

0001

1 MEETING MINUTES FOR THE  
2 BOARD OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
3 OF THE  
4 LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
5 HELD AT  
6 LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
7 8401 UNITED PLAZA BOULEVARD, 4TH FLOOR  
8 LASERS BUILDING  
9 BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
10 ON THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2011  
11 COMMENCING AT 1:35 P.M.

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15 REPORTED BY: ELICIA H. WOODWORTH, CCR

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1 Appearances of Board Members Present:

2 Mayor Ronnie Harris

3 Wilda Smith

4 Millie Atkins

5 R.K. Mehrotra

6 Bryan Bossier

7 Steve Windham

8 Gordon Burgess

9 Charles Soprano

10 Jerald Jones

11 Lance Belcher

12 Gale Potts Roque

13 Andre Fruge

14 Richard Lipsey

15 Jeffrey Elmore

16 Richard Gonsoulin  
17 Steven Grissom  
18 Tammy Woods  
19 Kevin Langley

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21 Staff members present:

22 Melissa Sorrell

23 Frank Favaloro

24 Sajni Patel

25 Marylyn Friedkin

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1 Staff Members present (cont'd):

2 Lori Weber

3 Brenda Guess

4 Danielle Clapinski

5 Rick Broussard

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0004

1 MAYOR HARRIS:

2 Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I would  
3 like to call this meeting of the State of  
4 Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry  
5 Board to order.

6 I would like to ask Ms. Sorrell to

7 please call the roll.

8 MS. SORRELL:

9 Tammy Woods for Governor Jindal.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. SORRELL:

12 Steve Windham for Lieutenant Governor.

13 MR. WINDHAM:

14 Here.

15 MS. SORRELL:

16 Millie Atkins.

17 MS. ATKINS:

18 I'm here.

19 MS. SORRELL:

20 Lance Belcher.

21 MR. BUTLER:

22 Here.

23 MS. SORRELL:

24 Brian Bossier.

25 (No response.)

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1 MS. SORRELL:

2 Gordon Burgess.

3 MR. BURGESS:

4 Here.

5 MS. SORRELL:

6 Mark Delesdenier.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SORRELL:

9 Jeffrey Elmore.

10 MR. ELMORE:

11 Here.

12 MS. SORRELL:

13 Mayor Ronnie Harris.

14 MAYOR HARRIS:

15 Present.

16 MS. SORRELL:

17 Jerald Jones.

18 MR. JONES:

19 Here.

20 MS. SORRELL:

21 William King.

22 MR. KING:

23 Here.

24 MS. SORRELL:  
25 Kevin Langley.

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1 MR. LANGLEY:  
2 Here.

3 MS. SORRELL:  
4 Richard Lipsey.

5 MR. LIPSEY:  
6 Here.

7 MS. SORRELL:  
8 R.K. Mehrotra.

9 MR. MEHROTRA:  
10 Here.

11 MS. SORRELL:  
12 Steven Grissom for Secretary Moret.

13 MR. GRISSOM:  
14 Here.

15 MS. SORRELL:  
16 Ms. Gale Potts-Roque.

17 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:  
18 Here.

19 MS. SORRELL:  
20 Wilda Smith.

21 MS. SMITH:  
22 Here.

23 MS. SORRELL:  
24 Charles Soprano.

25 MR. SOPRANO:

0007

1 Here.

2 MS. SORRELL:  
3 We have a quorum.

4 MAYOR HARRIS:  
5 A quorum having been established, ladies  
6 and gentlemen, I would like to entertain a  
7 motion for approval of the minutes for  
8 October 25th, 2011.

9 MR. LIPSEY:  
10 I move.

11 MAYOR HARRIS:  
12 Mr. Lipsey moves, and Mr. King seconds.  
13 All in favor, signify by saying "aye".  
14 (Several members respond "aye".)

15 MAYOR HARRIS:

16 All those opposed.

17 (No response.)

18 MAYOR HARRIS:

19 So ordered.

20 We'll move to Mr. Frank Favaloro's

21 report for the Quality Jobs Program.

22 MR. FAVALORO:

23 Yes, sir. I have three Quality Jobs

24 applications: BK Manufacturing, Inc. in

25 Orleans Parish, Galata Chemicals in St.

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1 Charles and Cheniere LNG O&M Services, LLC

2 in Cameron Parish.

3 That concludes the applications.

4 MAYOR HARRIS:

5 Looks like it doesn't take much to reach

6 six billion dollars in investments. Is

7 there a motion to approve?

8 MS. POTTS-ROQUE:

9 So moved.

10 MAYOR HARRIS:

11 Moved by Ms. Gale Potts-Roque. Second

12 by Ms. Smith.

13 Any discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 MAYOR HARRIS:

16 All of these in favor, signify by saying

17 "aye".

18 (Several members respond "aye".)

19 MAYOR HARRIS:

20 All of these opposed.

21 (No response.)

22 MAYOR HARRIS:

23 So ordered and approved.

24 MR. FAVALORO:

25 I have two renewal applications:

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1 051110, Terra Mississippi Nitrogen, Inc. in

2 Ascension Parish and 062464, Spectra Energy

3 Operating, LLC in St. Landry.

4 That concludes the renewals.

5 MAYOR HARRIS:

6 For the renewals for the Quality Jobs  
7 Program, do I have a motion?  
8 Ms. Millie Atkins moves. We have a second  
9 by Mr. Fruge.

10 Any discussion?

11 (No response.)

12 MAYOR HARRIS:

13 All of these in favor signify by saying  
14 "aye".

15 (Several members respond "aye".)

16 MAYOR HARRIS:

17 All of those opposed.

18 (No response.)

19 MAYOR HARRIS:

20 So approved.

21 MR. FAVALORO:

22 I have three requests for change of  
23 ownership through the Quality Jobs Program:  
24 2002-0599 K-Tek Corporation to ABB, Inc. in  
25 Ascension Parish; 2009-0917, Patriot

0010  
1 Proppants, LLC to Unimin Corporation in  
2 Webster; and 2002-0181 Liquid Container, LP  
3 to Graham Packaging LC, LP in Tangipahoa.

4 That concludes the changes in ownership.

5 MAYOR HARRIS:

6 We have a motion for changes of  
7 ownership by Mr. King, second by Ms. Smith.

8 Any discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 MAYOR HARRIS:

11 All of these in favor, signify by saying  
12 "aye".

13 (Several members respond "aye".)

14 MAYOR HARRIS:

15 All of these opposed.

16 (No response.)

17 MAYOR HARRIS:

18 So approved.

19 MR. FAVALORA:

20 I believe I have five changes in names,  
21 not six as illustrated on the cover page:  
22 062000 NuComm International US, Inc. to

23 Transcom Worldwide US, Inc. in Lafayette;  
24 2002-0181, Liquid Container, LP to Graham  
25 Packaging LC, LP in Tangipahoa; 05110 Terra

0011

1 Mississippi Nitrogen, Inc. to CF Industries,  
2 Inc. in Ascension; 062464 Spectra Energy  
3 Operating, LLC to Spectra Energy Operating  
4 Company, LLC in St. Landry; 2002-0599, K-Tek  
5 Corp to ABB, Inc. in Ascension Parish.

6 That concludes the changes in name.

7 MAYOR HARRIS:

8 Okay. Just note the last one, is  
9 scratched?

10 MR. FAVALORO:

11 There's a sixth one on there.

12 MR. JONES:

13 2008-0822.

14 MR. FAVALORO:

15 Okay. Apparently I got an old copy.

16 2008-0822, Burcen Inc., a division of  
17 Cranston Print Works Company to Cranston  
18 Print Works Company in Livingston.

19 MAYOR HARRIS:

20 Okay. For the six changes of names, is  
21 there a motion?

22 We have a motion by Mr. Jones, second by  
23 Ms. Atkins.

24 All those in favor, signify by saying  
25 "aye".

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1 (Several members respond "aye".)

2 MAYOR HARRIS:

3 All those opposed.

4 (No response.)

5 MAYOR HARRIS:

6 So approved. Thank very much,  
7 Mr. Favaloro.

8 Ms. Sajni Patel for Restoration Tax  
9 Abatement Program.

10 MS. PATEL:

11 I have nine applications: 060228, David  
12 Mize, Owner in Orleans Parish; 20100008,  
13 Deborah West Brown, Orleans Parish;

14 20100670, Liberty Place Apartments, LLC in  
15 Orleans Parish; 20100671, Liberty Place  
16 Apartments, LLC in Orleans Parish; 20100672,  
17 Liberty Place Apartments, LLC in Orleans  
18 Parish; 20100673, Liberty Place Apartments,  
19 LLC in Orleans Parish; 20100674, Liberty  
20 Place Apartments, LLC in Orleans Parish;  
21 20101021, Ignace J. Tanner in Orleans  
22 Parish; and 20110876, Joshua P. Carlson in  
23 St. Martinville.

24 MAYOR HARRIS:

25 Okay. Representing three-million

0013  
1 dollars of investments, these nine  
2 applications are up for approval. Is there  
3 a motion?

4 We have a motion by Mr. Fruge, a second  
5 by Mr. Windham.

6 Any discussion?

7 (No response.)

8 MAYOR HARRIS:

9 All of these in favor, signify by saying  
10 "aye".

11 (Several members respond "aye".)

12 MAYOR HARRIS:

13 All of those opposed.

14 (No response.)

15 MAYOR HARRIS:

16 So ordered and approved.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. PATEL:

19 Thank you.

20 MAYOR HARRIS:

21 Enterprise Zone Program, Ms. Marylyn  
22 Friedkin.

23 MS. FRIEDKIN:

24 There are 17 applications: AFC  
25 Enterprises Incorporated in Orleans; Doerle

0014  
1 Food Services, LLC in Caddo; Dynamic Tower  
2 Services, Inc. in Lafayette; Family Asthma  
3 Allergy and Immunology Clinic, LLC in  
4 Jefferson; Huey P's Pizzeria, LLC in

5 Jefferson; KS Hotels Associates, LLC, doing  
6 business as Homewood Suites in Lafayette;  
7 Max Foods - West Park, LLC, doing business  
8 as McDonalds in Terrebonne; Melvin  
9 Entertainment, Incorporated, doing business  
10 as Chuck E. Cheese Number 3225 in Ouachita;  
11 Pre, Incorporated, doing business as Chateau  
12 De Bayou in Lafayette; Rouse's Enterprises,  
13 LLC, doing business as Rouse's Supermarket  
14 Store Number 24 in Iberia; Sam's East,  
15 Incorporated, doing business as Sam's Club  
16 Number 8181 in Rapides; Target Hospitality,  
17 LLC in DeSoto; Turner Industries Group, LLC  
18 in East Baton Rouge; Twin Brothers Marine,  
19 LLC in St. Mary; Walmart Louisiana, LLC,  
20 doing business as Walmart Neighborhood  
21 Market Number 5832 in St. Tammany; Walmart  
22 Louisiana, LLC, doing business as Walmart  
23 Store Number 909 in St. Bernard; and Walmart  
24 Louisiana, LLC, doing business as Walmart  
25 Supercenter Number 876 in Sabine.

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1 MAYOR HARRIS:

2 Okay. The 17 applications representing  
3 over 103-million dollars in investments. Is  
4 there a motion to approve?

5 Ms. Gale Potts-Roque, and Ms. Wilda  
6 Smith seconds.

7 All those in favor, signify by saying  
8 "aye".

9 (Several members respond "aye".)

10 MAYOR HARRIS:

11 All of these opposed.  
12 (No response.)

13 MAYOR HARRIS:

14 So done. Thank you.

15 MS. FRIEDKIN:

16 There are two applications that need  
17 cancelation: Application Number 060509,  
18 Cottonport Monofill, LLC. That application  
19 was approved in June of 2010. The contract  
20 has never been signed, and then the company  
21 requested cancelation because the hiring

22 requirements could not be met; and then we  
23 have Application Number 062253, Fiberglass  
24 Solutions, LLC. The application was  
25 approved in April of 2008. The signed

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1 contract have never been returned, and the  
2 company has closed.

3 MAYOR HARRIS:

4 Okay. For cancellations, is there a  
5 motion?

6 Mr. King moves. We have a second by  
7 President Burgess.

8 All in favor of the cancelations,  
9 signify by saying "aye".

10 (Several members respond "aye".)

11 MAYOR HARRIS:

12 All of those opposed.

13 (No response.)

14 MAYOR HARRIS:

15 So approved.

16 MS. FRIEDKIN:

17 Thank you.

18 I have 22 Walgreens Louisiana Company,  
19 Incorporated that needs to be canceled per  
20 the request of the company: Contract Number  
21 20000403, Contract Number 20010562, Contract  
22 Number 200105 --

23 MR. JONES:

24 Excuse me.

25 MAYOR HARRIS:

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1 Ms. Friedkin, I have a point raised by  
2 Mr. Jones.

3 MS. FRIEDKIN:

4 Yes, sir?

5 MR. JONES:

6 Can we forego by reading all of the  
7 numbers and we can accept them as they are.

8 I have a question about the Winn Dixie ones,  
9 but I would make a motion that we accept

10 these --

11 MAYOR HARRIS:

12 It's been moved to accept the written

13 report for that cancelation of the Walgreens  
14 and seconded by Mr. Elmore.

15 All of favor, signify by saying "aye".  
16 (Several members respond "aye".)

17 MAYOR HARRIS:

18 All of those opposed.  
19 (No response.)

20 MAYOR HARRIS:

21 Okay. Save some voice.

22 MR. JONES:

23 My question about Winn Dixie -- is that  
24 next?

25 MS. FRIEDKIN:

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1 Yes, sir. There's 27 of them.

2 MR. JONES:

3 There's 27, but what I don't understand  
4 is why the last one, the company requested  
5 cancelations, but the other ones doesn't  
6 appear to be the company requesting  
7 cancelation.

8 MS. FRIEDKIN:

9 This one is the distribution center, and  
10 they requested it.

11 MR. JONES:

12 All right.

13 MS. FRIEDKIN:

14 You know, they're just kind of two  
15 different companies, the distribution center  
16 and the supermarkets.

17 MR. JONES:

18 Okay. It just looked odd that there was  
19 several Winn Dixies, but it's not a  
20 supermarket at all; that one is actually  
21 the distribution center?

22 MS. FRIEDKIN:

23 Yes, sir. The one in Hammond.

24 MR. JONES:

25 That's 060389?

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1 MS. FRIEDKIN:

2 Yes, sir.

3 MAYOR HARRIS:

4 Mr. Jones, your motion would be?

5 MR. JONES:

6 To accept all of the Winn Dixie  
7 cancelations.

8 MAYOR HARRIS:

9 Is there a second? Second by  
10 Mr. Elmore.

11 Any discussions or concerns?

12 MS. ATKINS:

13 I have a question.

14 MAYOR HARRIS:

15 Yes.

16 MS. ATKINS:

17 My question is in reference to the  
18 hiring requirements were not met, were they  
19 not met because they could not find  
20 qualifying employees, or was it that the  
21 company itself did not seek to abide by  
22 the --

23 MS. FRIEDKIN:

24 The company did not seek to make sure  
25 that they were hiring from one of the four

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1 hiring criteria.

2 MS. ATKINS:

3 Okay. Thank you.

4 MAYOR HARRIS:

5 I guess my question is, are you dealing  
6 in 27 or 49 different people, or is it just  
7 one person saying, "Hey, look, we didn't do  
8 this"?

9 MS. FRIEDKIN:

10 Walgreens has one consultant, and Winn  
11 Dixie has another one consultant.

12 MAYOR HARRIS:

13 Okay. My concern is that, you know,  
14 this Board heard all of the requests for  
15 approval at one time of these 49  
16 applications. Somebody's expectations were  
17 raised, and now they're dashed, so I  
18 guess -- I'm not looking for fault, but like  
19 something -- somebody got to do a better  
20 job at representing what is required so we

21 don't get to this point where we have a  
22 massive cancelation; right?

23 MS. FRIEDKIN:

24 Yes.

25 MAYOR HARRIS:

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1 Okay. I'm glad everybody agrees. I  
2 don't know the answer, but, you know, this  
3 doesn't look good. I wish that they would  
4 have applied, and I wish they would have  
5 gotten it.

6 MS. FRIEDKIN:

7 We can talk about this.

8 MAYOR HARRIS:

9 Okay. Thank you.

10 All right. So did we vote? I forgot.

11 Probably moved and seconded.

12 All of those in favor, signify by saying  
13 "aye".

14 (Several members respond "aye".)

15 MAYOR HARRIS:

16 All of those opposed.

17 (No response.)

18 MAYOR HARRIS:

19 Thank you for putting me where I'm  
20 supposed to be.

21 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Friedkin. That  
22 takes care of Enterprise Zones, and we're  
23 now on Industrial Tax Exception Program,  
24 Ms. Lori Weber.

25 MS. WEBER:

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1 Yes, sir. I have 15 applications: DOW  
2 Chemical in West Baton Rouge, two for  
3 Entergy Louisiana, Waterford 3 in St.  
4 Charles; one for Entergy New Orleans Michaud  
5 in Orleans; two for Entergy Solutions  
6 District Entergy in Orleans; four Folger  
7 Company in Orleans; Halliburton Energy in  
8 Bossier; Precise Printing Corporation in  
9 Jefferson; Textron Marine & Land Systems in  
10 Orleans; Twin Brothers Marine in St. Mary;  
11 and Valero Refining New Orleans in St.

12 Charles.

13 MAYOR HARRIS:

14 Okay. We have 15 new applications for  
15 the program with 147-million dollars for  
16 approval.

17 MS. Gale Potts-Roque moves. Mr. Soprano  
18 seconds.

19 All of those in favor, signify by saying  
20 "aye".

21 (Several members respond "aye".)

22 MAYOR HARRIS:

23 All of those opposed.

24 (No response.)

25 MAYOR HARRIS:

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1 They're hereby approved.

2 MS. WEBER:

3 All right. Transfer of Ownership: True  
4 Turn Machine, LLC, all active contracts, to  
5 Cactus Wellhead, LLC, doing business as True  
6 Turn Machines, LLC in Bossier; TT Barge  
7 Services, Incorporated, contracts 040853,  
8 040853A and 20080626 to James Marine  
9 Hahnville, LLC in St. Charles; Patriot  
10 Proppants, LLC, 20080917, to Unimin  
11 Corporation in Webster; CWL Corp 1,  
12 20039554, 20039555, 20039369,061122, 062426,  
13 070334, 20071302, 20081232 and 20091217, to  
14 EAM Nelson Holding, LLC in Calcasieu; LDH  
15 Energy Olefins, LLC, 20000106, to Lone Star  
16 NGL Refinery Services, LLC in St. Bernard;  
17 LDH Energy Olefins, LLC, 20000107, to Lone  
18 Star NGL Refinery Services, LLC in  
19 Ascension; Dairy Fresh of Louisiana, LLC,  
20 all active contracts, to Borden Dairy  
21 Company of Louisiana, LLC, East Baton Rouge;  
22 and Basic Chemical Solutions, LLC, all  
23 active contracts to Univar USA in Ascension.

24 MAYOR HARRIS:

25 Okay. The eight transfers of ownership

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1 are up for consideration. Is there a motion  
2 to approve?

3 Mr. Lipsey moves. Ms. Atkins seconds.

4 All of these in favor of this transfer  
5 of ownership, signify by saying "aye".

6 (Several members respond "aye".)

7 MAYOR HARRIS:

8 All of those opposed.

9 (No response.)

10 MAYOR HARRIS:

11 So ordered and approved.

12 MS. WEBER:

13 We have one change of location: Nalco  
14 Company, contract 20090655, 20100656 and  
15 20110439, 2260 American Way to 2660 American  
16 Way in West Baton Rouge. It's a correction  
17 of the address is all.

18 MAYOR HARRIS:

19 Thank you. Change of location moved by  
20 Mr. King. Do we have a second? By Ms.  
21 Atkins.

22 All of in favor of the change of  
23 address, signify by saying "aye".

24 (Several members respond "aye".)

25 MAYOR HARRIS:

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1 All of those opposed.

2 (No response.)

3 MAYOR HARRIS:

4 So ordered.

5 MS. WEBER:

6 Cancellation of contracts: Entergy New  
7 Orleans, Patterson, 20039011 and 0410032,  
8 they closed the facility and requested  
9 cancelation of these contracts. That's in  
10 Orleans. Entergy of Louisiana, LLC, Monroe  
11 Plant, 20029189. Again, they closed down  
12 the facility and requested cancelation of  
13 the contract in Ouachita. RSI Mills, LLC,  
14 20010185, 20090809, 20100042 and 20100103.

15 This mill has been closed. They put it up  
16 for sale. Apparently there is no buyer and  
17 they're going into default, so I talked to  
18 their consultant, and they requested that we  
19 cancel this contract.

20 MAYOR HARRIS:  
21 Okay. Thank you very much.

22 MS. WEBER:  
23 And then Northrop Grumman System,  
24 contract 050407, they requested cancelation  
25 of the contract. That's in Calcasieu.

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1 Fiberglass Solutions, LLC, 062253, they  
2 closed their business and moved out of  
3 state, so we request cancelation of the  
4 contract in Plaquemines.

5 MAYOR HARRIS:  
6 Okay. And that concludes your list of  
7 cancelations?

8 MS. WEBER:

9 Yes.

10 MAYOR HARRIS:  
11 Is there a motion to approve? We have  
12 Mr. Windham moving. Mr. Gonsoulin seconds.

13 All of these in favor, signify by saying  
14 "aye".

15 (Several members respond "aye".)

16 MAYOR HARRIS:  
17 All of those opposed.

18 (No response.)

19 MAYOR HARRIS:

20 So approved.

21 MS. WEBER:  
22 Did you want me to read the 42 renewals?

23 MAYOR HARRIS:  
24 Can we submit it as written?

25 MR. JONES:

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1 Yes. I move that we accept the printed  
2 agenda and move to accept all of them.

3 MAYOR HARRIS:  
4 We have a motion by Mr. Jones to accept  
5 the printed agenda. Seconded by Ms. Smith.

6 Are there any questions?

7 (No response.)

8 MAYOR HARRIS:  
9 All of in favor these renewals, please  
10 signify by saying "aye".

11 (Several members respond "aye".)

12 MAYOR HARRIS:

13 All of those opposed.

14 (No response.)

15 MAYOR HARRIS:

16 So approved.

17 MS. WEBER:

18 Thank you.

19 MAYOR HARRIS:

20 Thank you, MS. Weber.

21 Okay. Mr. Grissom, would you like to  
22 make some comments on behalf of the  
23 department?

24 MR. GRISSOM:

25 Absolutely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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1 You should have received several  
2 handouts in front of you, and I -- first of  
3 all, I just wanted to thank you, everyone,  
4 for your participation today, our last  
5 meeting of the year, and I appreciate your  
6 contribution as far economic development.  
7 Your participation is important. Thank you  
8 very much.

9 First handout I wanted to direct your  
10 attention towards was essentially a summary  
11 of LED's business plan. We put together a  
12 fairly detailed business plan, but I also  
13 like to put together a summary document  
14 that's a little bit easier for external  
15 parties to follow, like board members, and  
16 so if you look at the document Creating the  
17 Next Great American Business Investment and  
18 Economic Opportunity and Overview of LED's  
19 Priorities. This document is nine pages.  
20 It summarizes where the department is  
21 focussing its efforts on some of its  
22 priorities, strategies or tactics that we've  
23 been using over the last several years, and  
24 then highlights the specific initiatives  
25 where we're really focused. So just for

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1 those of you who are interested in getting a

2 better feel for what the department is  
3 working on, beyond some of the things that  
4 the Board sees here, this is a good  
5 overview. I just encourage you to take a  
6 look at that. It's interesting.

7 The second thing I wanted to point out,  
8 and in just flipping to the second document,  
9 this is a news release from November 23rd,  
10 2011. The title is "Louisiana Leaps 14  
11 Spots in Forbes Best State for Business,"  
12 and I wanted to cover this with our Board  
13 members. I thought it provided a good  
14 review of the number of the strategies that  
15 we've focused on in the department, and I  
16 think it provides a nice recognition for  
17 those efforts. So this is a November news  
18 release, and until very recently, really  
19 until, you know, 2009, Louisiana had  
20 consistently been ranked by this  
21 publication, again, Best States for  
22 Business, as 49th or 50th every year. So  
23 obviously, not the position that we like to  
24 see the State. In over the last several  
25 years, Louisiana moved from 49th to 44th.

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1 And this year was recently rated 30th, so a  
2 very large improvement, a 19 spot  
3 improvement over a multi-year time horizon,  
4 and a movement from 44th to 40th over the  
5 past year.

6 The ranking covers a variety of  
7 categories, and I wanted to cover those:  
8 Business costs, labor supply, regulatory  
9 environment, economic climate, growth  
10 prospect and quality of life. Over the past  
11 year, according to Forbes, Louisiana moved  
12 up nine spots for Business Costs, so  
13 improvements in business cost. State gained  
14 15 spots in regulatory environment, up from  
15 27th to 12th. Economic Climate, from 41st  
16 to 26th, and our state's growth prospect  
17 from 18th to 14th. This is driven by a  
18 variety of factors that include improvement

19 in Louisiana's relative economic  
20 performance, in growth outlook and increase  
21 in a number of portion 1,000 headquarters  
22 based in Louisiana. A new assessment of  
23 State tax competitiveness that the tax  
24 foundation has pulled together that reflects  
25 business cuts in Louisiana, so some

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1 improvements there. Reduced energy costs,  
2 much of that tied to natural gas prices and  
3 the outlook for natural gas prices. And  
4 then a jump in Louisiana economic  
5 development competitive prices where we're  
6 trying positions in the department and  
7 the State's economic development effort as  
8 strong as possible. So I think great  
9 progress from a nationally-covered ranking  
10 from Forbes that we track closely, and we're  
11 very excited to see that jump from 49th and  
12 50th up to 30th. Obviously we still have  
13 additional work to do, but I'm very pleased  
14 that we've made this progress and look  
15 forward to additional gains in future years.

16 To wrap up my remarks, I wanted to just  
17 hit up on a few project announcements, and,  
18 again, I chose these for one reason, they're  
19 relatively current. Both of these were in  
20 November, but they also point to a number of  
21 our strategic efforts that you see  
22 recognized in our business plan, and I  
23 mentioned it at the beginning of my remarks.  
24 The first one I would like to comment on was  
25 the announcement of Sundrop Fuels. This is

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1 a 450-million-dollar bio fuels refinery in  
2 the Alexandria area. It's projected to  
3 create 150 direct jobs and more than -- over  
4 1,000 indirect jobs. This is a company that  
5 LED targeted through it's Blue Ocean Effort,  
6 where we identified emerging segments,  
7 industry segments, where we felt Louisiana  
8 could compete, and we actually created a  
9 platform and a team of individuals to reach

10 out to companies, both in state and out of  
11 state, that would participate in those  
12 segments. So Sundrop Fuels in the bio fuels  
13 area, a segment that was identified through  
14 our Blue Ocean effort, and through our lead  
15 development team, we reached out directly to  
16 the company at their headquarters in  
17 Colorado and convinced them that Louisiana  
18 was the right place to establish this  
19 facility, which is the first full-scale  
20 facility. So we're very excited about  
21 that commitment, and we look forward to  
22 working with Sundrop Fuels as they work to  
23 get that facility established in the  
24 Alexandria area.

25 The second is a company called Maritime

0033  
1 International, and this is an extension in  
2 the Broussard in the Lafayette region. This  
3 is an opportunity for a Louisiana company to  
4 increase it's employment and actually take  
5 some of this production work that had been  
6 performed in China and bring that back to  
7 the U.S. domestically, creating new jobs and  
8 new opportunities for our citizens of  
9 Louisiana. And this is a trend that we're  
10 monitoring, and we have been in a number of  
11 discussions with companies that are  
12 mentioning the desire to move more of their  
13 manufacturing operations domestically,  
14 moving it from some overseas locations. So  
15 we'll continue to, I guess, try to  
16 capitalize the merging trend and hope to see  
17 more manufacturing extension announcements  
18 and opportunities over time. We're  
19 overseeing production actually moving from  
20 overseas here domestically, and being able  
21 to position Louisiana as very cost  
22 competitive when you're speaking to domestic  
23 manufacturing.

24 So, again, two recent project  
25 announcements, very exciting for the State,

1 new jobs, new investment in this state, and  
2 I think capitalizing a couple of trends that  
3 the department has been watching and been  
4 essentially approaching over the last  
5 several months and last several years.

6 With that, I'll wrap up my remarks, and  
7 I'll be happy to entertain any questions. I  
8 just want to, again, thank you all of our  
9 Board members for your participations with  
10 this very important work that we're doing.

11 **MAYOR HARRIS:**

12 Thank you very much, Mr. Grissom.

13 Ladies and gentlemen of the Board, we  
14 have the dates for 2012 established as being  
15 February 28th, April 24th, June 26th, August  
16 28th, October 23rd and December the 11th,  
17 and they appear to be all scheduled here for  
18 1:30 p.m. at this location, so please make  
19 that -- put that on your new 2012 calendar.

20 Also, I would like to ask everyone who  
21 is interested in a leadership position of  
22 this Board, get your campaign signs and buy  
23 your TV airtime, elections will be at the  
24 February 28th meeting at the conclusion of  
25 the next meeting, which will be my last as

0035  
1 chairman. That's when I'll start smiling  
2 more.

3 Is there any other business that needs  
4 to come before the Board, other than wishing  
5 everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy  
6 Holidays.

7 **MR. BURGESS:**

8 I move that we adjourn.

9 **MAYOR HARRIS:**

10 We have a motion to adjourn by President  
11 Burgess, second by Ms. Smith.

12 All of those in favor, signify by saying  
13 "aye".

14 (Several members respond "aye".)

15 **MAYOR HARRIS:**

16 All of those opposed.

17 (No response.)

18 MAYOR HARRIS:

19 So ordered. Merry Christmas.

20 (Meeting concludes at 2:02 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF LOUISIANA:

2 This verification is valid only for a transcript  
3 accompanied by my original signature and original blue  
4 seal on this page;

5 I, Elicia H. Woodworth, Certified Court Reporter  
6 in and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer before  
7 whom this testimony was taken, do hereby certify that  
8 the witness, to whom oath was administered, after having  
9 been duly sworn by me upon authority of R.S. 37:2554 did  
10 testify as hereinbefore set forth in the foregoing  
11 pages;

12 That this testimony was reported by me in the  
13 stenotype reporting method, was prepared and transcribed  
14 by me or under my personal direction and supervision,  
15 and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my  
16 ability and understanding;

17 That I am not related to counsel or to the  
18 parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the  
19 outcome of this matter.

20 Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on this date \_\_\_\_\_.

21  
22  
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Elicia H. Woodworth, CCR  
25 Certificate No. 27014