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STATE OF FLORIDA

IN RE: MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR AND  
CABINET

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CABINET MEMBERS: GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL PAM BONDI  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
JEFF ATWATER  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE  
ADAM PUTNAM

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

LOCATION: CABINET MEETING ROOM  
LOWER LEVEL, THE CAPITOL  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY: NANCY S. METZKE, RPR, FPR  
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**ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION**

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3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Next, Nick Primrose with the  
4 Administration Commission.

5 MR. PRIMROSE: Good morning.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hi, Nick.

7 MR. PRIMROSE: We've got three items on the  
8 Administration Commission agenda. Item Number 1 is  
9 the --

10 GOVERNOR SCOTT: CFO, did you want to say  
11 something --

12 CFO PATRONIS: Is this your first time  
13 presenting.

14 MR. PRIMROSE: This is my first time  
15 presenting, yeah.

16 CFO PATRONIS: How cool is that.  
17 Congratulations.

18 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Did you get a picture?

19 MR. PRIMROSE: The lawyer is in the office  
20 usually.

21 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Did you get a picture?

22 CFO PATRONIS: Did you get a picture?

23 MR. PRIMROSE: I didn't get a picture yet.

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Where's Stacy? She's gone.

25 CFO PATRONIS: Do you have your phone.

1 MR. PRIMROSE: I do have my phone.

2 MS. OLSON: I'll take it.

3 CFO PATRONIS: Okay. Kristin will take it.

4 Come on.

5 MR. PRIMROSE: Okay.

6 (BRIEF PAUSE FOR PHOTOGRAPH).

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Nick, we're  
8 ready.

9 MR. PRIMROSE: Okay. So we've got three items  
10 on the agenda. The first is the approval of the  
11 minutes from the March 7th meeting.

12 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion on the  
13 item?

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: So move.

15 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

16 CFO PATRONIS: Second.

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Comments or objections?

18 (NO RESPONSE).

19 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion  
20 carries.

21 MR. PRIMROSE: All right. The second item is  
22 the consideration for the Department of Economic  
23 Opportunity's 2017, Florida Keys Area of Critical  
24 State Concern annual report.

25 We have Julie Dennis with the Department's

1 Director of Community Development who will provide  
2 highlights of that annual report.

3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good morning.

4 MS. DENNIS: Good morning. I'm Julie Dennis.  
5 I'm the director of Community Development at the  
6 Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

7 I'm here today to present the Florida Keys  
8 Area of Critical State Concern annual progress  
9 report. This report describes the status of  
10 Islamorada, the City of Marathon, and Monroe County  
11 in achieving the tasks of the work program which  
12 were adopted by the Administration Commission in  
13 2011.

14 My report today will focus on long-term  
15 recovery following Hurricane Irma and the  
16 completion of the wastewater treatment system.  
17 Throughout presentation, DEO is recommending that  
18 you, first, accept the Department's annual report;  
19 second, continue the Florida Keys Area of Critical  
20 State Concern; and last, accept the recommendation  
21 that progress towards accomplishing the tasks of  
22 the work program have been achieved.

23 Nine months ago Hurricane Irma made landfall  
24 in the middle of the Florida Keys as a Category 4  
25 storm. While no part of the island chain was

1       spared, it was the City of Marathon and the lower  
2       Keys that were hit the hardest. Many of the homes  
3       damaged in these communities were older,  
4       single-family homes and mobile homes that housed  
5       the workforce of the Keys.

6               The redevelopment of housing in the Keys  
7       remains the Number 1 challenge following Hurricane  
8       Irma. The state, along with our federal and  
9       community partners, continue to support housing  
10      needs in the Keys in many ways.

11              In the immediate aftermath of the storm, FEMA  
12      assistance was provided to homeowners to address  
13      temporary housing and basic needs in the Keys.  
14      Additionally, loans have been provided to  
15      homeowners to repair homes and fill the remaining  
16      gaps after private insurance benefits have been  
17      received.

18              Many nonprofit organizations are stepping up  
19      to the plate and filling gaps by making repairs to  
20      homes that were also damaged by the storm. And, as  
21      a long-term solution, DEO is standing up programs  
22      using federal Community Development Block Grant  
23      funding to provide funding to repair homes and  
24      construct new affordable rental units for  
25      residents.

1           Even with all of this support, we know there  
2 will be a long road to recovery; however, the  
3 people of the Keys remain incredibly strong. Nine  
4 months after the storm it is impressive to see that  
5 most of the residents, attractions, and restaurants  
6 are open to business.

7           It is this resilient nature of these  
8 communities that will ensure a successful long-term  
9 recovery. In fact, it was forward-thinking  
10 commitment to resiliency that spurred the Keys  
11 along with the state and federal government to make  
12 a 20-year, \$1 billion investment in a new  
13 wastewater treatment facility. As described in the  
14 report, over 90 residents throughout the Keys have  
15 now hooked up to the system.

16           So for those of you that have been following  
17 this for 20 years, this is very exciting news.

18           We understand that communities continue to  
19 work on connecting remaining customers to the  
20 system. This final stretch on connections will  
21 likely be the most challenging as these properties  
22 may be in foreclosure; or in some cases, it may be  
23 difficult to find the original pipes on some of the  
24 older properties.

25           In addition, all communities completed their

1 tasks assigned in the work program, such as  
2 pursuing funding for land acquisition. We would  
3 like to congratulate all of the communities on  
4 their major accomplishments.

5 DEO remains committed to our partnerships with  
6 the Florida Keys and looks forward to continuing  
7 our work through the Area of Critical State Concern  
8 program. And I'm happy to take any questions that  
9 you may have on the report at this time.

10 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Does anybody have any  
11 questions on this report?

12 (NO RESPONSE).

13 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. All right. Is there a  
14 motion on the item?

15 MS. DENNIS: I think there may be some public  
16 comment.

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Oh, are there public comments  
18 on the -- we're just now talking about the Keys'  
19 annual report.

20 MR. PRIMROSE: Yes, Governor, there are a few  
21 local officials who wanted to share some remarks.  
22 First, Mayor Deborah Gillis from the Village of  
23 Islamorada.

24 GOVERNOR SCOTT: We all love coming to the  
25 Keys.

1           VICE MAYOR GILLIS: I would have liked to have  
2 had this Cabinet meeting down there. We were  
3 anticipating one of these days to be able to do  
4 that, but not today, that's okay.

5           I'd love to take the title of mayor, but I'm  
6 only vice mayor this year. I've been in front of  
7 you before as mayor, so maybe next year.

8           So it's nice to be in front of you again, and  
9 I am Deb Gillis. I am vice mayor of Islamorada,  
10 Village of Islands located in the Florida Keys.  
11 And I do appreciate this opportunity to speak with  
12 you today concerning our progress on the area of  
13 critical concern.

14           Our village consists of four islands with a  
15 population of about 6,600 residents and 57 dwelling  
16 units. In the 2016/'17 report from DEO, it  
17 recognizes and reflects the fact that Islamorada  
18 has completed 100 percent of our assigned work plan  
19 task during the reporting period. This includes  
20 identifying and applying for wastewater grant  
21 funding and land acquisition funds.

22           As of November of 2015, our central wastewater  
23 collection and transmission systems were  
24 100 percent available to our residential and our  
25 nonresidential properties. Steady progress has



1 continued to have those properties hooked up to our  
2 service during the 2016/'17 report. It  
3 acknowledges the fact that we are at 85 percent in  
4 connection rate. As of today though, we are over  
5 90 percent and increasing it daily. We are very  
6 proud to have that done.

7 As you may recall, the estimate cost for this  
8 village wastewater and collection system was \$160  
9 million for our 6,700 -- or 6,600 residents. The  
10 State of Florida made this project possible by  
11 passing past budgets with the approval of Mayfield  
12 grant money and also funding the Florida Keys'  
13 Stewardship Act which provides for critical funding  
14 of land acquisition, wastewater, and water quality  
15 projects.

16 We are -- in addition, we have been very  
17 diligent in working with the federal level to seek  
18 your grants and funds for our wastewater projects.  
19 The Army Corps of Engineers continue to recognize  
20 our work as one of the best performing  
21 environmental infrastructure projects. Because of  
22 this and because of our diligent advocacy program,  
23 we are continually being funded by the federal  
24 government, the Army Corps of Engineers, to help  
25 support this issue.

1           Although Islamorada -- I'm sorry, the  
2           remaining part of the \$160 million projects is  
3           primarily being funded through the Florida  
4           Department of Revenue's State Revolving Fund Loan  
5           Program and through a non ad valorem assessment  
6           leveled against our property owners.

7           Although Islamorada permanent residence  
8           population is about 6,600, as the tourism  
9           destination, we provide infrastructure and services  
10          to meet the needs of many thousand more visitors  
11          and nonpermanent residents on an ongoing basis.

12          While the State of Florida and Islamorada  
13          benefit from the sales tax and the revenue -- the  
14          sales tax revenue and the property tax revenue of  
15          these visitors and nonvisitors -- or nonpermanent  
16          residents, the small communities like our -- I'm  
17          sorry -- the small community like ours can be  
18          disproportionately burdened with the costs  
19          associated with the high levels of service that we  
20          need.

21          In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and during  
22          our ongoing recovery period, that reality has never  
23          been more vivid and never been more acutely felt by  
24          the local government and the residents; however,  
25          all that being said, the Keys are extremely

1 resilient, and we are very dedicated to moving  
2 forward with the willingness to restore and rebuild  
3 our communities. I think in Julie's report you  
4 heard her say it's amazing what we've done in the  
5 nine months.

6 As you all know, the Florida Keys are a  
7 very -- there is no place else like the Florida  
8 Keys. It's a very special place. It's unique and  
9 it's our home. And not only is it our home, it's  
10 worth preserving.

11 We want to thank you for all of your continued  
12 support in our efforts in the matters of the  
13 Florida Keys, not just for the tourism destination  
14 that it is, but also for preserving the  
15 environmental treasure that it is for the world.  
16 Thank you.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Thank you.

18 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thank you.

19 MR. PRIMROSE: That concludes the speakers for  
20 this agenda item.

21 To wrap up the item though, the Department's  
22 recommendation is as follows: To accept the 2017  
23 annual report, to continue the Florida Keys Area of  
24 Critical State Concern designation, and to accept  
25 the Department's recommendation that progress

1           toward accomplishing the tasks of the work program  
2           have been achieved for Monroe County, the City of  
3           Marathon, and the Village of Islamorada.

4           GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Is there a motion  
5           on the item?

6           COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: So move.

7           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

8           ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

9           GOVERNOR SCOTT: Comments or objections?

10          (NO RESPONSE).

11          GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion  
12          carries.

13          MR. PRIMROSE: And then the last agenda Item 2  
14          is a consideration of the Keys' Workforce Housing  
15          Initiative.

16          Julie Dennis will present an overview of that,  
17          and then we also do have some local officials that  
18          want to speak.

19          MS. DENNIS: At the request of Governor Scott,  
20          I am pleased to present the Keys' Workforce Housing  
21          Initiative.

22          The goal of this initiative is to provide a  
23          path forward for Keys' communities to address  
24          workforce housing during long-term recovery. DEO  
25          plays a unique role in the Florida Keys due to

1           their designation as an Area of Critical State  
2           Concern. We are charged with helping communities  
3           balance a myriad of issues when making local  
4           development decisions, including the need to  
5           provide affordable housing near places of  
6           employment as well as ensure safety -- safe  
7           evacuation for residents.

8           Over the past year, DEO has visited with many  
9           business owners, community leaders, and government  
10          officials in the Florida Keys to understand their  
11          unique needs. We continuously heard from  
12          businesses and community leaders that it is  
13          difficult to keep people on staff because they  
14          struggle to find places to live, not just employees  
15          that staff the restaurants and the hotels that are  
16          so important to the tourism-based industry down  
17          there, but also law enforcement and teachers and  
18          other public employees.

19          While this has been a challenge for decades,  
20          the need for workforce housing is now a crisis and  
21          the Number 1 issue following Hurricane Irma. In  
22          fact, the City of Marathon, which serves as the hub  
23          for workforce housing, recently passed a resolution  
24          requesting additional building permit allocations  
25          to address affordable housing needs from Hurricane

1 Irma.

2 With significant state and federal resources  
3 flowing to the Keys to address affordable house,  
4 the Keys have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to  
5 help resolve the issue of workforce housing that  
6 has challenged their island communities for  
7 decades. DEO is committed to helping the Keys  
8 seize the moment and find creative solutions that  
9 help them recover and come back stronger than ever.

10 The proposed Keys' Workforce Housing  
11 Initiative can provide a path forward by allowing  
12 local government to grant new building permit  
13 allocations for workforce rental properties that  
14 agree to evacuate 48 hours in advance of hurricane  
15 landfall. DEO proposes to allow up 1,300 new  
16 building permit allocations for deed-restricted  
17 workforce rental housing throughout Monroe County  
18 with an initial allocation of no more than 300 per  
19 community.

20 Local governments that choose to participate  
21 in this program can work with DEO to amend their  
22 local comprehensive plans to detail the requirement  
23 for deed-restricted workforce housing that receive  
24 these allocations. By allowing local governments  
25 to request the number of allocations they need and

1 design the requirements for these allocations, the  
2 state is ensuring that communities are in the  
3 driver seat to control recovery. If this  
4 initiative is accepted, DEO will travel to the Keys  
5 to meet with all interested local governments to  
6 work together to draft comprehensive plan language  
7 and finalize all local requirements.

8 Safety is a top priority. With our partners  
9 at the Florida Division of Emergency Management, we  
10 will work with the Keys' communities to develop  
11 strategies that build off of their already-in-place  
12 evacuation procedures for this timeframe.

13 We have heard the challenges expressed by  
14 community members about the housing crisis in the  
15 Florida Keys. It is our hope that the Keys'  
16 Workforce Housing Initiative will provide a path  
17 forward to ensure the success of these communities.

18 In conclusion, the Keys remain strong, and  
19 their tireless commitment to rebuild their  
20 communities is inspiring. We hope to help ensure  
21 the success of their housing recovery efforts and  
22 recommend that you accept the Keys' Workforce  
23 Housing Initiative. We appreciate the efforts of  
24 these local governments and look forward to  
25 continuing our cooperative relationship with the

1 Florida Keys' communities.

2 And, Governor and members of the Cabinet, if  
3 you have any questions at this time, I'm happy to  
4 take them.

5 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Does anybody have any  
6 questions now?

7 Commissioner.

8 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: How many affordable I  
9 guess workforce housing units do you estimate were  
10 lost as a result of Irma?

11 MS. DENNIS: We understand that there were  
12 four -- around 4,000 homes that were either  
13 significantly damaged or destroyed as a result of  
14 Hurricane Irma, and a significant portion of those  
15 4,000 were mobile homes and site -- you know, older  
16 single-family homes that served as workforce  
17 housing.

18 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: And then what would you  
19 add to that number that would have been the  
20 nonconforming housing arrangements that were going  
21 on downstairs?

22 MS. DENNIS: You know, that's difficult to  
23 tell, but I'm sure that there were -- that did  
24 compound workforce housing issues for them as well.

25 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: And so the sites that,



1           you know, where we had the mobile home parks like  
2           around Ohio Key and all that that were piled up,  
3           that is the real estate that is most likely to have  
4           the new workforce housing assuming we permit it?

5           MS. DENNIS: Well, so those sites that were  
6           damaged, one thing to know about those is those  
7           were not -- while they were serving as affordable  
8           housing for the workforce, they were not  
9           deed-restricted affordable housing. So it is  
10          likely that as folks make decisions on how to  
11          rebuild in those communities that people may have  
12          to make a decision. When they're rebuilding those,  
13          it's going to be expensive to build back to code so  
14          that we have resilient housing down there.

15          And people that were renting those mobile  
16          homes may not be able to afford the rents that will  
17          be imposed upon the new housing that's built in its  
18          place. So this doesn't necessarily replace that  
19          home because we -- because those were not  
20          deed-restricted affordable units, those can be  
21          built back to actually be any kind of home down  
22          there. This would allow some new workforce housing  
23          that will be very -- built to code, very resilient  
24          to help them solve this crisis.

25          COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Well, one thing we all

1 learned was the code worked. Building to code  
2 worked, and it was evident.

3 MS. DENNIS: Yes, absolutely. Absolutely.

4 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Thank you.

5 MS. DENNIS: Thank you.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: CFO.

7 CFO PATRONIS: Thank you, Governor.

8 With the mobile home parks that were there, is  
9 there a migration of people replacing and bringing  
10 mobile homes back, manufactured homes back into  
11 those parks again?

12 MS. DENNIS: In many places in the Keys, you  
13 can't bring mobile homes back --

14 CFO PATRONIS: You cannot?

15 MS. DENNIS: -- into those areas. That's a  
16 local code enforcement issue.

17 But in most places we're seeing that the Keys'  
18 communities are coming out with various options for  
19 resilient housing that would be affordable and kind  
20 of serve that needs that would be built to code and  
21 could serve that same -- could be built in that  
22 same space.

23 CFO PATRONIS: So the structures that were  
24 there that were destroyed by Irma were  
25 grandfathered structures then.

1 MS. DENNIS: Let's see, the structures that  
2 were destroyed -- likely in a lot of cases, I will  
3 have to -- yes, the county is nodding yes.

4 CFO PATRONIS: That's right, okay.

5 MS. DENNIS: Thank you.

6 CFO PATRONIS: Okay. So then all new  
7 structures will have to be of code.

8 MS. DENNIS: Absolutely. Absolutely. Yes.

9 CFO PATRONIS: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: And the fundamental  
11 conflict here is that the conflict between  
12 affordability and resiliency. I mean it costs a  
13 lot of money to have them up to code to withstand  
14 what they endured during this storm. So that's the  
15 ultimate conflict. We know the code works, but we  
16 know it's expensive.

17 MS. DENNIS: Yes, and one thing that -- the  
18 one positive rainbow that has come out of all of  
19 this is the Federal Government has provided funding  
20 for affordable house for long-term recovery. So at  
21 a minimum, 90 --

22 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And this is just the first  
23 traunch.

24 MS. DENNIS: That's right. That's right.

25 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And we should get -- I think

1 it's a little bit later, right, that we get the --

2 MS. DENNIS: Yes.

3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: -- we put together a proposal  
4 for the second tranche, right?

5 MS. DENNIS: Yes.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: In the next couple of months?

7 MS. DENNIS: Uh-huh. That's right. That's  
8 right. So a total of 1.4 billion will be received,  
9 and the first -- of the first 616 million, 90  
10 million, at least 90 million is going to be  
11 supporting workforce and affordable housing needs  
12 in the Keys. So we really want to set them up for  
13 success to take advantage of this and build back in  
14 a very resilient manner.

15 GOVERNOR SCOTT: And the goal is to get the  
16 money as quick as we get done.

17 MS. DENNIS: Yes. Yes, it is.

18 GOVERNOR SCOTT: I think we're -- what is it,  
19 are there still four states that haven't had their  
20 proposals yet; is that right?

21 MS. DENNIS: That's right. We're leading the  
22 pack right now.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Yeah, so we should be hearing  
24 soon. Hopefully we'll hear soon.

25 MS. DENNIS: Yes.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. Anybody else?

2 (NO RESPONSE).

3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay. I think we have some  
4 other speakers.

5 MS. DENNIS: Thank you.

6 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thanks, Julie.

7 MR. PRIMROSE: Our first speaker, and I hope  
8 I'm not giving out the mayor title undeserved but  
9 Michelle Coldiron, City of Marathon.

10 Mayor COLDIRON: Good afternoon.

11 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good afternoon.

12 MAYOR COLDIRON: On behalf of the City of  
13 Marathon, the City Council and the Marathon staff,  
14 I want to thank you, Governor Scott, members of the  
15 Cabinet, DEO, and your staff. Thank you for your  
16 incredible support during this year.

17 Thank you for taking the time to listen to the  
18 needs of Marathon. You and your staff spent  
19 considerable time prior to the hurricane,  
20 immediately after the hurricane, up and through  
21 till today working with the City of Marathon and  
22 our staff and our elected officials to help create  
23 this workforce housing initiative that will give  
24 Marathon 300 much needed workforce housing building  
25 allocations. Thank you.

1           You have 100 percent support from our city,  
2           our staff, and our council. We are committed to  
3           doing our part to help resolve the workforce  
4           housing crisis. We took the FIU study to heart.  
5           We formed a task force and listened to their  
6           suggestions.

7           We understand that it takes all types of  
8           housing to maintain our community. In the past  
9           three years, our city council has approved and  
10          constructed over 200 plus workforce housing units.  
11          We have given out more than \$200,000 in grant money  
12          for first-time homeowners. We have supported  
13          habitat for humanity homeownership projects. We  
14          strengthened the language in our affordable deeds  
15          to ensure they last in perpetuity. We have  
16          protected logical workforce housing units by deed  
17          restricting them affordable.

18          In Marathon, we have the will, we have the  
19          land, and we have the potential grant money and  
20          public/private partnerships, we can build. What we  
21          don't have are the affordable building allocations.  
22          We felt we were already losing the battle before  
23          the hurricane as many of our homes were already  
24          being converted to vacation rentals and a  
25          percentage of second homeowners were increasing.

1           In the past three years, the number of  
2 vacation rentals has increased over to 650. A  
3 majority of these homes used to be owned -- owner  
4 occupied homes by people working in Marathon or  
5 rented full time by our workforce.

6           While the number of housing units have  
7 increased, the population of full-time residents  
8 have not increased. And it should be noted that  
9 these 650 vacation rental homes now fall under the  
10 mandatory evacuation at the same time as our  
11 hotels.

12           As our Governor and a frequent visitor to  
13 Marathon, you understand that a successful tourist  
14 town needs a service industry, and it is extremely  
15 important to our economy. Right after the  
16 hurricane we had a family that owned a restaurant.  
17 It was destroyed. They received an SBA loan. They  
18 were able to rebuild. They need to be open now  
19 seven days a week for lunch and dinner in order to  
20 make their costs. They can't find workers because  
21 their workers don't have a place to live.

22           Many of our attractions, such as our not for  
23 profit dolphin research center, are dependent on  
24 college educated marine biologists. Most work more  
25 than one job; they share houses to rent; they lost

1           their rental units.

2                   One last story along that line. Marathon had  
3           to close our local jail because the Monroe County  
4           Sheriff staff has shortages due to the fact that  
5           they have no place to live.

6                   The City of Marathon looks forward to  
7           continuing to work with you and your staff and DEO  
8           to further develop the details and options of these  
9           300 units and to create comprehensive plan  
10          amendments that take into consideration our Number  
11          1 goal of community safety while keeping our  
12          economy vibrant.

13                   Thank you so much.

14                   GOVERNOR SCOTT: You have a nice town. It's a  
15          nice place to visit.

16                   MAYOR COLDIRON: Thank you. We appreciate you  
17          coming.

18                   MR. PRIMROSE: Next I'm going to ask Thomas  
19          Hawkins of 1000 Friends of Florida.

20                   GOVERNOR SCOTT: Good afternoon.

21                   MR. HAWKINS: Yeah, I was going to good  
22          morning, but I think you're right, it may be  
23          afternoon already.

24                   I appreciate the opportunity to speak. My  
25          name is Thomas Hawkins. I'm with 1000 Friends of



1 Florida. I drove up from Gainesville this morning,  
2 and I appreciate the color of your blazer,  
3 CFO Patronis. I wore my orange and blue tie since  
4 we'll be going to Omaha from Gainesville this year.

5 I wanted to start by refreshing our memory on  
6 where this conversation starts, and that's with  
7 this requirement that if folks are going to survive  
8 a severe storm that might come in the Keys they  
9 need to evacuate and evacuate safely 24 hours  
10 before a storm. And starting from that  
11 requirement, it's really imposed by reality, by the  
12 fact that U.S. 1 doesn't have a capacity to let an  
13 unlimited number of folks get out.

14 State and local law impose restrictions on the  
15 rate of growth in the Keys, and those restrictions  
16 are both from the Administration Commission because  
17 the Keys are in your Area of Critical State  
18 Concern, and in the comprehensive plans of local  
19 governments.

20 Of course the plan that you're considering now  
21 acts outside of that framework. We haven't updated  
22 our transportation models to see whether these  
23 additional units are going to house folks who can  
24 evacuate as permanent residents in that mandatory  
25 24-hour time period. And as such, I'd ask that you

1 not adopt the initiative today because I really  
2 think that we have other options to look for  
3 affordable housing in the Keys. And I think those  
4 are a better option for the Department of Economic  
5 Opportunity and the local governments to work  
6 towards in solving this affordable housing crisis  
7 without creating conflict with our need to safely  
8 evacuate folks in the event of a storm.

9 So for one, we've talked the affordable -- the  
10 housing units including affordable housing units  
11 that were destroyed in Hurricane Irma. I would  
12 urge a focus on rebuilding those as affordable  
13 units.

14 Also, we under current law allocate new units  
15 to Keys communities every year. I think we should  
16 focus on making more of those restricted for  
17 affordable housing, if our goal is to have more  
18 affordable housing in the Keys, and I think that is  
19 the right goal.

20 And then finally, we've talked about the  
21 number of housing units in the Keys, possibly as  
22 many as half that have been converted to vacation  
23 rentals, and that's -- those conversions have been  
24 increasing over time. And they may have reached a  
25 point where they're not sustainable, and we should

1 focus on a public policies that move vacation  
2 rentals back into housing for permanent residents.

3 And I think those are the right strategies  
4 because they don't add more population to an area  
5 that really is limited by public safety needs in  
6 its population, and the current numbers are based  
7 on good models that took those safety concerns into  
8 mind.

9 So again, I would urge you not to adopt the  
10 initiative today but look for other options. And I  
11 appreciate your attention and time. Thanks again.

12 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Does anybody have any  
13 questions?

14 (NO RESPONSE).

15 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Thank you.

16 MR. PRIMROSE: And then the last speaker is  
17 Jim Scholl, the City Manager of the City of Key  
18 West.

19 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hi, Jim.

20 MR. SCHOLL: Governor and members of the  
21 Cabinet, thanks for allowing me to speak today.

22 As I was introduced, Jim Scholl, City Manager  
23 for Key West. On behalf of Mayor Craig Cates and  
24 the entire city, we applaud this initiative. We're  
25 a hundred percent supportive of this initiative and

1 believe it's a great arrow in that quiver of  
2 solutions to be able to retain our workforce.  
3 We're not adding bodies. We need places for the  
4 existing workforce to live and to live in safe  
5 homes.

6 So this is a wonderful solution. I know Mayor  
7 Coldiron spoke very eloquently on all of the  
8 details of it, but we have a great working  
9 relationship with Julie Dennis and other staff  
10 members at DEO, and we'll figure out the details to  
11 make it work for Key West. So, again, we applaud  
12 that initiative and really look forward to getting  
13 this approved. So thank you.

14 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thanks. Does anybody have  
15 any questions for Jim?

16 (NO RESPONSE).

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Okay.

18 MR. PRIMROSE: I don't believe we have any  
19 other speakers. So to finish this agenda item, the  
20 Department's recommendation for the housing  
21 initiative is to accept the Keys' Workforce Housing  
22 Initiative.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Are there any  
24 questions before we get started?

25 CFO PATRONIS: No, sir.

1 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Does anybody have a motion?

2 CFO PATRONIS: So move.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL BONDI: Second.

4 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Second? Comments or  
5 objections?

6 (NO RESPONSE) .

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Hearing none, the motion  
8 carries.

9 MR. PRIMROSE: All right. That concludes our  
10 agenda.

11 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Thanks, Julie. Thanks,  
12 everybody for being up here. Good luck. Just stay  
13 involved because, you know, we have the second  
14 round of money.

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