

1 BERNALILLO COUNTY
2 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
3 SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING
4 Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 12:02 p.m.
5

6 VINCENT E. GRIEGO CHAMBERS
7 ALBUQUERQUE-BERNALILLO COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
8 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102
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10
11 A P P E A R A N C E S
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14 DEBBIE O'MALLEY, Member
15 STEVEN MICHAEL QUEZADA, Member
16 LONNIE C. TALBERT, Member
17 CHARLENE E. PYSKOTY, Member
18 JAMES M. COLLIE, Member
19 LINDA STOVER, County Clerk
20

21
22
23 BEFORE: KIM KAY SHOLLENBARGER, RPR
24 Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters
25 500 4th Street, Northwest, Suite 105
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

1 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Good afternoon,
2 everyone, and welcome. I'd like to call this Special
3 Meeting of the Bernalillo County Commissioners to
4 order.

5 The purpose of this meeting is to fill a
6 vacancy in House District 27 as a result of the
7 recent passing of State Legislator Dr. Bill Pratt.
8 Dr. Pratt was a well-respected, dedicated member of
9 his community who dedicated his life for the advocacy
10 of children.

11 I also want to, before we move on to the
12 silent invocation; Pledge of Allegiance, welcome our
13 new Commissioner, that's James Collie, who was just
14 recently sworn in, like half an hour ago.

15 (Applause)

16 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: The next thing we'll
17 do is silent invocation, Pledge of Allegiance. If
18 our new Commissioner would lead the Pledge of
19 Allegiance. But first I just would like all of us at
20 this time to take a moment of silence to remember the
21 families of recently passed Councilor Ken Sanchez and
22 also Dr. William Pratt.

23 (Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance)

24 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you. Next is
25 Public Comment. The applicants, or the candidates,

1 will have four minutes to speak. Our clerk, Julie
2 Anne, the Services Manager, will call up the folks
3 who are listed. You will have four minutes to speak.
4 And then after all the applicants speak there will be
5 90 seconds, or a minute-and-a-half, for those who
6 have come in support to speak. You will be given a
7 30-second notice to wrap up your comments when your
8 time is up.

9 When your name is called, please make your
10 way down to the podium. State your name for the
11 record before you begin your comments. Thank you.

12 Julie.

13 MS. BACA: Juan Fernandez, Jill Michel,
14 Marian Matthews, Robert Godshall.

15 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Welcome.

16 MR. FERNANDEZ: Thank you, Madam President
17 and Honorable Members of the Commission. My name is
18 Juan Fernandez and I am here today to ask for your
19 support to become the State Representative for House
20 District 27. I am running because I would like to
21 honor Dr. Pratt's legacy and continue his work at the
22 legislature on behalf of children.

23 I am a small business owner in Albuquerque
24 and have worked for the Credit Union Association of
25 New Mexico for the last 12 years. My work has

1 enabled me to travel to every corner of the State and
2 engage with voters to understand the issues keeping
3 New Mexico residents awake at night.

4 Credit unions are not-for-profit
5 cooperatives owned by their members. I've trained as
6 a credit union development educator and that has
7 instilled in me a sense that we can do more together.
8 That will be my approach as your next representative,
9 to bring people together across political ideologies
10 and build consensus to deliver results. But
11 Bernalillo County and District 27 have specific needs
12 that I am uniquely qualified to support.

13 I'm a millennial and I understand the needs
14 and wants of growing families in Bernalillo County
15 from economic development and reducing our
16 unemployment rate to tackling, fixing our school
17 systems and reducing crime, as well as infrastructure
18 needs of the County.

19 My economics, banking and finance background
20 is unique at the legislature. I am a job creator who
21 has to work to meet payroll, build my business and
22 wants to grow it. I know the challenges that small
23 business owners face and have a plan to ensure we
24 make it easier for working New Mexicans to start and
25 build a successful business right here in New Mexico

1 and achieve their American dream.

2 The Commission laid out its legislative
3 priorities and support those at the up-coming New
4 Mexico Legislative Session. Supporting P.E.R.A.
5 reforms, for example, doesn't just ensure that County
6 employees get a fair retirement, but it makes sure a
7 bond rating is secure for future projects.

8 Supporting LEDA and JTIP efforts ensure that
9 our economic development folks have the tools they
10 need to recreate and retrain businesses, as well as
11 train those to work in those new jobs.

12 This Commission has supported a number of
13 criminal justice reforms that I believe will keep our
14 residents safer, and would vote for in the House. My
15 neighbors often talk about crime, vandalism, petty
16 theft and more. Anything we can do to help would
17 make an impact on my neighborhood, your neighborhoods
18 and the County.

19 House Bill 2 is a good example of common
20 sense legislation that I support to help the County.
21 I feel that supporting common sense legislation will
22 benefit District 27, Bernalillo County. I have a
23 track record of accomplishments and know how to
24 deliver results on day one.

25 I immigrated from Puerto Rico, which has

1 given me a unique perspective on New Mexico. I grew
2 up poor like many New Mexicans and I understand the
3 struggles, but I've also been able to earn a degree
4 in economics and my MBA and have created jobs here in
5 the County, thanks to finding a home here, supportive
6 friends and community groups that I volunteer with to
7 support.

8 I ask for your support to help Bernalillo
9 County grow, to serve District 27 and to make sure
10 that the County's priorities succeed.

11 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you,
12 Mr. Fernandez.

13 MS. MICHEL: Hello, and thank you. My name
14 is Jill Michel and I have been a life-long resident
15 of New Mexico. My husband and I raise our eight
16 children and we have lived in District 27 for close
17 to nine years. We are adoptive parents and foster
18 parents and we have been foster parents for over a
19 decade.

20 In our experience as foster parents we feel
21 like we have served our community on the frontlines,
22 which has given us the opportunity to see things most
23 people don't in New Mexico. In that, we have a
24 unique perspective on what New Mexico needs to thrive
25 and survive.

1 It was just a little over a year ago that we
2 were placed with a teenaged foster child who could
3 not be placed anywhere else. In the short time that
4 she was with us she thrived in our home. She became
5 part of our family. She instantly fell in love with
6 our children and we loved her. She entrusted me with
7 her birth certificate. And if you know anything
8 about children who have never had a home, who have
9 never had stability in their life, that was huge.
10 And I still have her birth certificate to this day.

11 What made me painfully aware of where New
12 Mexico needs assistance and help and why I am
13 uniquely fit for this is that she came to me one day
14 and she said, "I need to go get high. I love you
15 guys and you guys are my family, but I have to
16 leave." I tried everything in my power to get that
17 child some help to keep her in her stable
18 environment. I called everywhere I could and there
19 simply were no services for her. There was nowhere
20 that was prepared to take teenagers struggling with
21 drugs and addiction and no mental health services for
22 her.

23 I called the department and they said, "just
24 let her go, there's nothing we can do." So I had her
25 call it in to the child abuse hotline, because

1 selfishly it would give me a few extra minutes and I
2 was hoping that somehow, by a miracle, I could keep
3 her there. And I couldn't. There was nothing that I
4 could do and so that's when I decided that all of my
5 efforts as a foster parent, I have reached the limit
6 of what I can do for New Mexico as a foster parent.
7 That is why I am asking for you to appoint me to this
8 seat, because I think there is a lot of things that
9 we can do.

10 I think there is a lot of potential for New
11 Mexico. And I think that if we work together we can
12 make New Mexico a great place to grow up as a kid.
13 We can give them the mental health support that they
14 need, we can give them substance abuse treatment,
15 because if we don't address those things, they don't
16 have a chance in education. They don't have a chance
17 in becoming employable. So we need to get a handle
18 on our mental health, the state of our mental health
19 in New Mexico, and that will be one of my goals as a
20 legislator in New Mexico, is to bring mental health
21 services and substance abuse treatment and make it
22 readily available to anybody who needs it.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you,
25 Ms. Michel.

1 MS. BACA: Marian Matthews, Robert Godshall,
2 Samia Assed, Jason Barker, Kevin Fitzwater.

3 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Welcome.

4 MS. MATTHEWS: Thank you. I'm Marian
5 Matthews, thank you for the opportunity to speak
6 today. I have had the privilege in connection with
7 this appointment of talking with Commissioners
8 O'Malley, Talbert and Pyskoty, and those are all
9 wonderful introductions and times.

10 Commissioner Collie, you were just sworn in,
11 I just met you, congratulations. If you have any
12 tips about how to get an appointment, I sure would
13 like you to share them with me. And I met
14 Commissioner Quezada out in the hallway and I meant
15 to say to him, and I didn't have a chance to do it,
16 because I wasn't thinking quick enough, I think the
17 most fascinating and coolest street in the whole
18 Albuquerque area is La Vega, Southwest. I love La
19 Vega, Southwest. I know it. I used to work and
20 volunteer in the South Valley. The street is a
21 treasure and the South Valley is a treasure.

22 It's an honor to be considered for this
23 appointment. I'm sure that all the applicants bring
24 achievements and skills to the table. The question
25 today is why, among the nine of us, I should be

1 selected to fill Representative Pratt's unexpired
2 term, and I am going to offer three major reasons.

3 First, I practiced law for some 20 years and
4 I left the practice of law because I wanted to use
5 the skills and knowledge I gained to do even more
6 creative and sustainable work. I became an
7 entrepreneur, a nonprofit executive and an educator
8 at CNM. Because of that decision years ago I gained
9 a real depth of knowledge about people and the impact
10 of public policy, and I will give you an example.

11 As a prosecutor I learned about the criminal
12 justice system. And I have no illusions that there
13 are people whose behavior must be stopped. At PB&J I
14 met children with incarcerated parents. I went into
15 prisons and saw parenting programs that reduced
16 violence and recidivism. And at CNM I still remember
17 the older gentleman who started crying in the
18 entrepreneurship class I was teaching when he shared
19 he had been in prison and now couldn't find a job.
20 Over the years I've become a much more effective and
21 thoughtful problem solver as I expanded my horizons
22 and met new and different people.

23 Second, I know a lot about my district.
24 When I come to their door, which I do often because
25 I'm an organizer in the area, their electronic

1 doorbell takes my photo and they hold their dogs back
2 as they answer the door. HD 27 is statistically a
3 relatively safe part of the City, but the people in
4 HD 27 are scared by the violence and the crime in the
5 City. The test of political leadership, in my mind,
6 in HD 27 is to help them understand that we are safer
7 when we invest in programs that reduce addiction,
8 family dysfunction and violence. My background and
9 the fact that I know them helps me do that.

10 Third, the problems of our community, crime,
11 violence, poor outcomes for our kids, poverty, these
12 impact all the quadrants of the City and can't be
13 solved by any single quadrant or any single house
14 district by themselves. For example, as a legislator
15 I want to work with this Commission and the City
16 Council to build our behavioral health system. These
17 are community goals, not just HD 27 goals. The
18 people who live in HD 27 are involved throughout the
19 City and I am committed to working with legislators,
20 City Councilors and County Commissioners to help
21 solve these problems.

22 I formally kicked off my campaign last year
23 after Bill announced he was not running for
24 re-election. When November comes around -- may I
25 finish my sentence?

1 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Yes, finish your
2 sentence, please.

3 MS. MATTHEWS: I will have knocked on
4 hundreds of doors, raised thousands of dollars and
5 made even more friends all over the district who
6 share my passion for a safer, more child-friendly and
7 more economically vibrant HD 27, Albuquerque, BernCo
8 and State.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

11 MR. GODSHALL: Thank you, Madam
12 Commissioner. My name is Robert S. Godshall and I am
13 seeking appointment to the State Representative seat
14 from House District 27. I came to New Mexico from
15 Philadelphia in 1976 when I was 20 years old. I got
16 a job at the Coronado Mall, and I would stand there
17 in the parking lot and look out at those gorgeous
18 mountains and at the end of the City where you can
19 actually see an end of the City and I would pinch
20 myself not believing that I was actually in
21 Albuquerque. To say that I don't have a profound
22 appreciation for this State would be a gross
23 understatement.

24 I came here with \$2,000 in my pocket. I
25 spent a thousand dollars on a car. I spent a

1 thousand dollars getting started at UNM. I took out
2 loans. I worked multiple jobs. I got a degree in
3 political science. A couple of times I actually went
4 down to apply for food stamps, things were so bad,
5 but I didn't actually apply for the food stamps.
6 I've worked for the minimum wage when it was a dollar
7 sixty-five an hour. I know what it's like to be poor
8 and I know what it's like to be successful.

9 In 2008 I retired from Homeland Security
10 after 28 years in the federal government and now I'm
11 part owner of a small business. In 2018 I ran for
12 this seat against Representative William Pratt. I
13 never planned to run for elected office. I was used
14 to helping other people run. But I ran because
15 people like Larry Larranaga, who was unable to
16 continue his campaign at that time, asked me to run.
17 A lot of other people asked me to run because they
18 thought I could do a good job for the State and for
19 the district. With just two months in the campaign I
20 received over 7,000 votes, losing to Mr. Pratt by 193
21 votes. This was one of the closest legislative races
22 in the State. I think it demonstrates that I have a
23 substantial amount of support in the district and
24 there is no other candidate here that can say that.

25 One of the reasons that I have decided to

1 run for this seat again is that I want to be able to
2 stay in this State that has been my home since 1976.
3 Now, that may sound like a curious reason, but I also
4 want my daughter to be able to stay here and I want
5 my granddaughter to be able to stay here. There are
6 a lot of other people out there who are wondering if
7 they're going to be able to stay in this State. They
8 are concerned about the high crime rate. They are
9 concerned about lack of economic opportunity for them
10 or their children. They are concerned that the
11 education system is failing to educate their
12 children. They are concerned that the State is not
13 on a firm and sound financial footing and they are
14 concerned that the current composition of the
15 legislature is not prepared to take the appropriate
16 measures to change that situation. Your choice today
17 will demonstrate whether or not you share the
18 concerns of the people of this State.

19 Thank you for your time and consideration.

20 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

21 MS. BACA: Samia Assed, Jason Barker, Kevin
22 Fitzwater, Ronald Krise, William Orr.

23 MS. ASSED: Good afternoon, Commissioners,
24 how are you. Thank you to all previous speakers,
25 they were very inspirational and I am honored to be

1 in good company to run for this seat for House
2 District 27. I did not prepare a speech because I
3 like to speak from the heart all the time.

4 I'm the mother of nine. I have been married
5 for 35 years. I have lived in the district for 20
6 years now, and what drives me to run for this seat,
7 which is for about two years now, two or three years
8 I've been eyeing this seat, is my children, actually,
9 first of all.

10 I've seen how Albuquerque has not benefited,
11 communities that want to stay in the community, kids
12 that want to stay in the community. I would like to
13 touch on three of my children that left this City. I
14 could not keep them in the City. There is no future
15 for us here as it pertains to new job creations, as
16 it pertains to really good, rich careers, to creating
17 new businesses. And the crime rate is one thing I
18 really want to address.

19 I have lived in District 27 and there has
20 been around eight incidents of where our cars have
21 been stolen. And we see firsthand how, even though
22 it's a safe neighborhood, we've had to deal with all
23 sorts of criminals, whether it's -- we knew some of
24 the cars went to the chop shops, whether it is drug
25 addiction, we see how the dynamics change within the

1 kids and the youth. I've seen my kids go to school,
2 come back with the stories. And we know how drugs
3 infiltrate schools. We know how there's a lack of
4 support for educators. There's a lack of mental
5 health facilities. We have our counselors playing
6 police, playing doctor, playing educator. It's not
7 enough for them at an academic level.

8 On a business level, I'm a small business
9 owner. I had a previous business in District 27 and
10 I know firsthand what it's like, the challenges I
11 face, and what incentives this State does not offer
12 to small businesses. I still am a small business.
13 My husband and I have owned many a business in the
14 State and to support a big family like ours we have
15 to have a small business. So I am a proponent of
16 small business. I would like to see education really
17 worked on and really find programs where we can find
18 the gap areas that affect children where they go into
19 drugs. La Cueva kids, Academy kids are facing real
20 threats. If you talk about some of the crime that's
21 happening in our neighborhood, it is usually the kids
22 from those schools that are going into homes at
23 gunpoint and robbing our communities and these are
24 real life issues.

25 And I want to talk right now real fast about

1 my activism. I am an activist, a movement leader.
2 I'm at the forefront of some of the most prominent
3 movements right now in the country, whether it's the
4 womens march, I addressed the poor peoples campaign
5 here. I'm part of the nonprofits that do the work
6 and will work with the Commissioners here to make
7 sure that we address real life issues and really --
8 authentic voices, and take it down to the Roundhouse
9 with a lot of vigor and a good fight, I promise that.

10 And I would like to say one more thing.
11 Help me elect the first Muslim-American hijab woman
12 to the Roundhouse. It's about time my district has
13 the option of voting for somebody like me.

14 Thank you very much.

15 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

16 MS. BACA: Kevin Fitzwater, Ronald Krise,
17 William Orr.

18 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Welcome.

19 MR. FITZWATER: Madam Chair, Commissioners,
20 good afternoon to you. I'm Kevin Fitzwater. Some of
21 you may know me and my reputation of public service.
22 For those who don't, thank you for the opportunity to
23 introduce myself. I'm asking for your appointment
24 because there are issues concerning this State in my
25 district that I am passionate about.

1 Statewide there is a great need to address
2 the education and healthcare systems. In my district
3 there's a great concern about the level of crime,
4 poverty, homelessness and the survival of small
5 businesses. These are very personal issues for me.

6 I was raised in a small town. I have a
7 brother that's developmentally disabled. My mother
8 died very young from cancer. And I know how
9 difficult it is to access quality healthcare and
10 medical and social services and how devastating it is
11 emotionally and financially for the whole family and
12 the community. Both rural and metropolitan areas,
13 down to the neighborhood, must and can do a better
14 job in providing quality and available care for us.

15 My family has a long tradition in education.
16 My grandmother had a one-room depression era
17 schoolhouse. My daughter teaches in APS. I'm very
18 frustrated with the level of education around the
19 State. Even here in Albuquerque we can do better.
20 We're losing children and we're crippling our future.

21 In my district the neighborhood Internet
22 post coffee shop conversations that are replete with
23 talk about robberies and car thefts and break-ins.
24 They talk about the homelessness and we worry about
25 the poverty. It's very troubling. I want to help

1 change these.

2 I believe I have the experience to make a
3 difference and I know I have the work ethic and the
4 passion, and here's why. As a Marine officer for
5 over 30 years of service I learned how to accomplish
6 a mission through tenacity and moral courage. I also
7 know that you must take care of your people as an
8 obligation and a trust.

9 I learned the importance of listening to
10 people. And aside from command and administrative
11 duties, I was sought out to handle special interest
12 inquiries and congressional investigations. I was
13 one of four Marines selected to attend law school, so
14 I came back home to UNM to get my degree here. They
15 sent me to the Pacific and I was a defense attorney
16 for the entire Pacific. And trust me, if you think
17 being a defense attorney in the Marine Corps is easy,
18 it's a tough experience.

19 After active duty I chose to work with the
20 district attorney's office to experience the other
21 side of the system and I prosecuted nearly every type
22 of case before being appointed to the Metropolitan
23 Court bench, and I understood what justice truly
24 meant. It's not just winning cases, it's solving
25 problems. And I learned to listen to the victims of

1 crime. As a trial judge I heard thousands of cases.
2 And again, active listening is a skill I worked hard
3 to learn. I learned it's important to deliver the
4 truth and be responsible and accountable to what you
5 do for your community.

6 As a Judge I found the first mental health
7 court in the State, one of the first in the nation.
8 I understood our justice system was broken with
9 regard to people struggling with mental health issues
10 and it needed to be done. We did it with no money
11 and by bringing the attorneys and the communities
12 together working with communities and law
13 enforcement. We built a model that's been copied
14 across the country. I was privileged to be a member
15 of the judges leadership initiative, advising the
16 council and state governments, and to work with
17 Senator Pete Domenici to get the first reforms and
18 assurance for mental health treatment in the nation.

19 I've run successful countywide campaigns. I
20 received strong support from both sides of the aisle
21 in contested races and I consistently enjoy the
22 highest do retain recommendations by bipartisan
23 committees.

24 I know the nuts and bolts, the door-to-door
25 work it takes, and I know the commitment required.

1 Most of all, I've been successful at these because I
2 have a great respect for all people and I listen. I
3 keep an open ear and an open mind to their positions.
4 And I have a strong track record for doing and
5 accomplishing what I believe is right and best for my
6 community.

7 Thank you for the opportunity on behalf of
8 myself and all the applicants. Thank you for
9 listening.

10 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

11 MS. BACA: Ronald Krise, William Orr.

12 MR. KRISE: Hello, Commissioners. By now
13 you guys are probably all tired of listening to all
14 these stories about everybody. I am seeking this
15 office to be the state representative. I've ran
16 twice. I lost to Larry Larranaga twice.

17 What I've heard here is that we're all
18 talking about the same stories over and over again,
19 the crime, this, that. We're all aware of the same
20 problems, but what I haven't heard here is, nobody
21 has basically said that when you're a state
22 representative you represent the people of your
23 district and you represent the people. And it's not
24 about me or whoever gets this position today, it's
25 about the people of the district and what their

1 concerns are. I've knocked on over 10,000 doors over
2 time and I've listened to people and I know the
3 problems, what they're concerned about.

4 I'll make it short. I'm here, hopefully
5 you'll vote for me. And I'll leave it at that.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you. Welcome.

8 MR. ORR: The last of the long line. Thank
9 you, Commissioners, for listening. My name is
10 William Orr and I thank you for allowing me to
11 address you today. I want to use this time to extend
12 my comments, my written comments, which I submitted
13 to you, and not so much review those.

14 I'm very excited to be appointed, the
15 opportunity to be appointed to Dr. Pratt's position.
16 It was clear from the comments that his fellow
17 legislators made at the time of his death that they
18 valued his expertise in healthcare, and I want to
19 bring -- continue to bring that expertise to the
20 House.

21 I've worked at multiple levels of healthcare
22 and have a deep understanding of both physical and
23 behavioral health issues and systems and delivery.
24 My initial interest in geriatrics, in fact, was
25 prompted by trying to develop a system of care so

1 people had other alternatives when care needs
2 increased, besides just going to a nursing home. I
3 really think that I have the skills and background to
4 come up with a first class healthcare system in the
5 legislature and have a voice in the House to achieve
6 that goal.

7 My goal as a legislator was really divided
8 into shorter/longer term goals. And the shorter term
9 goals is dealing with what's in the legislature
10 coming up in the next two weeks as far as budget
11 issues, which is what the 30-day session will
12 primarily deal with.

13 I was pleased to see that the governor -- I
14 was generally pleased with the governor's call. I
15 think putting new money into either short term
16 projects like infrastructure or self-funding long
17 term projects, such as the Childhood Education Trust
18 Fund and the P.E.R.A. fund infusions were great
19 ideas. I need to look more closely at the P.E.R.A.
20 proposal because I want to make sure that the changes
21 in the pension retirement fund for the public
22 employees does not, in fact, increase the risk of
23 poverty for some of those members.

24 We have one of the highest rates of elder
25 poverty in the United States and towards that end I

1 would like very much to consider removing the Social
2 Security, the state tax on Social Security income for
3 the low income, for seniors below a certain threshold
4 because it really doesn't make sense to tax people
5 who aren't -- these benefits for people who really
6 don't have enough money already. And I think with
7 other things we can probably find a way to fund that.

8 The issue also coming up, which is a
9 statewide issue, has to do with how the State can
10 balance its issue with dependence on the oil and gas
11 industry and the unfortunate destructive nature the
12 oil and gas industry has on our environment.

13 As far as healthcare, I really want to
14 support and excited to hear the funding results of
15 the Health Security Act. As you all know, the Health
16 Security Act is a proposal which is well laid out as
17 far as what the benefit package is, how it's going to
18 be funded, how the system is going to be structured.
19 And there's actually a financial analysis being done
20 on that currently. That will come out this spring.
21 It gives a real chance for the State and us, because
22 health care is so important to the State for all the
23 issues we've talked about, about reduction of crime,
24 making sure there's adequate drug treatment, making
25 sure there's adequate mental health, we have to

1 figure a way to fund all those services and the
2 Health Security Act actually does that by looking at
3 it. And we can see what the effects of that will be.
4 And it's going to make a real legitimate decision on
5 whether we want to move forward such as a single
6 payor health system or whether that's not going to
7 work for the State.

8 The last comment I want to make has to do
9 with physician recruitment and the Health Security
10 Act will actually help that if that's passed, if it's
11 appropriate, because it will remove a lot of the
12 administrative burdens from practitioners dealing
13 with billing.

14 My last comment would be, I really would
15 like the answer to the question, which people may
16 pose, is there a doctor in the house. I want the
17 answer to be, me.

18 Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

20 MS. BACA: That concludes the candidate
21 speakers. Mr. Jason Barker was not able to attend.

22 Scotti Romberg, Cecilia Clark, Janet Lipham,
23 Marilyn Finkelstein.

24 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: If you want to make
25 your way over. But I didn't know if the

1 Commissioners had any questions for any of the
2 applicants right now or if you wanted to wait until
3 later.

4 Also, I want to say that I do appreciate, we
5 all got the resumes and the letters requesting
6 appointment and I was just really impressed by
7 peoples passion about their district over and over
8 again, the concerns of the neighborhoods. Clearly
9 folks really thought this through and I just want to
10 thank you for that. It's not always easy to be in
11 our position, to make that selection.

12 Anyway, we're going to start with the folks
13 who signed up in support. Julie just listed those,
14 and if you want to make your way to the front seats
15 there it could move the process along. Do you want
16 to repeat those first four names, please.

17 MS. BACA: Scotti Romberg, Cecilia Clark,
18 Janet Lipham, Marilyn Finkelstein, Anne McKinney,
19 Mohammed Jaber, Serena Talamontes.

20 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: So first is? The
21 first person is not here? Then the second.

22 MS. CLARK: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
23 My name is Cecilia Clark. I'm a resident of House
24 District 27 and I have been for the past 35 years. I
25 was also one of many who knocked on doors and made

1 phone calls to help elect Dr. Bill Pratt to his seat
2 for House District 27. And I am here to urge you to
3 appoint Marian Matthews to his unexpired term.

4 I met Marian in early 2017 in our precinct
5 and our ward meeting. She stepped up to fill the
6 vice chair position for our ward and she immediately
7 began to organize and activate our ward in a way I've
8 never seen in the many years I've lived in this area.

9 Over the past three years I've got to know
10 her. I was constantly amazed, as I became aware of
11 her incredibly varied background, she has a vast
12 background in public, private and nonprofit service.
13 From her career as a deputy attorney general under
14 Tom Udall to her work with PB&J Family Services,
15 which we all know a lot about in Albuquerque, to
16 teaching entrepreneurship at CNM. She has a deep
17 knowledge and appreciation of the problems, the
18 opportunities and the solutions facing our State and
19 district.

20 I've received several emails from some of
21 the other possible candidates running for this seat
22 and who may have also applied for this vacancy, and I
23 feel strongly that there's no one who has the depth
24 and breadth of Marian Matthews background.

25 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

1 MS. CLARK: I respectfully request that she
2 be appointed.

3 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

4 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

5 MS. BACA: Marilyn Finkelstein --

6 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Just before Marilyn,
7 I just wanted to acknowledge our State Auditor, Brian
8 Colon, who is here. And if you wouldn't mind, he did
9 want to say something.

10 Thank you, I appreciate that. Welcome,
11 Mr. Colon.

12 MR. COLON: Thank you, Madam Chair, Members
13 of the Commission, and now everybody is going to be
14 anxiously awaiting Ms. Finkelstein's remarks. I'm
15 sorry to interrupt. I'm here today just in support
16 of the work of the Commission and really just to
17 share a couple of words about Dr. Pratt.

18 When I was in policy, long before I was
19 elected, I recall receiving so many great letters
20 from him with his position, with his insights, with
21 his passionate advocacy in public policy in New
22 Mexico. He would painstakingly take time to write
23 those letters personally to so many of us who he
24 believed that either currently or at some point would
25 have a voice in government. And I feel privileged

1 that I was one of those people, long before I ran for
2 office and long before he held office.

3 What I recall is that as a precinct leader
4 and chairman and a ward leader in his district, he
5 always made time for anybody who was willing to
6 engage in policy conversation. What I have heard
7 today from the people who presented was that they too
8 are also interested at a very granular level on
9 public policy. So I have no doubt that whoever the
10 Commission chooses today will do a wonderful job
11 representing the district,

12 But really I came down from Santa Fe to make
13 sure that I could just share a couple of words about
14 Dr. Pratt and the legacy that he left in a very short
15 period of time in elected office. But more
16 importantly, for his work before he had the title in
17 office. And I thank him and appreciate and honor his
18 legacy and appreciate the people who stepped up to
19 fill those shoes.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair, for the opportunity
21 to speak.

22 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you very much,
23 Mr. Colon, I appreciate that.

24 Welcome.

25 MS. FINKELSTEIN: I want to say good morning

1 to the Members of the Commission. My name is Marilyn
2 Finkelstein and I am a friend of Dr. Willie Orr and
3 I've worked with him for three years on political
4 issues. Dr. Willie Orr has the experience,
5 intelligence and political acumen needed to be an
6 exceptional state legislator. He has been a manager
7 of healthcare systems for over 30 years. In that
8 capacity he has had to deal with staff, patients,
9 administrators and has superior communication and
10 people skills to run the operation smoothly and
11 effectively. He has to be able to think and plan big
12 and do high-level analyses of problems to overcome
13 financial and administrative problems. This would
14 help him as a legislator in analyzing State problems
15 and figuring out supporting legislative solutions.

16 He understands the needs of seniors from a
17 medical and social standpoint. Let's face it,
18 Bernalillo County has a huge population of seniors,
19 and we need a legislator to represent this
20 population, of whom I'm a member of. He has been a
21 political activist and understands, as he showed,
22 many, many political issues. And he is extremely
23 intelligent, sensible and has an ability to work with
24 people, think things through and communicate
25 effectively. I urge you to appoint him.

1 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

2 MS. BACA: Anne McKinney, Mohammed Jaber,
3 Serena Talamontes.

4 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Welcome.

5 MS. MCKINNEY: Thank you. I'm Anne
6 McKinney. I am and have been a resident of
7 Bernalillo County in Albuquerque for over 34 years.
8 I'm here to ask you to appoint Jill Michel to the
9 open spot for House District 27. Jill is known as
10 running -- right now, as a child welfare activist,
11 that's how I met her and that's how I know her. And
12 I know this to be true. I think this would be a true
13 honor and continue the legacy of Representative
14 Pratt.

15 I talked to him a couple of weeks, right
16 before he passed, and we had a great conversation. I
17 know he would agree with Jill Michel's stances. Jill
18 has made it her mission to learn about child welfare
19 and make it better in the State of New Mexico. I
20 know that she studies education issues. She studies
21 child protective services, juvenile justice,
22 behavioral health issues, crime, law enforcement and
23 when she doesn't really know of something, I know
24 she's an intelligent lady who listens to others and
25 researches so she can have a responsible stance and

1 response, and would zealously represent her
2 constituents.

3 So I look to this position in House District
4 27, we're entering a very important session. Over
5 half of the budget of our State budget is slotted for
6 education and child welfare issues and I know she
7 would represent us well in improving New Mexico for
8 children.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

11 MR. JABER: Good afternoon, Commission. My
12 name is Mohammed Jaber. I'm a fourth year
13 biology/pre-med student at UNM. I'm a former ASUNM
14 Senator and I am the Vice Precinct Chair for 563.
15 But most importantly, I'm the seventh of nine
16 children raised by candidate Samia Assed.

17 So we've lived in District 27 for roughly 20
18 years, so we've experienced the good and the bad of
19 this community, from multiple car thefts to receiving
20 the best education that the State can provide. We
21 truly know what it means and what the people in this
22 district desire.

23 With all the organizations that my mom has
24 been a part of, all the leadership roles she's had in
25 various projects in Albuquerque, her track record

1 speaks for itself when it comes to the ability to
2 fulfill the role of this position.

3 Lastly, I want to mention that my mother is,
4 most importantly, a loving person, a caring person,
5 as well as a fair person. Her abilities and
6 experience are more than capable to fulfill the
7 responsibilities of this position.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Welcome.

10 MS. TALAMONTES: Hi. Thank you. My name is
11 Serena Talamontes, and I am a member of the community
12 and really, really nervous. Here to support Jill
13 Michel. Public speaking is not my thing, but I
14 wanted to come here today because I felt it was
15 important to tell you about her.

16 I am a long-time friend. We have walked
17 side by side through the foster care journey, raising
18 our children through avenues, as a supporter of her
19 small businesses.

20 I wanted you to know some key things. One
21 is, that she works well with people of all ages
22 across the board. So it's not just a millennial
23 thing or a senior thing, it's an everybody thing and
24 she cares about people of all ages across the board.
25 Working hard in the environment I've seen her through

1 business, through advocating, through raising her
2 family to be able to do those things. She is a
3 problem solver without reinventing the wheel, that's
4 key, because there's a lot of wheels on the side of
5 the road that have been reinvented. She keeps things
6 in mind to help make the situation better. There's
7 no better training for a person in this position than
8 a 2 a.m. phone call that says one of the precious
9 commodities, our children in New Mexico, need a place
10 to stay and she has been there, and I have been
11 alongside of her while she's done it. She is willing
12 to get her hands dirty and do the work, not only in
13 her business with her family, but as a foster parent.

14 You may not know that you need Jill Michel
15 working alongside of you, but I know that. And as a
16 member in the community I need her in the legislature
17 too. Thank you. Please consider her.

18 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you.

19 MS. BACA: That concludes our list.

20 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Again, I want to
21 thank all the applicants. Clearly, as I mentioned
22 earlier, the dedication, the work that you are doing
23 now and the work that you have done in the community.

24 AUDIENCE: Madam Chair, I was unaware of the
25 sign-up process and I would like to make a statement,

1 if I may.

2 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Okay. Sorry.
3 Welcome.

4 MR. STULL: Thank you, Madam Chair,
5 Commissioners. Thank you for allowing me to speak.
6 My name is Paul Stull. I'm the Chief Executive
7 Officer of the Credit Union Association of New
8 Mexico. I'm also the Chairman of the Board of
9 Directors of Leverage Point, which is a business
10 located here in Albuquerque. I stand today to speak
11 to endorse the candidacy of Juan Fernandez.

12 I've known Juan for over 12 years and Juan
13 is a man who brings great character to everything
14 that he does. He has an understanding of business
15 and complex financial modeling. He certainly is
16 aware of budgets and financial needs, but he's also
17 able to take those understandings and bring them down
18 to prioritize the needs of people. He is a firm
19 believer in diversity and inclusion, and I have seen
20 him take groups of people and bring them together to
21 solve problems.

22 I'm always pleased to speak in support of
23 Juan because his character is outstanding and I would
24 ask that you support him in your vote today.

25 Thank you very much.

1 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you. That
2 concludes Public Comment.

3 Commissioners, I'm going to go now to
4 nomination to fill vacancy, and then we'll move on
5 the motion once we have nominations.

6 COMMISSIONER COLLIE: Madam Chair.

7 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Commissioner Collie.

8 COMMISSIONER COLLIE: In for a penny, in for
9 a pound, I move the nomination of Marian Matthews.

10 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: I'll second that
11 nomination. Just one thing here, just to know,
12 should a nomination not receive a second the
13 nomination fails, and then we will move on to the
14 other nominations.

15 Commissioner Talbert.

16 COMMISSIONER TALBERT: Madam Chair, thank
17 you. I would like to nominate Juan Fernandez.

18 COMMISSIONER QUEZADA: I second that
19 nomination.

20 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: There's a motion and
21 a second for Mr. Juan Fernandez. Are there any other
22 nominations? No other nominations. We'll go first
23 to the nomination of Marian Matthews. There's a
24 motion and a second. All those in favor say aye.

25 MEMBERS: Aye.

1 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: All opposed say no.
2 It looks like we have a consensus for Marian
3 Matthews.

4 Congratulations, Ms. Matthews.

5 (Applause)

6 MS. BACA: Madam Chair.

7 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Just a moment,
8 please.

9 Commissioner Quezada.

10 COMMISSIONER QUEZADA: It's really hard, we
11 don't really get to say a quick statement. I'd like
12 to say a quick statement. I went through all these
13 resumes and what a stack of some amazing people here.
14 We know that this seat will come up for election.
15 I'm hoping that I see every single name out there
16 running for this seat and I hope that District 27
17 really gets the voice on who they really want their
18 representative to be.

19 It's really hard to make decisions up here
20 to appoint for someone else's district. And so I
21 just wanted to put out there that you're all amazing.
22 The work that you do is so incredibly important to
23 the community and to Bernalillo County as a whole,
24 and very honored to be in the room with you today,
25 all of you. You're very impressive people. You

1 spoke very eloquently. You all bring something
2 different to the table, and I'm looking forward to
3 seeing you all run for office coming up.

4 Thank you so much.

5 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Commissioner
6 Pyskoty.

7 COMMISSIONER PYSKOTY: Thank you. I want to
8 echo Commissioner Quezada. All the candidates were
9 so highly qualified and showed so much dedication. I
10 too read through all the packets. I talked to every
11 single one of you and I applaud you for putting your
12 name in going through this process. And I do hope
13 that you continue on, whether it's running for this
14 seat or something else. But, please, please, with
15 the engagement that you have shown, I hope you
16 continue that in your community, whether you run for
17 other leadership position, please do. I just enjoyed
18 all of you so much. I found you all supremely
19 talented, qualified and very much likable. To sort
20 of use your phrase, Commissioner Quezada, this gave
21 me a lot of heartburn, because there have been so
22 many good candidates.

23 And I congratulate you, Marian Matthews.
24 One of the things that was overwhelming in this
25 decision for me was that there are a lot of people

1 who reached out to me endorsing you and said that
2 they had known you for decades and that you have been
3 working for decades in the community. And one of the
4 things -- I just want to mention this, I did go to
5 the funeral service yesterday for former Councilor
6 Ken Sanchez. And one of the songs in the ceremony
7 really got to the heart of me. One of the hymns, and
8 the line in the refrain was, I will hold your people
9 in my heart. And that is what I got from you, Marian
10 Matthews, that you hold your community in your heart
11 and the people who reached out to me have you in
12 their hearts.

13 There is a piece of House District 27 in my
14 district and so I am happy to have you represent a
15 little piece of my district in the legislature this
16 session.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Commissioner
19 Talbert.

20 COMMISSIONER TALBERT: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair. We did this once before. We did this two
22 years ago when Representative Larranaga passed away
23 unexpectedly and at that time we had a hard time
24 filling and deciding the right avenue to take. We
25 took the avenue of Dr. William Pratt. And what I

1 like and what I have seen today is, and what gives me
2 hope for 2020 with this Commission is that we're
3 looking forward. We're not looking back.

4 We're talking about how do we create bonds
5 between people, not chasms. We have enough chasms
6 right now. There are many that are dividing us as a
7 country. There are many that are dividing us as a
8 people. And what I liked and what I saw with those
9 who I met with and those who I couldn't meet with, I
10 apologize, it was just too short a time, is that
11 everyone came with their own viewpoint, but came with
12 a viewpoint of independence. And independence is
13 important when it comes to making the right decisions
14 for those things that need to be made that are hard.

15 I always hear the phrase, "the easy decision
16 isn't always the right decision," and that's true.
17 It's very easy to go along to get along. But what we
18 need is a group of people who are willing to take a
19 chance to do something different, but to understand
20 you're representing a group of people.

21 I congratulate you, Marian, I wish you the
22 best. And to Commissioner Quezada's point, just
23 having the courage to step up to come before us and
24 to say, "put me in the ring, put me in the game,
25 coach," that's exciting. I hope you do take a chance

1 to go out and run again, if that's what you want,
2 because it is an open seat and it's an opportunity
3 for anybody who believes in this State, to truly step
4 forward and make a difference. Not just keep going
5 along.

6 Thank you, Madam Chair.

7 COMMISSIONER O'MALLEY: Thank you all. I
8 just wanted to added something. Many of you talked
9 about your advocacy and I just want to say how much I
10 appreciate that. Coming from a background of
11 community organizing and community work before being
12 an elected official, in some ways, to be honest with
13 you, I think it was more effective. Because as an
14 elected official you have limitations.

15 I think sometimes we think of that as sort
16 of like the end-all, the be-all to be an elected
17 official. But advocacy and activism, we need folks
18 who do that, that's the day-to-day work, that's the
19 hard work. And I want to say how much I appreciate
20 all the work that you have done.

21 Marian Matthews, if you would like to be
22 sworn in after the meeting. Our clerk is present and
23 we're prepared to give you the oath of office. So if
24 you want to come up, and that would be over here.

25 Again, I want to thank everyone for coming

1 today.

2 (Meeting concluded at 12:57 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

1 I, Kim Kay Shollenbarger, Registered
2 Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I
3 reported the foregoing proceedings in stenographic
4 shorthand and that the foregoing pages are a true and
5 correct transcript of those proceedings taken to the
6 best of my ability.

7 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
8 nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
9 this matter and that I have no interest in the final
10 disposition of this matter.

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Kim Kay Shollenbarger, RPR