MAJGEK. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Great. So just, what do you manufacture? 22 MR. TWILLEY: 23 We're a food manufacturing plant. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 Food manufacturing. Okay. Got it. Tell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p>
<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES: 2 Any opposed? 3 There is no opposition, the motion 4 carries. All right. Thank you. 5 Next? 6 MR. USIE: 7 Next, we have one contract, 20200058 for 8 Kitchen MAJGEK, LLC - Ren's Kitchen in 9 Lafayette Parish that is noncompliant for the 10 2022 reporting period. The Exhibit A for the 11 contract requires the company create and 12 maintain 50 jobs with \$1,040,000 in payroll. 13 The actual jobs created and maintained was 14 zero. No jobs and payroll could be 15 considered, because on the certificate of 16 compliance form, the company confirmed that no 17 basic health benefits plan was offered to 18 employees, which is a requirement in order to 19 be considered a new job as defined in the 20 Exhibit A agreement. 21 The Parish, the school board, nor the 22 Sheriff responded with recommendations. 23 CHAIRMAN JONES: 24 So this is an issue of, they met their 25 jobs and payroll numbers, but the jobs that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p>	<p>1 us what's going on here. 2 MR. TWILLEY: 3 So when we initially bid the 2020 4 application, we built the facility in 5 Lafayette, Louisiana to support our sister 6 facility in Connecticut. They have regional 7 distribution for Whole Foods. And so, 8 obviously, as y'all are aware, in 2020 and 9 2021, struggling with the pandemic, so we made 10 the strategic business decision to control 11 growth. And by doing that, we did not meet 12 our jobs or our payroll application. 13 We also did not offer health benefits. 14 And for those reasons, that's why we did not 15 meet the 2022. 16 CHAIRMAN JONES: 17 So the jobs and payroll issue during 18 COVID, I understand from the perspective that 19 it's -- did you have difficulty filling the 20 jobs or was it the -- 21 MR. TWILLEY: 22 No, it was a strategic decision. We 23 decided to learn due to the strategic -- I 24 mean due to the complex environment of 25 learning supply chains and changes, we did not</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p>

<p>1 want to tarnish the relationship with our</p> <p>2 facility in Connecticut because, obviously, if</p> <p>3 we decided to go after that distribution down</p> <p>4 here, which is what the facility was built</p> <p>5 for, if we had any of the missed steps down</p> <p>6 here, that would affect them in Connecticut.</p> <p>7 So we decided to focus on local markets.</p> <p>8 We actually went out to Rouse's Foods, we</p> <p>9 started that. We have five products. We've</p> <p>10 grown that over the last two years upwards of</p> <p>11 20 across several of their different divisions</p> <p>12 and across all their entire grocery store</p> <p>13 chain network. So we've grown. It's just we</p> <p>14 made the strategic decision that rather than</p> <p>15 go after the larger market, we want to learn</p> <p>16 the local markets here, learn the business,</p> <p>17 learn supply chains, and then from there, go</p> <p>18 after the certifications we would need to go</p> <p>19 get the Whole Foods Distribution.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>21 All right. Just, again, context, how</p> <p>22 many employees do you have total?</p> <p>23 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>24 Right now, we have 20 employees.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p>	<p>1 like I'm -- I'm not trying to be as pejorative</p> <p>2 as it's going to sound, but how did you not</p> <p>3 know that?</p> <p>4 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>5 Because I was the one that did the filing</p> <p>6 and I was not employed when the original</p> <p>7 application was submitted.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>9 Okay.</p> <p>10 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>11 So it was a misunderstanding on me.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>13 So -- okay. So I'm presuming now with</p> <p>14 this issue has arisen that you now understand</p> <p>15 what the contract requires; is that correct?</p> <p>16 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>17 Yes, sir.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>19 What is the path forward?</p> <p>20 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>21 So the path forward is we've made moves</p> <p>22 to get this third-party food certification</p> <p>23 that will allow us to get distribution for</p> <p>24 Whole Foods. And with that, that's why the</p> <p>25 plant was originally created, and that would</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p>
<p>1 Okay. And when you started, I know you</p> <p>2 started in 2020, was it a startup company</p> <p>3 essentially?</p> <p>4 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>5 Down here, it was, but we have one</p> <p>6 facility in Connecticut.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>8 Okay. So you made the strategic decision</p> <p>9 to limit employee growth and, therefore,</p> <p>10 payroll.</p> <p>11 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>12 Yes.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>14 And then I take it, you made the decision</p> <p>15 to save money to reduce the health benefits</p> <p>16 for your employees; is that correct?</p> <p>17 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>18 Yes.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>20 Did you understand at the time that that</p> <p>21 jeopardized your ITEP contract?</p> <p>22 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>23 I did not at the time.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>25 And -- and I'm -- this is going to sound</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p>	<p>1 get us to our 50-employee goal and our actual</p> <p>2 payroll as well. We're finalizing those steps</p> <p>3 now.</p> <p>4 We're hoping, in 2025, that we'll be able</p> <p>5 to open that distribution in the beginning of</p> <p>6 the year. And that's going from Texas all the</p> <p>7 way to Florida. So that's originally why the</p> <p>8 plant was built down here to support</p> <p>9 nationwide distribution.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>11 At what point do you intend to</p> <p>12 reintroduce the health benefits to your</p> <p>13 employees?</p> <p>14 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>15 They've been reintroduced.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>17 They have been?</p> <p>18 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>19 Yes, sir.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>21 When were they?</p> <p>22 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>23 In 2023.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>25 In 2023?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p>

<p>1 MR. TWILLEY: 2 Yes, sir. 3 MR. WHEELIS: 4 Okay. Is a portion of that premium 5 company paid or is that all employee paid? 6 MR. TWILLEY: 7 It is employee paid. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 And that -- okay. How does that -- how 10 did that save you money if it was employee 11 paid? 12 MR. TWILLEY: 13 It was a -- I don't know, it was just a 14 plan. We didn't actually have any -- we 15 offered it and they didn't take any of the 16 benefits. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 I'm sorry? 19 MR. TWILLEY: 20 So we offered it, but they didn't take 21 any of the benefits. 22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 Oh, so the employees did not take 24 advantage of the benefits, so you didn't see 25 any reason to continue to offer it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p>	<p>1 Okay. Let's drill down on that just a 2 little bit. So the noncompliant year is 2022? 3 MR. TWILLEY: 4 Yes, sir. 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 When did you cancel the health benefits? 7 MR. TWILLEY: 8 Oh, they just, they weren't offered in 9 2022. 10 CHAIRMAN JONES: 11 I know, but you offered it in 2020, 12 right? I mean, when you started, when you 13 started the company, did you offer them? 14 MR. TWILLEY: 15 I -- I -- I don't believe they were ever 16 offered. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 So you never offered them, but you don't 19 know whether people were taking advantage -- 20 they couldn't take advantage of them if you 21 didn't offer them; right? 22 MR. TWILLEY: 23 Correct. 24 SENATOR MIZELL: 25 Could I ask something about the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p>
<p>1 MR. WHEELIS: 2 Is the contract requirement that it be 3 offered or that the company pay part of it? 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 That's a really good question. 6 MR. USIE: 7 Just that it's offered. And the company 8 certifies that it was offered to employees, 9 not that the employees actually took advantage 10 of it. 11 MR. WHEELIS: 12 Even if it's 100 percent employee funded, 13 that's the requirement? 14 MR. USIE: 15 The requirement just states offered in 16 the Exhibit A. 17 MR. WHEELIS: 18 So you offered it during the years -- 19 MR. TWILLEY: 20 2023. 21 MR. WHEELIS: 22 But had no takers at all? 23 MR. TWILLEY: 24 Correct. 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p>	<p>1 Connecticut? I want to understand a little 2 bit of the connection. You still have a 3 business in Connecticut? 4 MR. TWILLEY: 5 Yes, ma'am. 6 SECRETARY BOURGEOIS: 7 Do they get health insurance, the 8 employees in Connecticut? 9 MR. TWILLEY: 10 I'm not aware. I'm not sure. 11 MR. WHEELIS: 12 You're one company or -- 13 MR. TWILLEY: 14 We're two separate companies. It's two 15 different LLCs, but we're under the same DBA, 16 same brand name. 17 MR. REMEDIES: 18 And what year did you come on board with 19 the company? 20 MR. TWILLEY: 21 In 2022. 22 MR. REMEDIES: 23 In 2022. So you've been here for two 24 years? 25 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p>

<p>1 Yes, sir.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>3 Okay. I'm scratching my head over this</p> <p>4 one because, essentially, as I've been, again,</p> <p>5 correct me if my understanding is incorrect or</p> <p>6 incomplete, it sounds like you never offered</p> <p>7 health benefits from the inception. And that,</p> <p>8 to me, is real problematic because that's a --</p> <p>9 guys, that's just a basic requirement of every</p> <p>10 company that signs an ITEP contract. And</p> <p>11 meeting jobs and payroll, I get that, that's</p> <p>12 economy, but this is a health benefit that is</p> <p>13 not an employee cost, it's an employee</p> <p>14 benefit.</p> <p>15 So I'm wrestling with -- we have someone</p> <p>16 who simply refused or failed -- and I don't</p> <p>17 mean to, again, be judgmental, but failed to</p> <p>18 follow the contract. And I don't -- and</p> <p>19 that's such a basic requirement of the</p> <p>20 contract. I don't know how you enter a</p> <p>21 contract of that magnitude without</p> <p>22 understanding the requirements of the</p> <p>23 contract.</p> <p>24 MR. DOSS:</p> <p>25 Mr. Chairman, have you had a situation</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p>	<p>1 benefits, that have certain hours, that meet</p> <p>2 certain basic requirements. Otherwise, we're</p> <p>3 going to be a state of call centers.</p> <p>4 And there's nothing wrong with call</p> <p>5 centers, but they're 30-hour a week jobs with</p> <p>6 no health benefits. And so somebody has got</p> <p>7 to provide health insurance to these people.</p> <p>8 So I'm -- this one is a little tougher for me</p> <p>9 from the perspective because, to me, the</p> <p>10 insurance -- and as Hud points out, it's not a</p> <p>11 matter that you have to provide it for</p> <p>12 everybody, but you're going to have to provide</p> <p>13 it. And making a provision for the insurance</p> <p>14 is, to me, a critical part of the contract.</p> <p>15 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>16 Mr. Chairman?</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>18 Yes.</p> <p>19 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>20 I would like for a little bit of context.</p> <p>21 If they applied in 2020, and I know with my</p> <p>22 business, there were several things during</p> <p>23 that period that we were just looking to keep</p> <p>24 the doors open and be around when the pandemic</p> <p>25 went away. And so I'm not suggesting what</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p>
<p>1 before like this?</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>3 I don't remember one. I don't remember</p> <p>4 one. This is -- that's why I'm wrestling with</p> <p>5 this. This is new to me. Because we -- the</p> <p>6 jobs and payroll, I've been doing this for 16</p> <p>7 years now, but the jobs and payroll, we've</p> <p>8 dealt with the last eight years and I think</p> <p>9 we've learned how to deal with that, but we</p> <p>10 have someone who simply didn't meet the basic</p> <p>11 requirements of the contract. This is brand</p> <p>12 new to me.</p> <p>13 So I'm -- we're all going to figure this</p> <p>14 out together as a Board. But the fate -- and</p> <p>15 this is where, again, my personal bias</p> <p>16 perhaps, but one of the requirements, I feel</p> <p>17 this way under Quality Jobs, I feel this way</p> <p>18 under this portion of the ITEP contracts, it's</p> <p>19 not just about a benefit to the company. One</p> <p>20 of the things we're asking from the company is</p> <p>21 that you provide good jobs to our employees.</p> <p>22 We hope you're employing Louisiana people and</p> <p>23 you're going to provide these jobs to our</p> <p>24 Louisiana people. We hope you're going to</p> <p>25 provide jobs that are quality jobs that have</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p>	<p>1 they did or their intentions were good, but if</p> <p>2 we take that into context that they make this</p> <p>3 application and they began to hire people and</p> <p>4 then COVID hits, and then they have to try to</p> <p>5 figure out how they can just weather the storm</p> <p>6 long enough. And then also one other thing</p> <p>7 that I'd like to mention is that, in 2022,</p> <p>8 they did begin to offer the benefits.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>10 2023.</p> <p>11 MR. TWILLEY:</p> <p>12 Yes, sir.</p> <p>13 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>14 Oh, it was '23. So some time period,</p> <p>15 they did offer the benefits.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>17 But they're not up for compliance in</p> <p>18 2023.</p> <p>19 MR. REMEDIES:</p> <p>20 Yeah.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p>22 This is 2021 and '22. They had three</p> <p>23 years. And I get it, Mr. Remedies, I agree</p> <p>24 with you. On the COVID stuff, I get the</p> <p>25 impact on jobs and payroll. That makes sense</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p>

<p>1 to me. But not offering the basic benefit 2 that has no cost to the company -- 3 MR. REMEDIES: 4 Yeah, yeah. That's -- 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 -- that's problematic. 7 MR. WHEELIS: 8 And was it a known issue at the 9 beginning? 10 CHAIRMAN JONES: 11 Or should have been. And I understand -- 12 I forget your last name again. 13 MR. TWILLEY: 14 Twilley. 15 CHAIRMAN JONES: 16 I'm sorry, Mr. Twilley. Mr. Twilley was 17 not there in 2020; is that correct? 18 MR. TWILLEY: 19 Correct. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 So he took over an organization that 22 apparently, never offered the benefit. And 23 the people who were there are not here today. 24 We don't know why they chose not to offer the 25 benefits or why they apparently bothered not</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p>	<p>1 Your relationship to the Connecticut 2 company -- 3 MR. TWILLEY: 4 It's just family, family-based family 5 company. 6 CHAIRMAN JONES: 7 Got it. 8 MR. WHEELIS: 9 Payroll is there for them? 10 MR. TWILLEY: 11 Correct. 12 MR. WHEELIS: 13 Here for you. 14 MR. TWILLEY: 15 That's correct. 16 MR. WHEELIS: 17 And so it has no bearing on the one in 18 Connecticut? 19 MR. TWILLEY: 20 It was just a decision to protect the 21 brand. So instead of going after the entire 22 regional distribution from Texas to Oklahoma, 23 we decided to control growth and learn the 24 manufacturing process in Louisiana and grow 25 the business organically using Louisiana local</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p>
<p>1 to read the contract, but that's where we are. 2 MR. WHEELIS: 3 First confusion, settle the ownership of 4 Connecticut company and Louisiana company, are 5 they partners or sisters? 6 MR. TWILLEY: 7 Well, it's a sister facility. 8 MR. WHEELIS: 9 You're what? 10 MR. TWILLEY: 11 It's a sister facility. 12 MR. WHEELIS: 13 So they have no ownership in your 14 company? 15 MR. TWILLEY: 16 No, they do not. 17 CHAIRMAN JONES: 18 This is a Louisiana-owned. 19 MR. TWILLEY: 20 It's Louisiana-owned. 21 CHAIRMAN JONES: 22 Louisiana-owned. 23 MR. TWILLEY: 24 Yes, sir. 25 CHAIRMAN JONES:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p>	<p>1 customers. So that's why we chose Rouse's as 2 our first customer. 3 CHAIRMAN JONES: 4 Mr. Miller? 5 MR. MILLER: 6 With that being said, to grow, can you -- 7 I think you said it earlier, but there's been 8 a lot of discussion, but it might have been 9 forgotten. Can you tell us what the 10 conditions, I guess, of your company are 11 today, the growth rate, stability, number of 12 employees, payroll, things like that, 13 expectation going forward? 14 MR. TWILLEY: 15 Yes. So we had, in 2022, we had 8 16 employees and about \$208,000 in payroll. In 17 '23, we've grown that to 17 with about 350. 18 And now in 2024, we're up to 20 employees 19 with, hopefully, continued growth up to 50 20 employees in 2025, but that's all contingent 21 on the certification that we need to get to 22 allow distribution for Whole Foods, which is 23 why the facility was built down here. So 24 that's the reasoning behind such the small 25 numbers and small growth.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p>

<p>1 CHAIRMAN JONES: 2 Okay. What is the pleasure of the Board? 3 Ms. Simmons, we still have a quorum, 4 don't we? 5 MS. SIMMONS: 6 Uh-huh. 7 MR. AMOSS: 8 I'll make a motion to reduce the term by 9 one year. 10 CHAIRMAN JONES: 11 Okay. We have a motion by Mr. Amoss to 12 approve but reduce the term by one year. We 13 have a second from Mr. Moss. And whatever the 14 decision of the Board, please understand that 15 you will be required to have health insurance 16 from now on. 17 MR. TWILLEY: 18 Yes, sir. 19 CHAIRMAN JONES: 20 It's not made -- has not been made 21 abundantly clear, you know, because that what 22 your -- your future compliance reports will 23 still require that reporting, so. 24 MR. AMOSS: 25 My thought process is it's great that the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p>	<p>1 period. The Exhibit A for the contract 2 requires the company create and maintain 50 3 jobs with \$2,100,000 in payroll. The actual 4 jobs and payroll created and maintained was 13 5 jobs and \$721,750 in payroll. The filing was 6 also received late. It was due April 30, 7 2023, but not received until June 29, 2023, 8 upon notice of the missed deadline by LED. 9 The Parish, the Sheriff, and the City did 10 not respond with recommendations. The school 11 board sent in a recommendation stating to not 12 penalize and have the exemption remain in 13 place. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 Do we have someone here from ToMakk Glass 16 Partners? Please state your name and position 17 for the company, please. 18 MR. HARGETT: 19 My name is Clay Hargett and I'm the Sales 20 Manager in Product Development at Glaz-Tech 21 Industries in Shreveport. Formerly, the 22 company was ToMakk Glass Partners when the 23 application was initially filed and then 24 approved, but we recently got acquired by 25 Glaz-Tech Industries, who also has a location</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p>
<p>1 company is growing now. But I agree with you, 2 Mr. Chairman, that not offering the health 3 insurance benefits from the beginning is a 4 real issue and it goes to the core of this 5 program for Louisiana. 6 CHAIRMAN JONES: 7 Thank you, Mr. Amoss. 8 All right. We have a motion and a 9 second. Any other questions or comments from 10 the Board? 11 Hearing none, any comments from the 12 public? 13 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 14 ALL: 15 Aye. 16 CHAIRMAN JONES: 17 Any opposition? 18 There is none, the motion carries. Thank 19 you, Mr. Twilley. 20 MR. TWILLEY: 21 Thank you. 22 MR. USIE: 23 Next, we have one contract, 20190204 for 24 ToMakk Glass Partners, LLC in Caddo Parish 25 that is noncompliant for the 2022 reporting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p>	<p>1 in Baton Rouge. They're a larger competitor 2 and we transferred the -- our eligibility in 3 the program to Glaz-Tech. 4 CHAIRMAN JONES: 5 Okay. Thank you for that explanation. 6 And, obviously, you make glass, but what is 7 your -- you make plate glass? 8 MR. HARGETT: 9 Yeah, thanks for asking. We're a glass 10 fabricator. Our model is business to 11 business. We make temporary safety glass, 12 insulated glass units, and heavy frame-less 13 shower enclosures. And our location in 14 Shreveport is the first location to temper 15 safety glass in the history of northwest 16 Louisiana, and they compete against some 17 really large companies out of Dallas. 18 To put it into perspective, there's 14 or 19 15 tempering ovens in Dallas and there's one 20 in northwest Louisiana. And they know we're 21 there. That's for sure. 22 CHAIRMAN JONES: 23 All right. So tell me what happened 24 between 2021 and 2022. 25 MR. HARGETT:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p>

<p>1 Well, you see there, we had about 13 jobs 2 of the initial 50. And so when we filed 3 Exhibit A, that was precoded. We started the 4 company as COVID was hitting China. 5 So then, as you mentioned earlier, 6 Mr. Jones, manufacturing is all about 7 efficiency and agility and staying alive and 8 manufacturing and that's what we did to 9 weather the storm. We were reevaluating the 10 total jobs that we thought we could be 11 successful with and keep the doors open. And 12 so we think the number is going to be around 13 30 to 35. 14 The last two years in a row, we've had 30 15 to 35 on any given day on staff. And we filed 16 north of 35 in terms of W2s each year. The 17 problem is, the reason we have 13 recorded for 18 2023 is the turnover. We had a lot of 19 turnover. There's another Board Member that 20 asked about stability of the labor pool and, 21 you know, we battled that for quite a bit. 22 2022 and 2023, seen a lot more stability 23 in the labor pool in Caddo Parish right now. 24 Many of our employees went to school in the 25 parish and they live really right around the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p>	<p>1 in total payroll. And the fact that we were 2 acquired by a company who has another location 3 in Baton Rouge, that makes two locations from 4 one company in Louisiana. And these products 5 service companies like Gator Millwork, and 6 we've sold them some glass over time, a great 7 company and great partner to do business with. 8 And just so you guys know, the millwork 9 niche of the construction economy, you know, 10 the millwork that comes out of Baton Rouge and 11 New Orleans, it's shipped nationwide. It's 12 really interesting type of work and it's very 13 high-end type of products. And it takes a 14 company that can pay attention to detail and 15 hire the right people and educate them and 16 instill the right values in them to take 17 ownership in their work and look for quality 18 control and be responsible and make good 19 decisions day in and day out. They can make 20 products to stand up for projects like Gator 21 Millworks puts in play. 22 And so, you know, it's definitely been a 23 grind, especially combating the instability of 24 the labor pool. But like I said, as of this 25 year, we're seeing a lot more stability in the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p>
<p>1 corner. We're positioned in a neighborhood 2 called Southern Hills in Shreveport. And so, 3 I will say that we when we approached the 4 taxing entities for the 2023 noncompliance, 5 one of the positive things about -- there's 6 many positive things about the ITEP program, 7 but one is it brings the narrative of industry 8 to the local taxing bodies, and those boards 9 are sometimes composed of lay people and/or 10 professionals. And it really helps educate 11 the community and to spur the local economy. 12 Even though we're getting a tax 13 incentive, it really brings the community 14 together and helps to fortify the local 15 economy. But, clearly, this Board and the 16 Legislators saw that in this program that I'm 17 kind of living proof that it's there. So we 18 had great conversations with the school board. 19 They were very supportive of our story and 20 where we are today. And I think that -- I'm 21 pretty confident in terms of where we are 22 today. 23 We're going to revise Exhibit A and 24 resubmit for about 35 jobs, and that will put 25 us somewhere around a million and a half or so</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p>	<p>1 labor pool. We're pretty confident our 2 revised total jobs will be 35 so that we can 3 be compliant going forward with this 4 post-COVID model. And that's pretty much the 5 story today. 6 CHAIRMAN JONES: 7 Very good. Thank you. I'm glad to hear 8 you're looking to amend the contract. It 9 looks like, based on what you're telling me, 10 that that's the right move and that happens. 11 So I think that's an appropriate move. 12 So you've heard the story to the Board, 13 is there any questions from the Board of 14 Mr. Hargett? 15 Do we have a motion? 16 REPRESENTATIVE ST. BLANC: 17 I make a motion. 18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 A motion to approve without penalty, Mr. 20 St. Blanc, a second from Mr. Remedies. Any 21 questions or comments from the Board? 22 Hearing none, any comments from the 23 public? 24 Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. 25 ALL:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p>

<p>1 Aye. 2 CHAIRMAN JONES: 3 Any opposition? 4 There is none, the motion carries. 5 MR. HARGETT: 6 Many thanks. 7 CHAIRMAN JONES: 8 Thank you. Appreciate your work. 9 MR. HARGETT: 10 Thank you. 11 MR. USIE: 12 Last, we have one contract, 20190281 for 13 Tri-State Industries of Louisiana, LLC in 14 Rapides Parish that is noncompliant for the 15 2022 and 2023 reporting periods. The Exhibit 16 A for the contract requires the company to 17 retain 23 jobs with \$751,164 in payroll. The 18 2022 reporting period, the actual jobs and 19 payroll created -- payroll maintained was 18 20 jobs with \$783,727 in payroll. The filing was 21 also received late. It was due April 30th of 22 2023, but not received until June 29, 2023, 23 upon notification by LED of the missed 24 deadline. For the 2023 reporting period, the 25 company did not file their annual compliance</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p>	<p>1 was over this project was unaware and had been 2 working with LED throughout the 2023 season 3 and has been going back and forth on whether 4 or not they were checking the right box and 5 paying the penalties and trying to move 6 forward and making sure that we were doing 7 everything on time for this. 8 CHAIRMAN JONES: 9 Okay. That explains the late filing. 10 Going back to our earlier point, Hud, on this 11 one, I see in 2023, they have not received -- 12 MR. USIE: 13 They have submitted it since. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 They have submitted it now. Do we still 16 have a job and payroll compliance issue? 17 MR. USIE: 18 Yes. They met the jobs. They've had 23 19 jobs with \$1,034,144 in payroll. 20 CHAIRMAN JONES: 21 Okay. 22 MR. USIE: 23 So they were compliant. 24 CHAIRMAN JONES: 25 Okay. So, essentially, we have a jobs</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p>
<p>1 by the April 30, 2024 deadline. 2 CHAIRMAN JONES: 3 Thank you. Do we have anybody here from 4 Tri-State Industries? 5 MR. SMITH: 6 Good morning. 7 CHAIRMAN JONES: 8 State your name. 9 MR. SMITH: 10 Robert Smith, Tri-State Industries, 11 General Manager. 12 CHAIRMAN JONES: 13 I'm sorry, sir, your name? 14 MR. SMITH: 15 Robert Smith. 16 CHAIRMAN JONES: 17 Robert Smith. Okay, Mr. Smith. Great. 18 Tell us what's going on here, Mr. Smith, in 19 2022 and 2023. 20 MR. SMITH: 21 In '22, '23, the owner of the company 22 where all these emails were directed to has 23 retired since then. We were unaware that 24 they were going directly to him and have since 25 rectified this issue. Now, the person that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p>	<p>1 and -- a jobs problem, not a payroll problem 2 in 2022; is that correct? 3 MR. USIE: 4 Yes. 5 CHAIRMAN JONES: 6 And then in 2023, late filing, but they 7 have met jobs and payroll? 8 MR. USIE: 9 Yes. 10 CHAIRMAN JONES: 11 Is that accurate? 12 MR. USIE: 13 Yes. 14 CHAIRMAN JONES: 15 Good. That helps me get it clear in my 16 mind. All right. 17 MR. MILLER: 18 What's your payroll, I mean current job 19 count and payroll? 20 MR. SMITH: 21 Yes, sir, we're at 33 jobs this year, and 22 current payroll should be around 1.5. 23 MR. MILLER: 24 All right. 25 MR. SMITH:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p>

<p>1 We're a steel manufacturing company. We 2 are direct support for a tank car industry 3 that moved out of Chicago. And through that 4 time, through 2019 through '22, unknowing to 5 us, they changed their business model and 6 closed one of their manufacturing facilities 7 down in Houston. Luckily, they kept the one 8 in Alexandria opened, which allowed us to just 9 further support them.</p> <p>10 And that's what we've been doing and 11 attempting to continue to build up and support 12 them in this ever-changing environment of 13 manufacturing. Since then, like this past 14 year, we've just put in over a \$1.2 million 15 piece of equipment to help further drive down 16 our costs, drive up technology in our area and 17 grow our community.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN JONES: 19 Thank you, Mr. Smith. Do we have any 20 other questions from the Board? 21 I'll entertain a motion from the Board. 22 A motion? Senator Mizell moves to take -- 23 approve and to take no action; second, 24 Mr. Remedies. Any questions or comments from 25 the Board?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p>	<p>1 MS. VILLA: 2 Sure. Good morning and, Anne Villa, 3 Deputy Secretary for LED representing 4 Secretary Bourgeois, who is unable to attend. 5 First, I'd like to thank, you know, it goes -- 6 a lot goes into these Board meetings, Members 7 of business and industry that come and 8 represent what's going on, the status of your 9 businesses, thank you all for taking the time 10 out of your busy day to come present to the 11 Board. As you can see from the discussions we 12 had today, it's very helpful for us to have a 13 true understanding of what's going on in your 14 business and what you've been faced with. So 15 thank you all for being here.</p> <p>16 And especially thanks to the program 17 administrators and our legal team and for all 18 of you Board Members attending. A lot goes 19 into preparing these meetings, and I'm most 20 thankful for the team that we have at LED. 21 So just a couple of things to highlight, 22 the next Rules Committee meeting will be on 23 Thursday, November 14th starting at 1:30 in 24 this room, so just please mark your calendar 25 for that. We've made a lot of progress during</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p>
<p>1 Hearing none, any comments from the 2 public? 3 There being none, all in favor, say aye. 4 ALL: 5 Aye.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN JONES: 7 Any opposition? 8 There is none, the motion carries. Thank 9 you for what you're doing for Central 10 Louisiana.</p> <p>11 MR. SMITH: 12 Thank you for your time, guys.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN JONES: 14 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to have 15 to bug out. I have a plane to catch. Mr. 16 Miller is going to take over to take any final 17 business and any reports from LED. I look 18 forward to seeing y'all at the next meeting.</p> <p>19 MR. MILLER: 20 Next thing, any other business? Does 21 anybody have anything else to bring before the 22 Board? 23 Thank you very much. 24 Ms. Villa, would you like to give the LED 25 report?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p>	<p>1 the last several months on the rules. And 2 there's going to be some presentations that 3 are going to be had. So please mark your 4 calendars for Thursday, November 14th starting 5 at 1:30 in this room for the Rules Committee.</p> <p>6 Also, additionally, our next Board 7 meeting was rescheduled to Thursday, 8 December 12th starting at 1:30 in this room. 9 Again, Thursday, December 12th instead of 10 Wednesday, December 4th. So please mark your 11 calendars now for those two upcoming meetings. 12 Ms. Deborah will reach out to you and make 13 sure that you're able to attend.</p> <p>14 Since our August meeting, Governor Landry 15 announced the LEDP Advisory Board Members, 16 which is a private sector advisory board 17 charged with developing a strategic plan in 18 advising on policies, programs, and 19 initiatives that promote economic growth in 20 the State. And I can't help but always 21 acknowledge Senator Mizell when she's anywhere 22 around me, thankful for the Bill that she 23 presented, and we were successful in 24 positioning Louisiana to win. And so this 25 Board, Advisory Board is one of the items that</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p>

<p>1 was in that Senate Bill.</p> <p>2 And so we had a meeting, a current</p> <p>3 meeting that took place, I think, last month</p> <p>4 and we're moving forward with that strategic</p> <p>5 plan. And we're hopeful to have our guiding</p> <p>6 light soon for the Department so that we will</p> <p>7 begin to execute on that strategic plan.</p> <p>8 So in addition, there's been several</p> <p>9 project announcements that have occurred in</p> <p>10 the State. Just to name a couple, we have Mid</p> <p>11 South Extrusion, which is a flexible film and</p> <p>12 bag manufacturer. And they're investing</p> <p>13 \$17 million in its facility in Ouachita</p> <p>14 Parish. And then also, the company expects to</p> <p>15 create 21 new direct jobs, while retaining</p> <p>16 189.</p> <p>17 And then also, recently, we had Woodland</p> <p>18 Biofuels announced a plan, \$1.35 billion</p> <p>19 investment and expects to create 110 direct</p> <p>20 jobs at the Port of south Louisiana to</p> <p>21 establish one of the world's largest renewable</p> <p>22 biofuels production facilities. And then,</p> <p>23 additionally, we had our Lantern Awards that</p> <p>24 were held on the eve of National Manufacturing</p> <p>25 Day. And Secretary Bourgeois recognized eight</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p>	<p>1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE</p> <p>2 I, KELLY S. PERRIN, a Certified Court</p> <p>3 Reporter, Certificate #23035, in good standing with</p> <p>4 the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom</p> <p>5 this meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the</p> <p>6 foregoing 143 pages;</p> <p>7 That this testimony was reported by me in</p> <p>8 stenographic machine shorthand by Computer-Aided</p> <p>9 Transcription, transcribed by me or under my</p> <p>10 personal direction and supervision, and is a true</p> <p>11 and correct transcript to the best of my ability</p> <p>12 and understanding;</p> <p>13 That the transcript has been prepared in</p> <p>14 compliance with transcript format guidelines</p> <p>15 required by statute or by rules of the Board, that</p> <p>16 I have acted in compliance with the prohibition on</p> <p>17 contractual relationships, as defined by Louisiana</p> <p>18 Code of Civil Procedure Article 1434 and in rules</p> <p>19 and advisory opinions of the Board; that I am not</p> <p>20 of counsel nor related to any person participating</p> <p>21 in this cause and am in no way interested in the</p> <p>22 outcome of this event.</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p>
<p>1 manufacturers across our State for those that</p> <p>2 demonstrated excellence, innovation, and</p> <p>3 community service during the 45th Annual</p> <p>4 Lantern Awards reception at the Capitol</p> <p>5 Complex that we had on Thursday, October 3rd.</p> <p>6 So just wanted to, again, thank you all</p> <p>7 for coming today. And if you have any</p> <p>8 questions of me, I'm happy to answer as I can.</p> <p>9 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>10 Questions or comments for, Ms. Villa?</p> <p>11 MS. VILLA:</p> <p>12 Great.</p> <p>13 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>14 All right. Thank you very much.</p> <p>15 Anything else? One last chance, even though</p> <p>16 we've already done it once.</p> <p>17 All right. I'll take a motion.</p> <p>18 Entertain a motion to adjourn. I'm sorry.</p> <p>19 MR. NASSAR:</p> <p>20 Nassar.</p> <p>21 MR. MILLER:</p> <p>22 Mr. Nassar and Mayor Toups. With that</p> <p>23 being said, meeting is adjourned.</p> <p>24 (WHEREUPON, THE MEETING ADJOURNED)</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p>	<p>1 This certification is valid only for a</p> <p>2 transcript accompanied by my handwritten or digital</p> <p>3 signature and the image of my State-authorized seal</p> <p>4 on this page.</p> <p>5 Signed:</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 KELLY S. PERRIN,CCR</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p>

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Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure

Article 1445 and 1446

Art. 1445. Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing

When the testimony is fully transcribed the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by him, unless such examination and reading are waived by the witness and by the parties. Any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered upon the deposition by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them. The deposition shall then be signed by the witness unless the parties by stipulation waive the signing or the witness is ill or is absent from the parish where the deposition was taken or cannot be found or refuses to sign. If the deposition is not signed by the witness within thirty days of its submission to him, the officer shall sign it and state on the record the fact of the waiver or of the illness or absence of the witness or the fact of the refusal to sign together with the reason, if any, given therefor; and the deposition may then be used as fully as though signed unless on a motion to suppress under Article 1456 the court holds that

the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part. A video deposition does not have to comply with the requirements of reading and signing by the deponents.

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