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## HEARING PROCEEDINGS

January 15, 2024

2023 Judicial Merit Selection Commission

REPORTER: Kathryn Bostrom

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2		JUDICIAL MERIT SELECTION COMMISSION
3		TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
4		* * * *
5		
6	BEFORE:	REPRESENTATIVE "MICAH" CASKEY, IV, CHAIRMAN
7		SENATOR LUKE A. RANKIN, VICE CHAIRMAN (VIA ZOOM)
8		SENATOR SCOTT TALLEY (VIA ZOOM)
9		REPRESENTATIVE WALLACE H. "JAY" JORDAN (VIA ZOOM)
10		SENATOR RONNIE SABB (VIA ZOOM)
11		REPRESENTATIVE J. TODD RUTHERFORD
12		LUCY GREY MCIVER (VIA ZOOM)
13		ANDREW N. SAFRAN
14		J.P. PETE STROM
15		KATE CRATER, COUNSEL
16		* * * *
17		
18	DATE:	January 15, 2024
19	TIME:	3:05 p.m.
20	LOCATION:	Gressette Building, Room 105
21		1101 Pendleton Street
22		Columbia, South Carolina 29201
23		
24	REPORTED I	BY: Kathryn B. Bostrom, Court Reporter
25		
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1		CONTENTS:
2		(Hearings)
3		PAGE
4	Exhibit Index	
5	Proceedings .	
6	Certification	of Reporter
7	Word Index	
8		
9		EXHIBITS
10	There are	e no exhibits marked during this hearing.
11		
12	Court Reporter	r's Legend:
13	dashes []	Intentional or purposeful]
14	interruption	
15	[ph]	Denotes phonetically written
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## 1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Ladies and gentleman, I will go 3 ahead and call to order today's meeting of the 4 Judicial Merit Selection Commission. We have a 5 number of members who have joined us remotely, 6 both because of the logistics headaches caused by the Vice President's visit to the Statehouse here 7 this afternoon as well as the relatively 8 9 unexpected nature that brings us together, as 10 well as some unexpected illness. So everyone on 11 the Commission is present in person or virtually 12 with the exception of Hope, Ms. Hope Blackley, 13 she is unfortunately having to attend a funeral. 14 She has assigned her proxy to Senator Sabb. 15 we're all gathered and on motion of 16 Representative Rutherford seconded by Mr. Safran, the pending question is going into Executive 17 18 Session. All in favor, signify by saying aye. 19 MEMBERS: Aye. 20 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: All opposed, nay. The ayes have it. 21 At this point, we will pause our proceedings and 22 go into Executive Session for a legal briefing. 23 Thank you. 24 Executive Session was held from 3:06 to 3:20 p.m. 25 (Off the record)

1 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Ladies and gentlemen, we are now 2 coming out of Executive Session. For the record 3 while we were in Executive Session receiving a 4 legal briefing, no votes were taken and no 5 decisions were made. 6 [Redacted] 7 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: All right. We will proceed now to 8 the portion of our agenda with respect to the 9 motions, any motions that need to be made. 10 [Redacted] 11 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: Any other member of the Commission? 12 All right. At that point then we need to -- we 13 have had four candidates in this race be found 14 qualified. Two have already been nominated. 15 have two candidates that remain that could be 16 nominated. And so those individuals being [redacted] and the Honorable Russell D. Hilton. 17 18 Crater, I think a roll call vote is required Ms. 19 for this? 20 CRATER: Yes. MS. 21 CHAIRMAN CASKEY: If you would please call the roll or 22 explain the balloting process, how about that. 23 MS. CRATER: We will vote twice. I will call the 24 So we will start -- you will have one vote among two candidates. The two candidates 25

1		remaining who have been found qualified are
2		[redacted] and the Honorable Russell D. Hilton.
3		Again, members, you will each have one vote.
4	[Redacted	]
5	MS.	CRATER: Thank you. The next candidate is the
6		Honorable Russell D. Hilton. Chairman Caskey?
7	CHAI	RMAN CASKEY: Aye.
8	MS.	CRATER: Senator Rankin?
9	SENA'	TOR Rankin: Aye.
10	MS.	CRATER: Senator Sabb? Senator Talley?
11	SENA'	TOR RANKIN: By proxy.
12	MS.	CRATER: Yes. Representative Rutherford.
13		Representative Jordan?
14	REPR:	ESENTATIVE JORDAN: Aye.
15	MS.	CRATER: Aye. Ms. Blackley? Ms. McIver?
16	MS.	MCIVER: Aye.
17	MS.	CRATER: Mr. Safran?
18	MR.	SAFRAN: Aye.
19	MS.	CRATER: And Mr. Strom?
20	MR.	STROM: Aye.
21	MS.	CRATER: The votes are six for the Honorable
22		Russell D. Hilton.
23	CHAI	RMAN CASKEY: With that, the Commission finds that
24		the Honorable Russell D. Hilton will be
25		nominated. Having already been found qualified,

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he is nominated for Circuit Court At Large Seat
 1
          There being no further business on our
 2
     11.
 3
     agenda today, the Commission will stand
 4
                 Thank you all for being here.
     adjourned.
 5
          (There being no further questions, the
 6
          hearings concluded at 4:25 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	I, KATHRYN BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC
4	IN AND FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT LARGE, HEREBY
5	CERTIFY THAT I REPORTED THE HEARINGS ON MONDAY, THE 15TH
6	DAY OF JANUARY 2024, THAT THE WITNESS WAS FIRST DULY SWORN
7	BY ME AND THAT THE FOREGOING 6 PAGES CONSTITUTE A TRUE AND
8	CORRECT TRANSCRIPTION OF MY STENOMASK REPORT OF SAID
9	DEPOSITION.
10	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER ATTORNEY NOR
11	COUNSEL FOR, NOR RELATED TO OR EMPLOYED BY ANY OF THE
12	PARTIES CONNECTED WITH THIS ACTION, NOR AM I FINANCIALLY
13	INTERESTED IN SAID CAUSE.
14	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL OF SAID TRANSCRIPT
15	WAS THEREAFTER SEALED BY ME AND DELIVERED TO ERIN CRAWFORD,
16	GRESSETTE BUILDING, 1101 PENDLETON STREET, COLUMBIA, SOUTH
17	CAROLINA, WHO WILL RETAIN THIS SEALED ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT
18	AND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILING SAME WITH THE COURT
19	PRIOR TO TRIAL OR ANY HEARING WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN A FINAL
20	ORDER ON ANY ISSUE.
21	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE SET MY HAND AND SEAL THIS
22	16TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.
23	1011 Dil oi oillatha Bhartan
24	KATHRYN B. BOSTROM, COURT REPORTER
25	MY COMMISSION EXPIRES AUGUST 23, 2032

12 5:15 efing 22 4:4 ngs iness 2  C  3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed 6 nirman	D     decisions   4:5     E	Hilton 4:17 5:2,6,22,24 Honorable 4:17 5:2,6,21,24 Hope 3:12  I illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial 3:4	3:3 member 4:11 members 3:5,19 5:3 Merit 3:4 motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1 number
22 4:4 ngs iness 2 C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	decisions   4:5   E	Honorable 4:17 5:2,6,21,24 Hope 3:12  I illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	4:11 members 3:5,19 5:3 Merit 3:4 motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1 number
c C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	### ##################################	4:17 5:2,6,21,24  Hope 3:12  I illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	members 3:5,19 5:3 Merit 3:4 motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1 number
C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	E exception 3:12 Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	I illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	3:5,19 5:3  Merit 3:4  motion 3:15  motions 4:9  N  nature 3:9  nay 3:20  nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1  number
C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	exception 3:12 Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F  favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	I illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	Merit 3:4 motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed 5	exception 3:12 Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F  favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	3:12  I illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	3:4 motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N  nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	3:12 Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F  favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	3:4 motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N  nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
C 3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	3:12 Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F  favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	motion 3:15 motions 4:9  N  nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	Executive 3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	illness 3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	3:15 motions 4:9  N  nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	3:17,22,24 4:2,3 explain 4:22  F  favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	3:10 individuals 4:16  J joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	notions 4:9  N  nature 3:9  nay 3:20  nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
3 4:18,21,23 didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	F favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	individuals 4:16  J  joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	4:9  N  nature 3:9  nay 3:20  nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	4:22  F  favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	4:16  joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	N nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1
didate 5 didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	F favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	4:16  joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:20 number
didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	nature 3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:20 number
didates 13,15,25 key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:25 number
13,15,25 <b>key</b> 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 <b>sed</b>	favor 3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	joined 3:5 Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	3:9 nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:25 number
key 2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	3:18 finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	3:5 <b>Jordan</b> 5:13,14 <b>Judicial</b>	nay 3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1 number
2,20 4:1,7,11, 5:6,7,23 sed	finds 5:23 found 4:13 5:1,25	3:5 <b>Jordan</b> 5:13,14 <b>Judicial</b>	3:20 nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:20 number
5:6,7,23 <b>sed</b>	5:23 <b>found</b> 4:13 5:1,25	Jordan 5:13,14 Judicial	nominated 4:14,16 5:25 6:1 number
sed 5	<b>found</b> 4:13 5:1,25	5:13,14 Judicial	4:14,16 5:25 6:1 number
5	4:13 5:1,25	Judicial	number
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
urman		3.71	1 2.5
20 4.1 7 11	funeral	3.4	3:5
2,20 4:1,7,11,	3:13		
5:6,7,23		L	O
cuit	<b>G</b>	Ladies	
[		3:2 4:1	opposed 3:20
nmission	gathered	Large	
4,11 4:11 5:23	3:15	6:1	order
3	gentleman		3:3
	3:2		
5			P
ırt	4:1		n m
		5.0	<b>p.m.</b>
ter	тт		3:24 6:6
18,20,23 5:5,		M	pause
10,12,15,17,	headaches	mada	3:21
,21	3:6		pending
		, ·	3:17
			person
		5:15,10	3:11
	rt ter 8,20,23 5:5, 0,12,15,17,	3:2 gentlemen 4:1 ter 8,20,23 5:5, 0,12,15,17, 21 headaches 3:6 hearings 6:6	3:2   3:22 4:4     logistics   3:6

point         remotely           3:21 4:12         3:5           portion         Representative           4:8         3:16 5:12,13,14           present         required           3:11         4:18           President's         6:3           3:7         4:8           proceed         roll           4:7         4:18,21           proceedings         Russell           4:17 5:2,6,22,24         U           Rutherford         3:9,10           3:14 5:11         S           Sabb         3:7           3:14 5:10         Safran           3:16 5:17,18         3:11           victually         3:11           visit         3:7           vote         4:18,23,24 5:3           vote         4:18,23,24 5:3           votes         4:4 5:21
portion         Representative           4:8         3:16 5:12,13,14           present         3:16 5:12,13,14           3:11         required           4:18         today           5:10         today           5:3         today's           3:7         4:8         today's           3:7         4:18,21         U           proceed         4:18,21         U           Russell         U         unexpected           4:22         3:16 5:12         V           proxy         3:14 5:11         S           Q         Sabb 3:14 5:10         3:7           Vice 3:7         3:1           4:14 5:1,25         3:16 5:17,18           Guestion         Seat           3:17         6:1           questions         6:1           6:5         3:16           Selection         4:4 5:21
4:8       3:16 5:12,13,14       Talley         present       3:11       4:18       today         3:11       4:18       today's         3:7       4:8       today's         3:7       4:8       today's         3:7       4:18,21       U         Proceed       Proll       4:18,21       U         Russell       U         4:17 5:2,6,22,24       Rutherford       3:9,10         4:22       3:16 5:12       V         V         Sabb       3:7         3:14 5:11       Safran       3:16 5:17,18         4:14 5:1,25       3:16 5:17,18       Victe         3:17       6:1       vitually         question       3:16       vote         6:5       Selection       4:18,23,24 5:3         votes       4:4 5:21
present         3:11         required         5:10           3:11         4:18         today           6:3         today's           3:7         4:8         today's           3:7         4:8         today's           3:3         4:18,21         U           Proceedings         3:21         U           Russell         U         unexpected           4:22         3:16 5:12         V           Sabb         3:14 5:10         Vice           3:14 5:10         Safran         3:11           4:14 5:1,25         Seat         3:7           question         3:16         3:7           3:16         Seconded         4:18,23,24 5:3           4:18,23,24 5:3         votes           4:18,23,24 5:3         votes           4:4 5:21         4:4 5:21
Tequified   4:18   today   6:3
President's         respect         6:3           3:7         4:8         today's           3:7         4:8         3:3           proceed         4:18,21         U           proceedings         4:18,21         U           3:21         Russell         U           4:17 5:2,6,22,24         unexpected           Rutherford         3:9,10           Sabb         3:14 5:12           Sabb         3:7           3:14 5:10         Safran           3:16 5:17,18         3:11           visit         3:7           vote         4:18,23,24 5:3           votes         4:18,23,24 5:3           votes         4:4 5:21
Tesident s   4:8   1:8
proceed         4:7         roll         3:3           proceedings         3:21         Russell         U           3:21         Rutherford         3:9,10           process         Rutherford         3:9,10           4:22         Sabb         3:14 5:12           V         Vice           3:14 5:10         Safran         3:16 5:17,18           qualified         Seat         3:11         virtually           3:17         Seat         3:7         vote           questions         6:1         seconded         4:18,23,24 5:3         votes           4:18,23,24 5:3         votes           4:18,23,24 5:3         votes           4:4 5:21
101   4:18,21   U
4:7       4:18,21         proceedings       3:21         3:21       4:17 5:2,6,22,24         Rutherford       3:9,10         3:14 5:11       S         V       Vice         3:14 5:10       Safran         3:16 5:17,18       3:11         visit       3:7         visit       3:7         vote       4:18,23,24 5:3         votes       4:4 5:21
3:21 process 4:22 Proxy 3:14 5:11  Q Q Qualified 4:14 5:1,25 question 3:17 questions 6:5  4:17 5:2,6,22,24 Rutherford 3:9,10  V Vice 3:7 virtually 3:11 visit 3:7 vote 4:18,23,24 5:3 votes 4:4 5:21
3:21 process 4:22 Proxy 3:14 5:11  Q qualified 4:14 5:1,25 question 3:17 questions 6:5  4:17 5:2,6,22,24 Rutherford 3:9,10  V Vice 3:7 virtually 3:11 visit 3:7 vote 4:18,23,24 5:3 votes 4:4 5:21
process         Rutherford         3:9,10           proxy         Sabb         V           qualified         Safran         virtually           4:14 5:1,25         3:16 5:17,18         visit           question         3:17         6:1           questions         6:5         3:16           Selection         4:4 5:21
4:22       3:16 5:12         3:14 5:11       S         V       Vice         3:14 5:10       3:7         virtually       3:11         visit       3:7         visit       3:7         visit       3:7         vote       4:18,23,24 5:3         votes       4:4 5:21
Proxy         Sabb         Vice           qualified         3:14 5:10         virtually           4:14 5:1,25         3:16 5:17,18         visit           question         6:1         vote           3:17         seconded         3:16           questions         3:16         vote           6:5         Selection         4:45:21
Sabb   Sabb   3:14 5:10   Safran   3:16 5:17,18   Seat   3:7   virtually   3:11   visit   3:7   vote   4:18,23,24 5:3   votes   4:4 5:21     Seconded   4:4 5:21     Seconded   3:16   Selection   Seconded   4:4 5:21     Seconded     Seconded   4:4 5:21     Seconded
Q       Sabb 3:14 5:10       Vice 3:7         qualified 4:14 5:1,25       Safran 3:16 5:17,18       virtually 3:11         question 3:17       Seat 3:7       visit 3:7         questions 6:5       Seconded 3:16       vote 4:18,23,24 5:3         Selection 2:4       4:4 5:21
Q     3:14 5:10     3:7       qualified     Safran     3:15 5:17,18       4:14 5:1,25     3:16 5:17,18     visit       question     6:1     vote       questions     3:16     vote       6:5     Selection     4:18,23,24 5:3       votes     4:4 5:21
qualified       Safran       virtually         4:14 5:1,25       3:16 5:17,18         question       Seat       3:7         3:17       6:1       vote         questions       3:16       votes         6:5       Selection       4:4 5:21
qualified       3:16 5:17,18       3:11         4:14 5:1,25       3:16 5:17,18       visit         3:17       6:1       vote         questions       seconded       4:18,23,24 5:3         6:5       Selection       votes         4:4 5:21       4:4 5:21
4:14 5:1,25 question 3:17 questions 6:5 Seat 3:16 5:17,18 visit 3:7 vote 4:18,23,24 5:3 votes 4:4 5:21
question     3:17       questions     6:1       6:5     seconded       3:16     4:18,23,24 5:3       votes     4:4 5:21
3:17 questions 6:5  Selection  3:7 vote 4:18,23,24 5:3 votes 4:4 5:21
questions       seconded         6:5       3:16         Selection       votes         4:18,23,24 5:3         votes         4:4 5:21
6:5 3:16 4:18,23,24 5:3 votes 4:4 5:21
Selection 4:4 5:21
4:4 5:21
Senator
race 3:14 5:8,9,10,11
4:13 Session
<b>Rankin</b> 3:18,22,24 4:2,3
5:8,9,11 signify
receiving 3:18
4:3 stand
record 6:3
3:25 4:2 start
redacted 4:24
4:6,10,17 5:2,4 <b>Statehouse</b>
remain 3:7
4:15 <b>Strom</b>
remaining 5:19,20
5:19,20