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SCREENING HEARINGS

July 23, 2020

South Carolina Public Service Commission

REPORTER: Laura DeCillis

STATE REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW COMMITTEE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SCREENING HEARINGS

THURSDAY JULY 23, 2020

Hearings held before the Public Utilities Review Committee, reported by Laura S. DeCillis, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina; said hearings were taken at the Gressette Building, 1101 Pendleton Street, Room 105, Columbia, South Carolina, on Thursday, the 23rd day of July 2020, commencing at the hour of 10:17 a.m.

APPEARANCES

Senate Members:

Thomas C. Alexander, Chairman

Luke A. Rankin, Sr. (via Zoom)

Senate Public Member:

Margaret "Marti" Bluestein (via Zoom/Phone)

Don Jones (via Zoom)

House Members:

William E. Sandifer, Vice Chairman

P. Michael Forrester (via Zoom)

David J. Mack (via Zoom)

House Public Members:

John S. Simmons (via Zoom)

Richele Taylor (via Zoom)

Committee Counsel:

Heather Anderson, Esquire

Steve Davidson, Esquire

Bryan Triplett, Esquire

Staff Members:

Michelle McGee

Quentin Hawkins

Andy Sissick

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PROCEEDINGS

10:17 a.m.

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Good morning. I'll call this meeting of the Public Utility Review Committee to order on this July 23rd, 2020. We are continuing to proceed with the Public Service Commission screenings today. We will have candidates before us today that have previously been found qualified by this Committee. So at this time, if there's no other questions or comments from members of the Committee, we will go into that screening.

First we have today Ms. Carolee Williams of the 1st District. Good morning. If you would come forward.

MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Put one of those on there and if you'll give us maybe a mic check just so that I can check with our virtual members to make sure they can hear you.

MS. WILLIAMS: And this will give me a chance to orient to the virtual members that are on the screen.

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: There you go. Push the green button to make sure it's on. How about that? How about saying --

MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. It's good to see those of you on the screen as well. How is this mic check

1 working?

2 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Everybody has got it
3 thumbs up. It sounds good. So I'm going to ask Laura,
4 the court reporter, to swear you in for the process this
5 morning. She's right over here.

6 Carolyn Leone Williams, having been duly sworn
7 and cautioned to speak the truth, the whole truth
8 and nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

9 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Mr. Davidson?

10 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Good morning,
11 Ms. Williams. It's good to see you again.

12 MS. WILLIAMS: Good morning. It's good to
13 see you, too.

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

16 Q. Could you please state your full name and
17 address for the record?

18 A. It's Carolyn Leone Williams, but I appreciate
19 being called Carolee, so thank you.

20 Q. And your home address, please?

21 A. 7 Beverly Road, Charleston, South Carolina,
22 29407.

23 Q. Thank you. At the hearing in January you
24 stated that you are a registered voter in the 1st
25 Congressional District. Is this correct today?

1 A. That's true.

2 **Q. Thank you.**

3 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, candidates
4 who were found qualified by the Review Committee during
5 its screening for the Public Service Commission seats 1,
6 3, 5 and 7 in January of this year were asked to submit
7 an affidavit indicating if there were substantial or
8 substantive changes from the application materials
9 previously submitted to the Committee. Ms. Williams
10 submitted an affidavit indicating that there were no
11 substantial or substantive changes.

12 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

13 **Q. Ms. Williams, are there any changes you would**
14 **like to make to this affidavit?**

15 A. There are not.

16 **Q. Thank you.**

17 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, I would
18 request that the affidavit be entered into the record.

19 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So ordered.

20 (Williams Affidavit entered into the record)

21 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

22 **Q. Ms. Williams, at the January public hearing**
23 **you indicated that you are familiar with the three**
24 **advisory opinions issued by the Review Committee dealing**
25 **with attendance at, one, legislative receptions, two,**

1 legislative caucus meetings and, three, political
2 gatherings.

3 Have you attended any legislative receptions
4 or any legislative caucus meetings since your screening
5 in January?

6 A. I have not.

7 Q. Have you attended any political gatherings
8 since your screening in January?

9 A. I have not.

10 Q. Have you made any contributions to members of
11 the General Assembly since filing your application?

12 A. I have not.

13 Q. Have you sought or received the pledge of any
14 legislator prior to this date?

15 A. I have not.

16 Q. Have you sought or been offered a conditional
17 pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome
18 of your screening?

19 A. I have not.

20 Q. Have you asked any third-parties to contact
21 members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the
22 final and formal screening report has been released?

23 A. Beyond what we discussed in January, I have
24 not.

25 Q. Thank you. Are you aware of any friends or

1 colleagues contacting members of the General Assembly on
2 your behalf?

3 A. I am not.

4 Q. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule which
5 prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours
6 after the report has been submitted to the General
7 Assembly?

8 A. Yes. I'm familiar with it.

9 Q. And do you plan to serve a full term if
10 elected?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. Thank you, Ms. Williams.

13 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, no further
14 questions.

15 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you so much. We
16 appreciate your being here this morning. If you are
17 nominated and if you are elected, when would you be
18 available to start work as a Commissioner for the Public
19 Service Commission?

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Whenever you would like for me
21 to do so.

22 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. Any questions?
23 Any questions from members? Virtually, any questions
24 there?

25 (No response)

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: I don't think that we
2 see any. Okay. So thank you for your willingness to be
3 here today to update us and for your willingness to
4 serve.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Can I share like
6 one minute of an update with you all? If you would
7 prefer not, that's fine.

8 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: What is the update in
9 regards to?

10 MS. WILLIAMS: It's really what I've done
11 over the past six months to kind of be ready to serve,
12 watching the Public Service Commission meetings --

13 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: At this point, I think
14 we need to probably leave it where we have it.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Got it. Got it. Okay. Thank
16 you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: But thank you for your
18 willingness to do that.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Sure.

20 (The screening was concluded at 10:22 p.m.)

21 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So it's my understanding
22 that we have virtually with us, not only our members, but
23 our next candidate. So that takes us to Mr. Mike Caston
24 of the 3rd District. Can our members of the Review
25 Committee see Mr. Caston as well? I got some thumbs up.

1 Good morning, Mr. Caston.

2 MR. CASTON: Good morning.

3 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Give us that mic check
4 maybe and make sure that our other members that are
5 joining us virtually can hear you as well, too, from that
6 standpoint.

7 MR. CASTON: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: I'm going to recognize
9 Mr. Davidson at this point. Oh, I'm sorry. I need to
10 recognize the court reporter to swear Mr. Caston in for
11 his testimony. We have a court reporter present. I
12 would ask that you raise your right hand.

13 Stephen M. Caston, having been duly sworn and
14 cautioned to speak the truth, the whole truth and
15 nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you, Laura. Now I
17 will recognize Mr. Davidson.

18 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Good morning, Mr. Caston.
19 Can you hear me okay?

20 MR. CASTON: Yes, I can. Thank you.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

23 Q. Could you please state for the record your
24 full name and home address?

25 A. Stephen Michael Caston, 128 Riverpoint Drive,

1 Clemson, South Carolina, 29631.

2 **Q. At the hearing in January you stated that you**
3 **are a registered voter in Congressional District 3. Is**
4 **this correct today?**

5 A. Yes.

6 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, candidates
7 who were found qualified by the Review Committee during
8 its screen for Public Service Commission seats 1, 3, 5
9 and 7 in January of this year were asked to submit an
10 affidavit indicating if there were substantial or
11 substantive changes from the application materials
12 previously submitted to the Review Committee. Mr. Caston
13 submitted an affidavit indicating that there were no
14 substantial or substantive changes.

15 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

16 **Q. Mr. Caston, are there any changes you would**
17 **like to make to this affidavit?**

18 A. No.

19 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, I would
20 request that the affidavit be entered into the record.

21 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So ordered.

22 (Caston Affidavit entered into the record)

23 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

24 **Q. Mr. Caston, at the January public hearing you**
25 **indicated that you are familiar with the three advisory**

1 opinions issued by the Review Committee dealing with
2 attendance at legislative receptions, legislative caucus
3 meetings and political gatherings.

4 Have you attended any legislative receptions
5 or any legislative caucus meetings since your screening
6 in January?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Have you attended any political gatherings
9 since your screening in January?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Have you made any contributions to members of
12 the General Assembly since filing your application?

13 A. No, I have not.

14 Q. Have you sought or received the pledge of any
15 legislator prior to this date?

16 A. No to both of those.

17 Q. Have you sought or been offered a conditional
18 pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome
19 of your screening?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Have you asked any third-parties to contact
22 members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the
23 final and formal screening report has been released?

24 A. No, I have not.

25 Q. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues

1 contacting members of the General Assembly on your
2 behalf?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule which
5 prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours
6 after the report has been submitted to the General
7 Assembly?

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 Q. And lastly, do you plan to serve a full term
10 if elected?

11 A. If God lets me, absolutely I will.

12 Q. Thank you, Mr. Caston.

13 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: No further questions,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Davidson.
16 And I appreciate, Mr. Caston, you joining us this morning
17 virtually. I have one question for you, that if you're
18 elected to the Public Service Commission, when would you
19 be available to start as a Commissioner? The elections
20 are scheduled for September 23rd.

21 MR. CASTON: It's on for the 24th, but I
22 assume whatever you guys -- whenever folks want that to
23 occur.

24 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir.

25 MR. CASTON: I'm very flexible.

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, sir.
2 Are there other questions from members of the Committee?

3 (No response)

4 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Hearing none, then that
5 concludes our screening of you today, Mr. Caston, and we
6 appreciate you being with us.

7 MR. CASTON. Thank you. Thank you so much.
8 I appreciate it.

9 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Yes, sir.

10 (The screening concluded at 10:30 a.m.)

11 10:34 a.m.

12 MR. RANDALL: Good morning.

13 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Good morning. If you
14 would give us a sound check so we can check with our
15 folks who are virtually with us.

16 MR. RANDALL: Certainly. Certainly. Test
17 one, two.

18 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: All right. Do we get a
19 thumbs up? We've got thumbs up there.

20 MR. RANDALL: I've been doing this a lot
21 lately, so --

22 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: I'm sure you have. We
23 have have before us now Mr. Randy Randall of the 3rd
24 District. Thank you for being with us this morning.

25 MR. RANDALL: Yes, sir. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And I'm going to
2 recognize our court reporter, Laura, to do the swearing
3 in for this testimony this morning.

4 Comer H. "Randy" Randall, III, having been
5 duly sworn and cautioned to speak the truth, the
6 whole truth and nothing but the truth, testified
7 as follows:

8 MR. RANDALL: I've been having to swear
9 people in in our virtual hearings lately so I've been
10 getting good at that.

11 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Oh, okay. It's
12 technology. I would recognize Ms. Anderson.

13 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Good morning,
14 Mr. Randall.

15 MR. RANDALL: Good morning. How are you?

16 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: I'm good. How are you?

17 MR. RANDALL: I'm doing well, thank you.

18 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Good.

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY ATTORNEY ANDERSON:

21 **Q. All right. Once again, for the record, can**
22 **you please state your full name and address?**

23 A. Comer Henry, and I go by Randy, Randall, III,
24 306 West Maple Street, Clinton, South Carolina. And I
25 said it Clinton that time so -- as most people, you know,

1 we say it Clinton where the tea is sweet but the T is
2 silent.

3 **Q. At the hearing in January you stated that you**
4 **are a registered voter in the 3rd Congressional District.**
5 **Is this correct today?**

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, candidates
8 who were found qualified by the Review Committee during
9 its screening for Public Service Commission seats 1, 3, 5
10 and 7 in January of this year were asked to submit an
11 affidavit indicating if there were substantial or
12 substantive changes from the application materials
13 previously submitted to the Review Committee.
14 Mr. Randall submitted an affidavit indicating that there
15 were no substantial or substantive changes.

16 BY ATTORNEY ANDERSON:

17 **Q. Mr. Randall, are there any changes, anything**
18 **else that you need to add -**

19 A. No, ma'am. No, ma'am. I was just glad that
20 you received that. I thought this morning, I said, I
21 don't know if she got that or not, but -

22 **Q. We're good.**

23 A. That's good.

24 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would
25 request that the affidavit be entered into the record.

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So ordered.

2 (Randall Affidavit was entered into the record)

3 BY ATTORNEY ANDERSON:

4 Q. Mr. Randall, at the January hearing you
5 indicated that you were familiar with the three advisory
6 opinions issued by the Review Committee dealing with
7 attendance at, one, legislative receptions, two,
8 legislative caucus meetings and, three, political
9 gatherings.

10 Have you attended any legislative receptions
11 or any legislative caucus meetings since your screening
12 in January?

13 A. No, ma'am.

14 Q. Have you attended any political gatherings
15 since your screening in January?

16 A. No, ma'am.

17 Q. Have you sought or received a pledge of any
18 legislator prior to today?

19 A. No, ma'am.

20 Q. Have you made any contributions to members of
21 the General Assembly since filing your application?

22 A. No, ma'am.

23 Q. Have you sought or been offered a conditional
24 pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome
25 of your screening?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. Have you asked any third-parties to contact
3 members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the
4 final and formal screening report has been released?

5 A. No, ma'am.

6 Q. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues
7 contacting members of the General Assembly on your
8 behalf?

9 A. No, ma'am. They'd better not be.

10 Q. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule which
11 prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours
12 after the report has been submitted to the General
13 Assembly?

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. And would you plan to serve a full term if
16 re-elected?

17 A. Absolutely.

18 Q. Thank you, Mr. Randall.

19 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have no
20 further questions.

21 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. And, again, we
22 appreciate you being here today. And I'm asking this of
23 all candidates so I'll ask you as well. When would you
24 be available to start the new term if you are nominated
25 and elected?

1 MR. RANDALL: Senator, I'm available 24/7
2 every day and have been for a while.

3 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, sir.
4 Any questions from members that have joined us virtually?

5 (No response)

6 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Seeing no hands, then
7 this will complete our process and screening of
8 Mr. Randall this morning.

9 MR. RANDALL: Senator, if I may beg your
10 indulgence just quickly.

11 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Yes, sir.

12 MR. RANDALL: Is there a chance I could tell
13 y'all a little bit about the -- it won't be self-serving
14 for me -- about our process that's going to be happening
15 this fall, how this is going to affect it?

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: I think that maybe we
17 ought to leave that to another conversation.

18 MR. RANDALL: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: If you would get that to
20 staff. Just being this is part of the --

21 MR. RANDALL: I understand.

22 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: -- nominating and --

23 MR. RANDALL: I understand.

24 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you.

25 MR. RANDALL: I just wanted to make sure

1 you're flying in the light like I am.

2 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you. We'll look
3 forward to that update from staff.

4 MR. RANDALL: We'll do that.

5 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: But I appreciate your
6 willingness to do that.

7 MR. RANDALL: Absolutely. Absolutely.

8 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you. Have a great
9 day. Stay safe and healthy. If you'll be kind enough to
10 take that cap off of the microphone and deposit into the
11 trash can. Thank you very much. It was good to see you.

12 (The screening concluded at 10:39 a.m.)

13 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. We will stand in
14 recess or at ease. We'll stand at ease as we are
15 awaiting additional candidates.

16 11:03 a.m.

17 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So if you will maybe --
18 and you'll get the opportunity to do it more than once.
19 But if you'll state your name so I can do a check with
20 our virtual members.

21 MR. MILLER: Okay. My name is Thomas Miller.
22 I go by Tee.

23 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Yeah, Tee. Okay. Do we
24 have a thumbs up? We're good? Okay. And, Ms. Taylor,
25 unless we hear her voice saying otherwise, we will accept

1 that she can hear us as well, too. I will ask that our
2 court reporter, Laura, swear you in for the screening
3 this morning.

4 Thomas G. Miller, Jr., having been duly sworn
5 and cautioned to speak the truth, the whole truth
6 and nothing but the truth testified as follows:

7 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So we have here for the
8 update is Mr. Miller for the 7th District and I will
9 recognize Ms. Anderson.

10 EXAMINATION

11 BY ATTORNEY ANDERSON:

12 Q. Good morning, Mr. Miller. Once again, please
13 state your full name and address for the record.

14 A. Thomas Galmont Miller, Jr. I live at 409
15 Meeting Street in Georgetown, South Carolina.

16 Q. Thank you. At your hearing in January you
17 stated that you are a registered voter in the 7th
18 Congressional District. Is this correct today?

19 A. Yes.

20 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, candidates
21 who were found qualified by the Review Committee during
22 its screening for Public Service Commission seats 1, 3, 5
23 and 7 in January of this year were asked to submit an
24 affidavit indicating if there were substantial or
25 substantive changes from the application materials

1 previously submitted to the Review Committee. Mr. Miller
2 submitted an affidavit indicating that there were no
3 substantial or substantive changes.

4 BY ATTORNEY ANDERSON:

5 Q. Mr. Miller, is this correct today? Are there
6 any other changes that the Committee should be aware of?

7 A. No. The affidavit is correct.

8 Q. Okay.

9 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would
10 request that the affidavit be entered into the record.

11 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So ordered.

12 (Miller Affidavit was entered into the
13 record)

14 BY ATTORNEY ANDERSON:

15 Q. Mr. Miller, at the January public hearing you
16 indicated that you were familiar with the three advisory
17 opinions issued by the Review Committee dealing with
18 attendance at, one, legislative receptions, two,
19 legislative caucus meetings and, three, political
20 gatherings.

21 Have you attended any legislative receptions
22 or any legislative caucus meetings since your screening
23 in January?

24 A. No, I've not.

25 Q. Have you attended any political gatherings

1 since your screening in January?

2 A. No, I've not.

3 Q. Have you made any contributions to members of
4 the General Assembly since filing your application?

5 A. No, I've not.

6 Q. Have you sought or received a pledge of any
7 legislator prior to today?

8 A. No, I've not.

9 Q. Have you sought or been offered a conditional
10 pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome
11 of your screening?

12 A. I have not.

13 Q. Have you asked any third-parties to contact
14 members of the General Assembly on your behalf before the
15 final and formal screening report has been released?

16 A. I have not.

17 Q. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues
18 contacting members of the General Assembly on your
19 behalf?

20 A. I am not.

21 Q. Are you familiar with the 48-hour rule which
22 prohibits a candidate from seeking pledges for 48 hours
23 after the report has been submitted to the General
24 Assembly?

25 A. I am.

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And you are welcome to
2 leave your mask on or you can take it off, whichever your
3 preference is from that standpoint.

4 MR. THOMAS: Okay. If everybody is
5 comfortable, I'll take it off.

6 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: That will be fine. And
7 we have Mr. Headen Thomas with us of the 5th District.
8 First, I will ask that is you'll do us a mic check, I
9 would like to make sure our folks virtually are good to
10 go, so maybe state your name for us.

11 MR. THOMAS: I'm Headen Thomas. Can
12 everybody hear me?

13 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: We've got a thumbs up.
14 Okay, Mr. Thomas.

15 MR. THOMAS: Very good.

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And I'm going to
17 recognize Laura, our court reporter, to swear you in for
18 this.

19 Headen B. Thomas, having been duly sworn and
20 cautioned to speak the truth, the whole truth and
21 nothing but the truth, testified as follows:

22 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. I'll recognize
23 Mr. Davidson.

24 EXAMINATION

25 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

1 Q. Good morning, Mr. Thomas. Could you please
2 state your full name once again, and your address for the
3 record?

4 A. Headen Bynum Thomas. It's 546 Willow Blue
5 Run in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

6 Q. Thank you. At the hearing in January you
7 stated that you are a registered voter in the 5th
8 Congressional District. Is this correct today?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, candidates
12 who were found qualified by the Review Committee during
13 its screening for Public Service Commission Seats 1, 3,
14 5, and 7 in January of this year were asked to submit an
15 affidavit indicating if there were substantial or
16 substantive changes from the application materials
17 previously submitted to the Review Committee. Mr. Thomas
18 submitted an affidavit indicating that there were no
19 substantial or substantive changes.

20 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

21 Q. Mr. Thomas, are there any changes you would
22 like to make to this affidavit?

23 A. There is nothing substantial to change.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, I would

1 request that the affidavit be entered into the record.

2 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So ordered.

3 (Thomas Affidavit was entered into the record)

4 BY ATTORNEY DAVIDSON:

5 Q. Mr. Thomas, at the January public hearing you
6 indicated that you are familiar with the three advisory
7 opinions issued by the Review Committee dealing with
8 attendance at legislative receptions, legislative caucus
9 meetings and political gatherings.

10 Have you attended any legislative receptions
11 or any legislative caucus meetings since your screening
12 in January?

13 A. I have not.

14 Q. Have you attended any political gatherings
15 since your screening in January?

16 A. I have not. The only thing I've done is back
17 in the January/February time frame when the General
18 Assembly was still in session, I was here about one day a
19 week on average introducing myself. That's all I've
20 done.

21 Q. Thank you. Have you made any contributions
22 to members of the General Assembly since filing your
23 application?

24 A. I have not.

25 Q. Have you sought or received the pledge of any

1 legislator prior to this date?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Have you sought or been offered a conditional
4 pledge of support by any legislator pending the outcome
5 of your screening?

6 A. I have not.

7 Q. Have you asked any third-parties to contact
8 members of the General assembly on your behalf before the
9 final and formal screening report has been released?

10 A. No, sir.

11 Q. Are you aware of any friends or colleagues
12 contacting members of the General Assembly on your
13 behalf?

14 A. There was one incident that occurred that we
15 discussed back in January of the screening, but that's
16 the only thing I'm aware of.

17 Q. So none since that time?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Thank you, sir. And are you familiar with
20 the 48-hour rule which prohibits a candidate from seeking
21 pledges for 48 hours after the report has been submitted
22 to the General Assembly?

23 A. I am.

24 Q. And, lastly, do you plan to serve a full term
25 if elected?

1 A. I do.

2 **Q. Thank you, sir.**

3 ATTORNEY DAVIDSON: Mr. Chairman, I have no
4 further questions. And thank you, Mr. Thomas.

5 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you, Mr. Davidson.
7 Mr. Thomas, if you're nominated, if you are elected, to
8 the Commission those elections are scheduled for
9 September 23rd, when would you be available to assume
10 those duties and responsibilities?

11 MR. THOMAS: Like immediately.

12 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. Thank you, sir.
13 All right. Are there other questions? Anybody virtually
14 have anything?

15 (No response)

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. Well, we
17 appreciate you coming in for the update as a part of this
18 screening process today.

19 MR. THOMAS: Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Thank you.

21 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And if you would be kind
23 enough to take that cap and just dispose of it into the
24 trash can.

25 (The screening concluded at 11:11 a.m.)

11:12 a.m.

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Members of the Committee, that completes the individuals that have been found qualified appearing before us, according to our agenda for this morning. So, at this time, I would entertain a motion that we go into Executive Session to discuss potential employment pursuant to Section 30-4-70 and for receipt of legal advice pursuant to Section 30-4-70(a)(2).

REPRESENTATIVE SANDIFER: So moved.

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: We have a motion. Do I see a second virtually? I see numerous seconds. Is there any objection to us going in?

(No response)

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Seeing none, then it's unanimously approved that we'll go into Executive Session purely for those purposes.

(Executive Session - 11:14 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.)

11:23 a.m.

CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: We are out of Executive Session. The veil has been lifted and no action was taken in Executive Sessions.

Having found candidates qualified for seats of the Public Service Commission's 1, 3, 5 and 7, we will go to the process of placing individual's names for

1 nomination. I'm going to take them by Districts. I'll
2 call the name of the qualified candidate. A duly quorum
3 and the Committee is present and I'll call the names of
4 the individuals as I see them and if I miss somebody,
5 please let me know from that standpoint, staff or
6 Mr. Sandifer, if I miss somebody from that standpoint.

7 Under Section 58-3-530, the powers and
8 duties, I'm going to read it briefly, the Review
9 Committee has the following powers and duties. One, is
10 to nominate no more than three candidates for each seat
11 on the Public Service Commission to be elected by the
12 General Assembly. We have that included for the record.
13 Anything else before we proceed with the vote?

14 (No response)

15 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. So, again, we'll
16 start with District number 1. The first qualified
17 candidate is Mr. John C. Dulude. Placing his name in
18 nomination, those that are in favor of that, please raise
19 your hand.

20 So I see Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
21 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
22 Ms. Taylor and Alexander.

23 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Senator Rankin has called
24 in on the phone. I think there's been some technical
25 difficulty so, Madam Court Reporter, he's about to vote.

1 Senator, the vote was whether or not to
2 nominate Mr. John C. Dulude from District 1.

3 SENATOR RANKIN: And I vote aye.

4 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: So Senator Rankin votes
5 aye.

6 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Due to the technical
7 difficulties I'm going to have him on the phone.

8 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. That's fine.
9 We'll go next to George "Robert" Newman. Those that
10 would wish to vote for his nomination, please raise your
11 hand.

12 (No response)

13 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Senator Rankin, how would
14 you vote for Mr. Newman?

15 SENATOR RANKIN: There was no vote for him?

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: I have no recorded vote.

17 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: So is that a no vote for
18 you?

19 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: I have a no vote. Okay.

20 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Okay. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Mr. William R. Sloger,
22 Jr. So I have Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
23 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
24 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and how does --

25 SENATOR RANKIN: Rankin, aye.

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Rankin, aye. Okay.
2 Thank you all. That takes us to the next candidate in
3 District 1, Carolyn "Carolee" Williams. Those wishing to
4 have her nominated, please raise your hand.

5 I recognize Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
6 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
7 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and Senator Rankin, what is your
8 vote?

9 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And, aye. So the Chair
11 would deem nominated in District 1 three candidates:
12 John C. Dulude, William R. Sloger, Jr. and Carolyn
13 "Carolee" Williams. And we'll proceed to District number
14 3.

15 Our first candidate found qualified -- and,
16 again, these are individuals, all of these being named
17 are found qualified by this Committee: Stephen, "Mike"
18 Caston. All those wishing to nominate Mr. Caston, please
19 raise your hand.

20 I have Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
21 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
22 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, Chairman Rankin, how would you
23 wish to vote?

24 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: We have an aye vote from

1 Senator Rankin. That moves us to Lonnie R. Hyatt. Those
2 wishing to vote for nominate Mr. Hyatt, please raise your
3 hand.

4 (No response)

5 ATTORNEY ANDERSON: Senator Rankin?

6 SENATOR RANKIN: No.

7 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: A no vote. Okay. And
8 that takes us to Mr. Willie J. Morgan. Those wishing to
9 nominate Mr. Morgan for the 3rd Congressional District,
10 please raise your hand.

11 I recognize Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
12 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
13 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and how does Senator Rankin vote?

14 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: It's a recorded vote of
16 aye. Thank you. This takes us to Mr. Comer H. "Randy"
17 Randall. Again, in the 3rd Congressional District.
18 Those wishing to nominate Mr. Randall, please raise your
19 hand.

20 I have Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
21 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
22 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and Chairman Rankin --

23 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

24 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And Rankin votes aye.
25 Thank you, sir. So from District number 3, the Chair

1 deems that Stephen "Mike" Caston, Willie, J. Morgan and
2 Comer H. "Randy" Randall is nominated by this Committee.

3 That would take us to District number 5. We
4 have Mr. Headen B. Thomas has been found qualified for
5 District 5. Those wishing to nominate Mr. Thomas, please
6 raise your hand.

7 Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein, Mr. Jones,
8 Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester, Ms. Taylor --

9 STAFF: Forrester is a no.

10 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Oh, I'm sorry.

11 REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER: Mr. Chairman, I'm
12 going to abstain on this vote.

13 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Okay. The record will
14 reflect that Mr. Forrester abstained. Thank you staff
15 for clarifying that. Let the record show that
16 Mr. Forrester abstained. Ms. Taylor, Alexander and
17 Senator --

18 SENATOR RANKIN: Yes. Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: And aye from the Senator
20 from Horry. So I would deem that Mr. Thomas has been
21 nominated for District number 5. That takes us to
22 District number 7 and the candidates have been found
23 qualified.

24 We'll go in order, alphabetical order of
25 those candidates. First is Clint A. Elliott. Those

1 wishing to nominate Mr. Elliott for the Public Service
2 Commission District 7, please raise your hand.

3 I have Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
4 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
5 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and how does Chairman Rankin --

6 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: He votes aye. That
8 takes us to Thomas "Tee" Miller, Jr. Those wishing to
9 nominate Mr. Miller for the 7th Congressional District,
10 please raise your hand.

11 I have Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
12 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
13 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and how does Chairman Rankin --

14 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: He votes aye. Then we
16 have, also found qualified for District 7, Mr. Delton W.
17 Powers, Jr. Those wishing to nominate Mr. Powers, please
18 raise your hand.

19 I have Chairman Sandifer, Ms. Bluestein,
20 Mr. Jones, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Mack, Mr. Forrester,
21 Ms. Taylor, Alexander, and how does Chairman Rankin --

22 SENATOR RANKIN: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: He votes aye. So the
24 Chair deems that in District 7, Clint A. Elliott, Thomas
25 "Tee" Miller, Jr. And Delton W. Powers, Jr. have been

1 nominated by the Public Utility Review Committee in its
2 meetings of the Public Service Commission. Is there any
3 other business to come -- Chairman Sandifer?

4 REPRESENTATIVE SANDIFER: Thank you,
5 Chairman. One thing I would like for us to recognize is
6 the fact that in District 5 we have one nominee. We did
7 not have other candidates who were qualified and,
8 therefore, we have one nominee and that's for the General
9 Assembly in its assemblage on September 23 to make a
10 decision. So I wanted to call that to all of your
11 attention. Thanks very much.

12 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Duly noted. Thank you
13 for that. Are there other comments or other things from
14 those that have joined us virtually before us today?

15 (No response)

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: If there's not, before
17 we conclude, one is, I want to thank all of the members
18 of the Committee for your attendance, for your efforts
19 this week and in previous times that have led up to
20 getting us to this point from that standpoint.

21 But, also, I, sincerely from the bottom of my
22 heart, express our great appreciation to the outstanding
23 staff that have made this possible for us to get to this
24 point. And as Mr. Jones is doing, we'll do a virtual
25 round of applause for them.

1 But we are so grateful to you all for the
2 great work that you all have done to support this
3 Committee and the work today. And throughout this
4 process. Not just today, but throughout this process.
5 Yes, sir?

6 REPRESENTATIVE SANDIFER: Mr. Chairman, if I
7 may?

8 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Yes, sir.

9 REPRESENTATIVE SANDIFER: One other thing is,
10 thank you for the way you've handled this. This has been
11 a very difficult process, as we all know, and I think you
12 have handled it appropriately and well, so thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: You're very kind. Thank
14 you, sir. We'll strike that from the record.

15 REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER: Mr. Chairman?

16 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Yes, sir, Representative
17 Forrester?

18 REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER: Mr. Chairman, I
19 just want to say how much I've enjoyed working on this
20 Committee with my fellow Representatives, David Mack and
21 Chairman Sandifer, and all the rest of you folks. It's
22 been ten long years and I'm going to miss you guys. So I
23 guess this is our last meeting together, but I've
24 certainly enjoyed it and I wish you all the best in the
25 future.

1 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Well, we appreciate that
2 but we may give you an opportunity. We may meet once or
3 twice before so don't think this is the last meeting and
4 stuff. Thank you for those comments. It is a pleasure
5 to serve with all if the members. I don't want to get
6 your hopes up too quick there.

7 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman?

8 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Yes, sir, Mr. Mack?
9 Representative Mack?

10 REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman, I would
11 like to also -- and I know there will probably be some
12 more meetings, but I also wanted to echo what
13 Representative Forrester said, Mike said, that I just
14 appreciate each and every one of you. Mr. Chairman,
15 you've done a phenomenal job. Even Sandifer did a
16 phenomenal job. And I just want to thank the staff.
17 They did a phenomenal job. And, again, happy birthday to
18 Steve. We appreciate you. And every one of you did a
19 phenomenal job. And it's great seeing you. It's a new
20 day, it's a new normal, but I just appreciate, even on
21 screens, just being with everybody, just a friendship,
22 just fellowship that means so much even on a screen. So
23 thank you so much.

24 CHAIRMAN ALEXANDER: Well, thank you for
25 those comments and we certainly value your friendship and

1 your work as well. It's been a pleasure to work with
2 both of you gentlemen and I hold you all in the highest
3 regard. We've got a fine Committee that it's a privilege
4 to work with, so we thank you all.

5 So with that, unless there is an objection,
6 we will stand adjourned. Thank you all.

7 (The taking of the Hearing adjourned at
8 11:35 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Laura S. DeCillis, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina at large, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing Hearing was taken before me on the date and at the time and location stated on Page 1 of this transcript; that each candidate was duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that said hearing was recorded stenographically by me and was thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing Hearing as typed is a true, accurate and complete record made to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither related to nor counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested in the events thereof.

I further certify that the original of said transcript shall be hereafter sealed and delivered to the Public Utilities Review Committee.

Witness my hand, I hereunto affixed my official seal this 5th day of August 2020, Richland County, South Carolina.

Laura S. DeCillis

Laura S. DeCillis, CCR, CVR, CCRI
State of South Carolina at Large
My Commission expires 8/4/26

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