

City of Fort Lauderdale
CITY ATTORNEY SEARCH COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 3, 2025, 11:30 p.m.
101 Building – 11th Floor
101 NE 3rd Avenue

Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Mick Erlandson*	P	3	0
Sigrid McCawley	P	3	0
Roosevelt Walters	P	3	0
Danella Williams	P	1	0
Richard Weiss, Chair	P	3	0

*Mr. Erlandson arrived at 12:34 p.m.

Staff

Jerome Post, Director, Human Resources
Nivea Colin, Recruiting Manager
Nisa McFarlane, Administrative Supervisor

Others:

Marc Dickerman
K. Cruitt, Prototype Inc.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 a.m. by Chair Weiss.

II. Roll Call

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

III. Approval of the March 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Walters, seconded by Ms. McCawley, to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2025 meeting as presented. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review Results of Background Checks

Chair Weiss stated he had been advised by Staff that nothing was found in the background checks that would disqualify any of the candidates that had been selected; he was comfortable that was the case. Mr. Walters agreed.

V. Approval of the proposed interview questions

Committee Members reviewed and discussed the nine questions that had been curated. Ms. McCawley recommended including at least one open-ended question for each candidate.

Members agreed that the following questions would be asked in each interview; additional questions would be posed, based on the answers received:

1. How would you describe your leadership role in managing large teams?
2. You have been asked for a legal opinion regarding an important subject. You are being lobbied by commissioners on both sides of the issue to render an opinion in their favor. They've both told you that if you issue the opinion the wrong way, you will be terminated. How do you respond?
3. How would you handle a situation where a legally defensible decision by the City is likely to erode public trust or trigger public backlash?
4. An open-ended question, as deemed appropriate based on responses provided responses during that interview.

VI. Virtual Interviews With City Attorney Candidates

Each candidate was interviewed via Zoom; they are listed in the order interviewed. Chair Weiss led a full discussion at the end of each interaction, at which time Committee Members provided their input. Below is a summary of only the decisions made during those discussions, as requested by the Committee:

Candidate: D'Wayne Spence

Mr. Spence will be moved forward for a personal interview.

At the conclusion of the interview with Mr. Spence, Chair Weiss led discussion on the ideal number of candidates to be recommended to the Commission. Members agreed that number should be four.

Candidate: Payton Poliakoff

Following a full discussion, Members agreed to remove Mr. Poliakoff from consideration.

Candidate: Maurice Johnson

Mr. Johnson will be moved forward for a personal interview.

There was a recess between 1:14 p.m. and 1:52 p.m.

Candidate: Aleksandr Boksner

Mr. Boksner will be moved forward for a personal interview.

Candidate: Rhonda Montoya Hasan

Following a full discussion, Members agreed to remove Ms. Montoya Hasan from consideration.

Candidate: Michael Delakas

Members agreed to remove Mr. Delakas from further consideration.

There was a recess between 2:59 p.m. and 3:04 p.m.

Members briefly shared additional thoughts on candidates interviewed to that point.

There was a recess between 3:07 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Candidate: Evan Schanerberger

There was a brief recess between 3:33 p.m. and 3:40 p.m.

Members agreed to remove Mr. Schanerberger from further consideration.

Candidate: Simon "Pete" Serrano

Members agreed to remove Mr. Serrano from further consideration.

Future scheduling was discussed; Mr. Post was asked to reschedule Susan Jorgensen to an earlier timeslot for the April 11, 2025 meeting (in lieu of the initially scheduled lunch break).

VII. Public Comments

Mr. Marc Dickerman commended the Committee for doing a great job. In his opinion, the last candidate should not be moved forward. He thanked Members for serving on this Board.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

There were no items to be discussed.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.