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**From:** Kyle, Gina A. - Manager Media Relations  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2019 12:57 PM  
**To:** Stewart, Kerri - VP & Chief Customer Officer; 'Michael Munz'; 'Melissa Stone'; Goldberg, David M. - Director Customer & Community Engagement; 'Banks Willis'; mmilne@daltonagency.com  
**Subject:** Draft PR for your review/Edits  
**Attachments:** JEA ISSUES CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY\_ITN 127\_19.docx

Draft for your review. Please let me know of any changes/additions.

Thanks,

Gina

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# MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **JEA ISSUES CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY: INTENT TO NEGOTIATE 127-19 NEGOTIATION TEAM MEMBERS UTILITY CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER REQUESTS OPINION OF STATE COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**Jacksonville, FL** (November 18, 2019) – JEA announced today that on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 the utility requested the assistance of the State of Florida Commission on Ethics, requesting an informal written advisory opinion on behalf of ITN 127-19 negotiation team members Melissa Dykes, Herschel Vinyard, Jordan Pope and Camille Lee-Johnson. The request, made by Lynne Rhode, Office of General Counsel and JEA Chief Legal Officer, was made out of an overabundance of caution and JEA’s desire to avoid any potential conflict of interest. Ms. Dykes is JEA’s President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Vinyard serves as JEA’s Chief Administrative Officer, while Mr. Pope serves as the Director of Economic Development and Real Estate. Ms. Lee-Johnson is a member of the JEA Board of Directors and is the current Chair of the Compensation Committee.

“At issue is whether a prohibited conflict of interest arises under section 112.313(7), Florida Statutes, for the ITN Negotiation Team Members as a result of the Employee Protection and Retention Program or Executive Employment Agreements that exist as part of the ITN process,” according to Ms. Rhode. “Also at issue is whether a voting conflict arises under section 112.3143(3)(a), Florida Statutes, in the case of a committee chair serving on the ITN Negotiation Team.”

Consistent with the terms of the JEA Procurement Code, Section 3.3.2 of the ITN calls for a minimum of three individuals to be appointed to the negotiations team. The four designees will ultimately develop a recommendation identifying the award representing the best overall value to JEA based on the selection criteria. That recommendation will be made to the JEA board of directors for their consideration.

“JEA has appointed the negotiations team members while stating on the record that the conflicts review by the OGC and Commission on Ethics is pending,” said Ms. Rhode, “Our initial analysis is that there is no conflict of interest however we look forward to the state level opinion being issued as soon as possible as we continue with the negotiations phase.”

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**Melissa Dykes** serves as JEA's President and Chief Operating Officer. She leads the operation of the utility, responsible for providing reliable, affordable, safe utility services to more than one million people across four counties. Her team of more than 1,900 employees includes electric, water, wastewater, customer experience, human resources, environmental services, compliance, technology, supply chain, and legal. She is responsible for nearly all of JEA's \$2 billion budget and management of assets of \$8.8 billion.

Ms. Dykes served as JEA's Chief Financial Officer for nearly six years prior to her current role. As CFO, she provided leadership to ensure the financial health of JEA, resulting in access to capital at low cost on behalf of JEA's customers. Her efforts as CFO helped JEA deliver more than \$1 billion in cost savings to the community, including savings from refundings, a rate restructuring, and savings from the shutdown of the St. Johns River Power Park earlier this year. She was responsible for all aspects of JEA's finances, including treasury, financial reporting, budgeting, supply chain management, and shared services, and had lead responsibility for ensuring compliance with all reporting, regulatory and tax requirements for JEA.

Prior to joining JEA, Ms. Dykes was CFO at a portfolio company of a large energy private equity firm and a principal in a renewable energy development company, where she was responsible for origination, commercial structuring, development and capital raising for renewable energy projects. She also was Vice President of Investment Banking at JPMorgan, where she was responsible for providing capital solutions for clients, including more than \$26 billion in financings for many municipal electric and water systems across the country, risk management product delivery, and mergers and acquisitions. Prior to joining JPMorgan, Ms. Dykes worked for The World Bank Group, where she researched and published on private participation in infrastructure industries in developing countries. She is a graduate of the University of Florida and holds a certificate in Advanced Management from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

**Herschel Vinyard** has served as JEA's Chief Administrative Officer since April 2019. In this role, Mr. Vinyard oversees corporate compliance, legal, environmental and government affairs, in addition to serving as a strategic advisor to JEA's senior leadership team.

Prior to joining JEA, Mr. Vinyard served as Of Counsel for Foley & Lardner LLP in both its Government Solutions and Environmental Regulation Practices in its Jacksonville and Tallahassee offices. He positioned clients for success with federal, state and local officials on a range of economic development, environmental and legislative matters.

Mr. Vinyard served as Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under Governor Rick Scott from 2011-2014, where he was involved in all aspects of state-level environmental policy and regulation, including environmental permitting, water policy and ecosystem restoration.



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Before serving the State of Florida, Mr. Vinyard was the director of business operations for the southeast shipyards division of BAE Systems, one of the world's largest defense contractors. Mr. Vinyard started his career as a partner in the Jacksonville-based law firm of Smith Hulsey & Busey, where he focused on environmental law.

Mr. Vinyard has served on the boards of numerous local organizations, including the Jacksonville Port Authority, First Coast Manufacturers Association and World Affairs Council of Jacksonville. Mr. Vinyard received both his law degree and bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University.

**Jordan Pope** serves as JEA's Director of Economic Development and Real Estate. In this role, Mr. Pope is responsible for the management, acquisition and disposition of JEA's real estate portfolio including the future redevelopment of the St. Johns River Power Park. He is also responsible for JEA's economic development partnerships and interlocal agreements.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Pope was Director of Government Affairs serving as JEA's liaison to the Jacksonville City Council and other elected and appointed officials. He also served as Manager of Capital Budget Planning. Prior to joining JEA in 2010, Mr. Pope worked for CSX Transportation in various real estate roles.

Mr. Pope is a native of Northeast Florida and a proud graduate of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. He holds degrees from Florida State College at Jacksonville and the University of Florida and is a graduate of Leadership Florida's Connect Class Nine.

**Camille J. Lee-Johnson** is Chief Operating Officer for Lee Wesley & Associates, a 2nd generation family-business. Since joining the Company in 2007 Camille has been committed to delivering top-notch results for the organization. Lee Wesley owns and operates several Burger King and Panda Express' in Orlando, Jacksonville, and Norfolk, Virginia. In addition, Lee Wesley also has two (2) joint venture partnerships with HMS Host in the Orlando and Jacksonville Airport and is the Operating Partner with Levy Restaurants in the Camping World Stadium and Amway Center in Orlando, FL (home of the Orlando Magic).

Camille graduated from Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and International Studies. During that time, she played Division I golf for the Wake Forest Women's Golf Team. As the first black female golfer, Camille helped lead the team to a runner up finish in the 2002 NCAA ACC Championship. She gained international work experience in London as part of a business development program with Boston University. She also earned her Masters in Business and Entrepreneurship from the Entrepreneurship Masters program at the University of Florida as well as a business certification from Harvard University.



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Her past work experience includes holding positions as a Strategic Consultant and Marketing Account Executive for Zenith Media and Wasserman Media Group. Camille managed the multi-million dollar title sponsorship and lead the strategic development and execution of the inaugural St. Paul Travelers' Championship – a PGA TOUR event.

In 2017, Camille was elected by Governor Rick Scott to serve on the Board of Directors for CareerSource Florida. In 2018, Camille was elected by Mayor Lenny Curry to serve on the Jacksonville Electric Authority Board of Directors. She is also currently deeply rooted within Burger King holding several positions including Board Member for the National Franchise, President of the Minority Franchise Association and Inclusion Council Association.

She is a member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) and also a member of Leadership Jacksonville, Class of 2014. Camille and her husband of seven years, Lorenzo, currently reside in Atlantic Beach, FL.

**About JEA:** JEA is the largest municipal electric utility in Florida and one of the largest water and sewer utilities in the nation providing electric, water and sewer service to residents and businesses in northeast Florida. For general information, please visit our website: [www.jea.com](http://www.jea.com).