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GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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Chairman's Report Thursday, February 5, 2004

I. Welcome to Brad Skolnik

Attached is background information on our newest member, Brad Skolnik, bringing our membership back up to the full compliment of eight (8), the first time we have been at this level since our initial meeting on October 9, 2003.

II. Activities Since Last Subcommittee meeting on December 18

Since our last meeting I have:

Met with and obtained from the State Ethics Agency a letter of instruction to resolve the issue of Conflict of Interest for Subcommittee and Task Team members;

This opinion has been supported by the Dept. of Administration with the determination that participation on either the Commission Subcommittee or a Task Team WILL NOT impair an individual or his/her employer from pursuing future business with the State Government.

Each of you have received a copy of the letter via e-mail.

Met with and obtained from the Public Access Office a letter of instruction to guide us on conforming to the Open Door Laws;

I have asked the Public Access Counselor, Michael Hurst, to provide us with instructions on the issue of any of the Subcommittee or Task Team documents becoming a part of the public record.

Worked with Commissioner Evelyn Ridley-Turner and her staff to form a Task Team to study the Department of Correction;

Attached is a list of Task Team candidates and the status of their potential participation for your review.

This is taking much longer than I had anticipated causing me some concern about the time available for actual work.

Met with the Auditor, Connie Nass, and her staff to discuss how her office can assist us;

She is meeting with us today.

Met with John White, Director of Facilities Management of the State House/Office Complex to discuss issues facing his office;

He is meeting with us today.

Attended the meetings, both preliminary organizational as well as working, of the I. T., Personnel, and IDEM Task Teams.

As a part of this, I spent considerable time meeting with candidates and other contributors for each of these Task Teams.

Larry Kennedy and I have met with Commissioner Lori Kaplan and her staff preparing for and establishing participation by her staff in the IDEM Task Team meetings.

Larry and I have also met with Sen. Beverly Gard who heads up the Senate Environmental Policy Committee.

Met with Sen. David Ford (S19) who has a strong interest in I.T. to discuss with him the work of our Commission Subcommittee;

Met briefly with Sen. John Waterman (S39) advising him of the work of our Commission Subcommittee on Corrections in which he has a special interest as a former Sheriff;

Met with Derek Sublet, formerly of Baker & Daniels and our former Aide-de-Camp, who is now on the Staff of Lt. Gov. Davis, to ask for support in arranging a meeting with the Lt. Gov. to discuss the Governor's Peak Performance Project and the interaction, if any, with the work of our Commission Subcommittee;

Our Co-chairmen, John Hillenbrand II and Jim Baker have been trying to arrange a meeting with Lt. Gov. Davis without success thus far.

Made contact with the offices of the State Treasurer, Tim Berry, and Secretary of State, Todd Rokita, to advise them of the work of our Commission Subcommittee;

As time permits, I will contact the Attorney General, Steve Carter.

Obtained from the State Budget Agency through Marilyn Schultz a copy of the State Budget in Excel format so that we can more easily perform analyses as needed;

Anyone on the Subcommittee or a Task Team who has need for the Budget in this format can obtain it from me by request.

Attempted to keep all of you and others informed of our progress through endless e-mails – if you object to reading them think of how much I object to writing them;

Approached Bob Greising of Krieg DeVault for pro bono assistance from their firm in the form of a staff attorney to guide our Subcommittee on legal affairs so that we don't continue to bump into issues such as Conflict of Interest, Open Door, Public Access, etc.;

Other stuff too mundane for me to report on let alone recall.

III. Planned Activities

As the individual Task Teams under the leadership of each of you so assigned continue to progress, I will reduce my direct involvement in all except for the Personnel and I.T. Teams, unless one of you chooses to assume that role.

I will focus closely on forming the Correction Task Team and moving that effort forward.

This is particularly critical given both the issues involved and the Governor's request that we do this.

We need to determine how best to use Brad Skolnik who is more experienced than any of us with State Government and the law.

IV. State Agency Support

The Chair once more thanks all of the State Agency employees (far too numerous to list) with whom he has worked and who all continue to be most helpful and supportive of our work.