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	PAUL STEINBRECHER	15	1 Draft Invitation to Participate in the 69 JEA Long-Term Performance Unit Plan
	DATE TAKEN: Thursday, January 9, 2020	16	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	TIME: 9:30 a.m 11:10 a.m.	17	
	PLACE: Office of General Counsel 117 West Duval Street	18	
	Suite 480	19	
	Jacksonville, Florida	20	
	DEPONITE DV	21	
	REPORTED BY: Marianne Branson, RPR, FPR Court Reporter	22	
		23	
		24	
		25	
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1	APPEARANCES FOR THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE:	1	MR. LINSNER. This recorded interviewed is
2	STEPHEN J. POWELL, ESQUIRE	2	being conducted at the Office of General Counsel,
	SONYA HARRELL, ESQUIRE	3	City of Jacksonville. Today is January 9th, 2020.
3	Office of General Counsel 117 West Duval Street	4	The time now is 9:30 a.m.
4	Suite 480	5	I am Investigator Robert Linsner. I am
	Jacksonville, Florida 32202	6	employed by the Office of Inspector General, City
5	A DDE A DALVICE FOR THE OFFICE OF INVIDENTAL OF THE A	7	of Jacksonville. The Office of Inspector General
6 7	APPEARANCE FOR THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL: ROBERT LINSNER, INVESTIGATOR	8	is assisting the Office of General Counsel with
	Office of Inspector General - City of Jacksonville	9	its investigation regarding Aaron Zahn, former CEO
8	231 East Forsyth Street	10	of JEA.
9	Suite 470 Jacksonville, Florida 32202	11	Mr. Steinbrecher, you are being interviewed
10	Jacksonvine, Fiorida 32202	12	as a witness in this investigation. If at any
11	ALSO PRESENT:	13	time your status as a witness changes, you will be
12	JAMES POINDEXTER, ESQUIRE	14	notified. The attorneys who will be interviewing
13 14		16	you are Stephen Powell and Sonya Harrell. As a commissioned notary public in the State
15		17	of Florida, I am authorized to administer oaths.
16		18	Please be advised that any false statements made
17 18		19	during your interview or attempts to obstruct the
19		20	Office of General Counsel's investigation may be
12		21	used in a subsequent prosecution against you.
20		1	
20 21		22	Please raise your right hand.
20 21 22		22 23	Please raise your right hand. Do you, Paul Steinbrecher, swear to tell the
20 21		23 24	Do you, Paul Steinbrecher, swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?
20 21 22 23		23	Do you, Paul Steinbrecher, swear to tell the

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1	MR. LINSNER: Okay. And have any promises,	1	A I really didn't have knowledge of it.
2	threats, or inducements of any nature whatsoever	2	Q Okay. Have you talked with anybody else on
3	been made by me in order to obtain your consent to	3	the senior leadership team excuse me.
4	this statement?	4	You received notice yesterday to be here
5	THE WITNESS: No.	5	today?
6	MR. LINSNER: Okay. And do you understand	6	A Correct.
7	that this recorded interview will be subject to	7	Q In between that notice and this morning, have
8	public disclosure pursuant to the public records	8	you talked with anyone other than Mr. Poindexter about
9	law and other laws of the State of Florida?	9	this proceeding?
10	THE WITNESS: I do now.	10	A Yes.
11	MR. LINSNER: Okay.	11	Q Who would that have been?
12	PAUL STEINBRECHER,	12	A I reached out to an attorney friend to get
13	having been produced and first duly sworn as a witness,	13	references of who could accompany me today.
14	testified as follows:	14	Q Did you talk to anybody on the senior
15	EXAMINATION	15	leadership team about it?
16	BY MR. POWELL:	16	A I have only told a couple of them that I
17	Q Good morning, Mr. Steinbrecher. My name is	17	I'm on for today. I was aware that other members had
18	Steve Powell. I'm with the Office of General Counsel,	18	been through here.
19	and with me is Sonya Harrell, also with the office.	19	Q And that's true. Apart from an awareness
20	And we appreciate your coming in this morning.	20	that other members have been interviewed by our office,
21	Do you want to introduce your counselor?	21	have you had any discussions with any of them about
22	A I do. Thank you. So I got the notice	22	those interviews?
23	yesterday, and I was fortunate to get Mr. Poindexter,	23	A No.
24	and so he'll be here in a witness role, I understand.	24	Q In the course I appreciate that. I'm just
25	MR. POWELL: That's fine. Welcome,	25	trying to catch up. We've been busy.
	Page 6		Page 8
1	Page 6	1	Page 8
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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Mr. Poindexter. Your first name, for the record? MR. POINDEXTER: James. BY MR. POWELL: Q And you were provided with a Garrity statement by CEO Dykes? A I was. Q And do you have it with you today? A I do. Q You read it and signed it? A Yes. Q Any questions about it? A No. Q Okay. I'm going to sign it down here. We'll make a copy for you before you leave. A Okay. Thank you. Q Again, welcome and thank you for coming in. The purpose of this interview is in to further the assignment that the Office of General Counsel was given by the JEA board of directors on December 17th to investigate the tenure of Aaron Zahn as CEO of JEA to determine whether grounds exist to support a termination of Mr. Zahn's employment contract for cause.	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	So in the course of our work, Mr. Steinbrecher, we have identified a number of areas of interest and our interest in the management of JEA over the course of the last 18 months. And our only purpose today is to ask you what you know about some of those areas, your participation in various activities, and meetings, and simply to obtain your reporting of what you know. As it was indicated, you are not a subject of this investigation. You are here as a witness. And all we ask you to do is answer as completely as you can and as and, obviously, truthfully. If you have any questions if any of my questions or Ms. Harrell's questions aren't clear or get too lengthy and indecipherable as I'm sure will probably happen and you're not clear on what I'm asking about, please speak up, stop me; I'll rephrase it so that our record is clear. So if you give an answer, I'll understand that you have understood my question. Okay? A Okay. Q I do need you to speak audibly for the reporter. We do have a court reporter here, and I

2 (Pages 5 to 8)

Page 9 Page 11 1 finish my question before answering it, and I will try 1 meeting with somebody at the DEP level -- or even EQD 2 2 to extend the same respect and courtesy. over here, that would be the -- that would be the 3 3 overlap. But it's executive branch work. As you know, when we're having a conversation 4 4 with people it tends to get rather rapid fire, and Q Prior -- when you were director of 5 5 that's a real problem for her. Would that be all environmental services -- let me back up on that. 6 6 right? How long were you in that spot, director of 7 7 A Yes. environmental as services reporting to Mike Hightower? 8 8 Q I have a summary on a document from the -- I A I have been director of environmental 9 9 think it's a draft of one of the McKinsey reports that services for about 17 years. I joined -- I had a 10 give a little background on yourself. 10 manager of industrial pretreatment role, and then I 11 undertook the director role in that first year that I It's my understanding that you are currently 11 12 the vice president and chief environmental services 12 was with JEA. 13 officer at JEA: is that correct? 13 Q I believe Mr. Hightower came on board in the 14 14 A Yes. spring of '15. Do you recall that? 15 15 Q How long have you been in that seat? A That sounds about right. 16 A Since April of 2018. 16 Q Prior to his coming in, who did you report 17 17 Q Prior to April of '18, what position, if any, to? 18 18 did vou hold at JEA? A Bud Para before him, and that's how our --19 19 A Director of environmental services. that's how the organization was. And then before 20 2.0 Q At that time who was the vice president? him -- I've had three or four vice presidents over the 21 A I reported then to Mike Hightower. 21 years. Athena Mann, before him. She was a strictly 22 Q Was there no vice president and chief 22 environmental vice president. 23 23 environmental services officer prior to April of '18? Q Did you ever report directly to the CEO? 24 24 A There was not. That was a change at the A No. 25 time. 25 Q This summary I have -- and so you've been Page 10 Page 12 1 1 Q And it's my understanding that Mr. Hightower with JEA for 17 plus --2 2 was at that time the vice president, more or less, of A Just about 19 years. 3 government affairs and --3 Q All right. Your summary indicates that you 4 4 are responsible for leading JEA's environmental A Public affairs is what it was called at the 5 5 time. And it included two main components, maybe three services group; correct? 6 main components at one point, external media relations 6 A Yes. 7 7 at one point, things that you would think of as Q It then goes on to say that in that role you 8 8 government relations, and then environmental services. lead the organization in ensuring the highest levels of 9 Q What is the area of environmental services? 9 environmental compliance and incorporation of 10 10 sustainability into all JEA's planning activities. What is your portfolio? 11 A My work, I manage a group of close to 60 11 Can you talk to me about your role in JEA's 12 people, and we oversee all of JEA's environmental 12 planning activities? 13 permits for all the power plants, the water plants, the 13 A Sure. I have a background -- my background 14 wastewater plants, all of our facilities, getting, 14 is as a professional engineer. I have civil engineer 15 15 negotiating those permits, and providing compliance degrees. And so I came to JEA from an environmental --16 assistance with them with primarily state regulatory, 16 large environmental consulting firm. So previously 17 17 environmental agencies, but other environmental that's what I did; I designed water and wastewater 18 agencies. 18 plants worldwide. So I have a background in 19 19 Q What is the overlap with public affairs? engineering and in that type of planning. 20 A There isn't a lot of overlap with public 20 So in my role, the environmental part of it 21 affairs. I would say to the degree there is, we 21 that comes in is we have choices when we build 22 don't -- we ourselves don't do legislative lobbying, 22 facilities and make investments, and I'm a voice within 23 it's not in our area at all. 23 the organization of -- you can imagine if you assign 24 24 We do executive level work, for example, with four different people, they'll have different points of 25 the state DEP, so if we need to address or get a 25 view on purpose. One may be, well, what's the lowest

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Page 13 Page 15 1 cost, and one may be what's the longest life cycle. 1 2 2 Well, my angle tends to be trying to Q Okay. So it was -- it's now Herschel 3 3 assimilate all those things, including what's the Vinyard; before that it was Melissa Dykes? 4 4 environmental benefit and is it sustainable for us over 5 the long term. And that's a growing trend in the 5 And then before that it was Mike Hightower? 6 utility industry, both on the water side and the 6 A Yes. 7 7 BY MR. POWELL: electric side. So I'm a voice for sustainable 8 8 Q When did it shift from Mr. Hightower to 9 9 Ms. Dykes, your direct report? Q Was your work prior to JEA primarily on the 10 water side? 10 A Right about when I first came upstairs. 11 Q Do you remember when that would have been? A It was. Primarily water, wastewater for 11 12 12 A It would have been about April of '18. governments and industry. 13 Q And while you were director of environmental 13 Q Oh, I'm sorry, that's right. So that's when 14 14 you became vice president. services -- well, let me back up. 15 15 I gather that as director of environmental A It'll be two years this April. 16 services you have responsibility not only for water-16 Q And the vice presidents are on the 16th 17 17 floor; right? related planning but also energy-related planning? 18 A So we have a planning director -- actually, a 18 A Yes. 19 19 planning vice president now. We have -- the --Q When did you first meet Aaron Zahn? 2.0 Q Okay. So I do know your organization, so let 20 A I think the first time I met him was four 21 me speed ahead, because I don't want to keep you here 21 or -- my recollection is four or five years ago he was 22 any longer than you need to be. I've actually 22 at a workshop that JEA had. BY MS. HARRELL: 23 accumulated quite a bit of understanding of the 23 24 24 Q Do you remember what that workshop was about? structure. 25 So I do understand you have a vice president 25 A I think it was about energy sustainability. Page 14 Page 16 1 1 for energy and you have a vice president for water and The public affairs group was putting it on. I think 2 2 wastewater, and Steve McInall is the vice president of Bud Para was hosting it at the time. And there were --3 energy and water planning, which is a new position that 3 I remember there were roundtable sessions with 4 4 was created for Mr. McInall when Ms. Anders was hired; different members of the public upstairs, and I met him 5 5 correct? in that role. A Yes. Thank you. BY MR. POWELL: 6 6 7 7 Q How do you inter -- what's the interface Q What do you remember of your interaction with 8 8 between your planning responsibilities and him at that gathering? 9 Mr. McInall's planning responsibilities? 9 A Just that he was very interested in utility 10 10 A Thanks. I get -functions and seemed fairly knowledgeable. That stuck Is that going to get us right to the heart of 11 11 12 12 Q Knowledgeable of -- you say utility the --13 A I understand what you're asking now. 13 functions. That would be a pretty broad --14 Yeah, I am not the planning director or the 14 A Yeah, thanks. We were talking about water, 15 15 wastewater trends for the future, and energy trends for planning vice president, but I weigh in on those 16 things, especially from an environmental standpoint. 16 the future. 17 17 BY MS. HARRELL: Q Did you have any -- now, I've noticed the 18 18 Q Who do you directly report to? coincidence of dates here. You became vice president 19 A I report now to Herschel Vinyard. 19 in April of '18. I believe that's also when Mr. Zahn 20 Q When you say now, when did that change? 20 became interim CEO; correct? 21 A Herschel was hired on -- in March or April of 21 A It is almost coincident with that. When that 22 22 last year, and that's when the change was made. process -- when the board concluded its process and 23 Prior to that I reported -- when I came 23 selection of a new CEO, within a few days after that I 24 upstairs it was at the request of Ms. Dykes, and I 24 got a call from Melissa. 25 reported to Ms. Dykes in her role as chief operating 25 Q Okay, careful. At that point it was -- he

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	Page 17		Page 19
1	was an interim CEO in the spring of '18 when you came	1	Q Do you recall the first time well, let me
2	up. He didn't become I'll just tell you, he didn't	2	ask this: Have you ever had a one-on-one session with
3	become the permanent CEO until November of '18.	3	Mr. Zahn?
4	A Thank you. At that time in but he had	4	A No. We were scheduled to do a lunch thing.
5	been	5	He was trying to make the rounds with the different
6	Q On the board.	6	vice presidents, and at one time I was on the schedule
7	A Yeah. But he had been selected and she had	7	for that, but it got bumped.
8	not.	8	Q All right. That would have been, I believe,
9	Q That's correct, as the interim.	9	after the after the July 23, 2019, board meeting.
10	A Yeah.	10	Do you recall that, that that's when that
11	Q When Mr. McElroy left let me just provide	11	one-on-one would have occurred where he was going to
12	this background and see if it refreshes and you can	12	make the rounds with the vice presidents?
13	recall. This is not a trial	13	A I don't recall, but five, six, seven months
14	A Right.	14	ago sounds about right.
15	Q and so we don't have any formal rules of	15	Q Does the July 23 board meeting stand out in
16	evidence, so we're just going to I'm going to try to	16	your mind?
17	expedite things for your benefit primarily.	17	A Not particularly.
18	A Okay, thank you.	18	Q Did you attend the board meeting?
19	Q When Mr. McElroy left, Ms. Dykes became	19	A I'd have to go look. I don't attend all of
20	was appointed by the board as interim CEO. Do you	20	them.
21	recall that?	21	Q All right. Let me just refresh. This was
22	A Yes.	22	the board meeting six months ago where the board
23	Q And that was for a short period of time.	23	approved the performance unit plan, it approved a
24	Whatever happened, Mr. Zahn then was appointed by the	24	number of employment agreements, including yours, and
25	board as the interim CEO. Do you recall that?	25	it gave direction to the to management with respect
	Page 18		Page 20
1	A I do.	1	to pursuing the ITN and assorted restructuring concepts
2	Q And you recall that being about the time you	2	for JEA.
3	came upstairs as vice president?	3	Do you remember all that happening just six
4	A Yes, if that was spring of '18.	4	months ago?
5	Q All right. Did you have any contact with	5	A I yes. But I can't recall if I was at
6	Mr. Zahn after that gathering four or five years ago	6	that board meeting or not. My vice president or my
7	until he showed up as being appointed to the JEA board	7	person I report to doesn't necessarily you know, he
8	of directors?	8	likes us doing our work. He doesn't necessarily
9	A No.	9	require us to be at board meetings.
10	Q When he was appointed to the JEA board of	10	Q That being Mr. Vinyard?
11	directors, did you have any opportunity to interact	11	A Yes. So I've probably been to at least half
12	with him?	12	the board meetings since Mr. Vinyard's been here, but I
13	A No.	13	have not been to all of them.
14	Q When was your first direct interaction with	14	Q All right. You just don't recall whether you
15	Mr. Zahn after he was appointed to the JEA board of	15	were there or not?
16	directors? Let me ask it a different way. I'm not all	16	A Correct.
17	that concerned about his tenure on the board of	17	Q All right, that's fine. Prior to that
18	directors.	18	meeting, had an employment agreement let me ask you
19	So he's now the interim CEO and you're now a	19	this: When you were the director of environmental
20	new vice president; correct?	20 21	services, did you have a written employment agreement
21 22	A Yes.	22	with JEA? A No.
23	Q Did he invite you in to have a let's-get-to-	23	
23 24	know-each-other type meeting or any other meeting of any kind?	24	Q When you became vice president and chief environmental services officer in April of '18, were
25		25	
	A No.	4.0	you given a written employment agreement and execute an

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	Page 21		Page 23
1	agreement with JEA?	1	Q Did you make any changes to it before you
2	A I do not believe so.	2	executed it?
3	Q Then as far as your belief	3	A No.
4	A But in June or July I was given one.	4	Q Had you prior to it being given to you at
5	Q All right. And that's my question	5	that group meeting that you described, had you ever
6	A Of this year.	6	been aware that this agreement was coming down the
7	Q When were you given it, in either June or	7	pike?
8	July?	8	A I don't remember that I did. I don't think I
9	A I believe it was July of this July of	9	did.
10	2019.	10	Q So you never had talked about it with Lynne
11	Q Who gave it to you?	11	Rhode or anybody else before, bam, there it is in front
12	A I believe Ms. Rhode handed them out.	12	of you in that group meeting?
13	Q Do you remember whether she handed them out	13	A That's my recollection.
14	before or after the July 23 board meeting?	14	Q Were you also presented with a couple of
15	A I don't. But it would have been late July.	15	other component agreements, one being a transition
16	Q In what manner was it handed out to you by	16	agreement and another being a retention agreement?
17	Ms. Rhode? And if I need to elaborate on that, I'll be	17	A Yes. There's three components to it.
18	happy to.	18	Q Even though I have been at this for
19	A I think my recollection was maybe they	19	A One's presented as an Appendix A and one's
20	were handed out at an SLT meeting, where somebody walks	20	presented as a
21	around and says, Here's yours, here's yours, here's	21	MR. POWELL: Would you find them, please,
22	yours.	22	Sonya? Just find them so I can get
23	Q Was it presented to you as: Here it is,	23	MS. HARRELL: Well, I don't know if they
24	sign?	24	are well, they may be.
25	A No.	25	THE WITNESS: One's a retention agreement in
	Page 22		Page 24
1	Q Or was it presented: Here it is, have a look	1	the case of a change of
2			the case of a change of
	at it, give it some thought, let us know what you	2	MR. POWELL: Of ownership.
3	at it, give it some thought, let us know what you think?	2 3	
			MR. POWELL: Of ownership.
3	think?	3	MR. POWELL: Of ownership. THE WITNESS: ownership.
3 4	think? A I think they were given to us with the	3 4	MR. POWELL: Of ownership. THE WITNESS: ownership. BY MR. POWELL:
3 4 5	think? A I think they were given to us with the expectation that you would go away and read them, seek counsel to review them if you so desired, and return them by the end of the month. My recollection is it	3 4 5	MR. POWELL: Of ownership. THE WITNESS: ownership. BY MR. POWELL: Q Do you recall how long your retention agreement was for? A I think it's for three months.
3 4 5 6	think? A I think they were given to us with the expectation that you would go away and read them, seek counsel to review them if you so desired, and return them by the end of the month. My recollection is it was a short time frame, four, five, six business days.	3 4 5 6	MR. POWELL: Of ownership. THE WITNESS: ownership. BY MR. POWELL: Q Do you recall how long your retention agreement was for? A I think it's for three months. Q What was your what were your thoughts when
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Page 25 Page 27 1 Q -- is for three months; correct? 1 the group? 2 2 A And the consulting agreement is for three A I don't -- I don't recall that. My 3 3 impression from that was, just as a -- when somebody months. 4 4 Q So these three components -- and let's not walks around the table and hands those types of things 5 worry about what they're named and what the terms are, 5 out, I assume that they're not all the same. That's 6 because we have your documents. I just don't have them 6 just my assumption. So people --7 7 here. They are what they are; right? Q Yeah, I'm going to --8 A Yes. 8 A People didn't sit around trading notes 9 9 Q You didn't make any change to them; you because of that. 10 signed them all? 10 Q I hear what you're saying and I understand A Correct. 11 that. I hadn't frankly -- that, frankly, hadn't 11 12 Q All right. When you looked at that package 12 occurred to me. Thank you. 13 of documents, did you have any thoughts about them in 13 So suffice it to say you took your package of 14 terms of, what are these, perhaps, why are they being 14 documents, talked to an attorney about them, whatever 15 15 offered, any -- any thoughts along those lines? was said was said. You came back, you signed them all, 16 A The retention agreement, I knew what the 16 turned them in without making any changes; correct? 17 17 underlying purpose was. It was being offered A That's correct. 18 throughout the organization for the purpose I just 18 Q All right. Do you recall that it was after 19 19 described, in the event of a change of ownership to that event that Mr. Zahn was going to make one-on-one 2.0 retain employees. 20 visits with the senior leadership team to meet? 21 21 I did not know the underlying reasoning for A I don't. But it -- it shouldn't be hard for 22 contracts for all of us. There had not been contracts 22 me to look back on a -- on my schedule and see if an 23 for senior members for several years prior to that. 23 original one is there, because at one point there was 24 There had been in previous administrations, but there 24 one on the calendar. 25 hadn't been in recent administrations. 25 Now, when they hit the cancellation notice, I Page 26 Page 28 1 1 Q And the same with respect to the consulting don't know if there's still an artifact from that or 2 2 not. agreement, I assume, you had questions about that, 3 like, What's this? 3 Q Thank you. So there will be some takeaways 4 4 from this, possibly, of things we'd like you to follow A Not particularly. I am not -- I'm not 5 5 generally aware of what's normal and customary at that up on and provide us. 6 executive level, which is why I sought an employment 6 Do you want me to make that list, or can 7 7 attorney to look at that and say, Does this look right Mr. Poindexter make that list? It would be most 8 8 efficient and helpful if he would. 9 Q Okay. But for over a year -- over a year, 9 MR. POINDEXTER: I will. 10 THE WITNESS: Sure. from April of '18 to July '19, you had not had the 10 11 benefit of any agreement --11 BY MR. POWELL: 12 12 A That's correct. Q So the one thing we would like to ask you to 13 13 verify on your calendar is when that one-on-one meeting Q -- on any of these concepts; right? A That's correct. 14 with Mr. Zahn was supposed to take place. 14 15 15 Q All right. Was there any discussion among Did you -- regardless of when it was supposed 16 the group at the time -- and do you recall that it was 16 to take place, do you know -- were you told what that 17 17 Lynne Rhode that handed everything out to everybody? meeting was going to be about? 18 Whoever it was --18 A Yeah. The conventional wisdom was they were 19 19 A I think it was. just what you would do with any employees, to -- a 20 20 Q You think it was Lynne, okay. skip-level interview, to talk, see how things are So whenever it was all handed out to the 21 21 going.. 22 22 group, was there any discussion -- did everybody take a Q Skip-level, what does that mean? 23 look at this package and then raise a hand, ask any 23 A Skip-level usually means down a level or two. 24 24 That's common in our business is to -- for example, I 25 Was there any give-and-take at that time in 25 occasionally go see managers that report to directors

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Page 29 Page 31 1 that report to me. Not frequently, but occasionally. 1 O Romero. 2 Might ask them to lunch and say, How's it going, just 2 A Romero, thank you. And Julio would have been 3 3 the fourth person on that two-tier leadership team. So have rapport. 4 4 Q I get it. And Mr. Zahn meeting with you it wasn't clear to me that Shawn was in that second 5 would be a skip-level because he's the CEO and you 5 tier. Although Shawn had special assignments regarding 6 don't report to him directly anyway; right? 6 7 A Correct. 7 Q All right. When you say second tier -- good, 8 8 Q But you had never had a skip-level meeting thank you. We'll come back to that. 9 with Mr. Zahn --9 A First tier or second tier. 10 A No. 10 Q Upper tier; right? Q -- had you? A Yeah. 11 11 A No. But that didn't surprise me at all. 12 Q Do you remember -- well, I will just tell you 12 that I -- we're aware that there were a number of 13 That's something that's expected of most of us to do 13 14 14 off-site meetings of the senior leadership team in 15 15 2019. It's our understanding that the first such Q Expected to do what? 16 A Skip-level interviews. 16 meeting was on April 4th, 2019, at Ponte Vedra. I have 17 17 a list of folks that were invited. You're on that Q No, I understand that. But you had never had 18 18 one with Mr. Zahn since he came on -- since you came on 19 19 as vice president; is that correct? Did you attend that meeting? 20 A Well, I'll have to look at what the initial 20 A I think so. I would have been invited to all 21 schedule date was. I don't recall what that date was. 21 four. I think I missed one. I would have to go back 22 But, no, I hadn't had one. 22 and look which one. But I for sure would have been 23 Q As we -- so let's roll through to December 23 invited to all four, because they were strategy 24 17th. You remember that day, right, Mr. Zahn as -- his 24 meetings related to the McKinsey work we were doing. 25 tenure ended on December 17th. 25 Q All right. And so before I get into the Page 30 Page 32 1 1 A Yes. meetings -- you mentioned McKinsey a couple of times. 2 Q Up and to that point had you ever had what 2 If you would just sum up for us what you first -- I'm 3 you would call a skip-level meeting with Mr. Zahn? 3 going to say what you understood to be what McKinsey 4 4 was doing for JEA. 5 5 A number of meetings occurred in 2019 of the A Okay. McKinsey was hired to assist JEA in a 6 senior leadership team -- and you consider yourself a 6 revised strategy for the organization moving forward, a 7 7 member of that team; correct? ten -- really a ten-year strategy look forward. 8 8 Q And when you say revised, what do you -- that 9 Q And as I understand it now, there is an upper 9 implies a change. What did you understand the revised 10 10 echelon of that team called the executive management aspect of their strategy work to be? 11 A Probably a poorly chosen word, Mr. Powell. I 11 12 12 A We have a -- we have a two-tiered senior don't know when the previous strategy work had been 13 13 leadership system. done, but I just meant the next one, the next in a 14 Q And as of a month -- two months ago, who 14 sequence. 15 would be that -- who would have been in that upper 15 It's common for utilities to do these on 16 16 three-, five-, or ten-year cycles. Utilities are level group? 17 17 A Okay. So Aaron as CEO; Melissa Dykes, moving to shorter and shorter cycles of these because 18 18 president and chief operating officer; Ryan of planning uncertainty in our business. That's what I 19 Wannemacher, chief financial officer; Herschel Vinyard, 19 meant by revised. I should have said a new one. 20 chief administrative officer. I think that's, two 20 Q That works for me. And I wasn't trying to 21 months ago, what it would have looked like. 21 catch you in any kind --22 Q Sounds right to me. With maybe Shawn Eads as 22 A Yeah. 23 well? 23 Q I'm not trying to do any gotchas here, okay. 24 A I wasn't sure about Shawn, because he had a 24 I understand. 25 boss when he came in named Julio --25 All right. So how about -- when did you

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Page 33 Page 35 first learn that McKinsey was being engaged to work on 1 1 was facing -- would be facing headwinds due to 2 a new strategic plan for JEA? 2 declining revenues in that business. 3 A I think we started with them -- I think about 3 Q Whose conclusion was that? 4 4 the new year. A The team's, including McKinsey's. 5 Q "New year" being 2019? 5 Q We've heard the word headwinds quite a bit. 6 A Yeah. 6 Without getting into the specifics of them, you are --7 7 Q We're having to be very careful, because over you've been at this a long time; right? 8 the course of this we have changed years. 8 A Yeah. 9 9 A Thank you. Q And you have an understanding, I believe --10 Q And we're asking people to be very careful 10 tell me if I'm wrong -- of the utility industry when they're talking about time frames. throughout the United States, yes? 11 11 12 12 A About a year ago. A Yes. 13 Q All right. Did you receive an assignment or 13 Q Both in the public and private sector, yes? 14 direction with respect to participating or assisting 14 Α 15 McKinsey? 15 Q Are the headwinds JEA is facing any 16 A Yes. 16 different, in general terms, than the headwinds facing 17 17 every other utility in the United States? Q From whom? 18 18 A I think it was just expected as a member of A I don't know that I'd say every other, but I 19 19 would say they are common in the industry. And I can the senior leadership team that you would participate. 20 And as we did the strategy work, it was critical for 20 simplify them, I should for you. 21 21 everybody to participate, because you would be reaching There are two basic things. Declining 22 down into your own particular team for data and 22 revenues are a clear pattern in the industry. It's 23 23 information to feed back up to McKinsey to compile and just year after year declining or flat; and increasing 24 24 for analysis. 25 Q What do you recall of your work in the early 25 Q And that would be true throughout the United Page 34 Page 36 1 stages of the McKinsey work? 1 States; correct? 2 2 And when I say early stages, I'm going to ask A That's generally true. Some utilities are 3 you to stay in the first quarter of 2019. 3 curing that or attempting to cure that by acquisitions. 4 A Okay. That's not hard to do. It was pretty 4 That's how they deal with the revenue issue. 5 5 methodical work. BY MS. HARRELL: 6 It's called scenario based, and you start 6 Q Acquisitions of? 7 7 with the scenario of what's your current status quo. A Others. Consolidation in the marketplace. 8 8 If you didn't change anything but the market around you Q Acquisitions of other utilities? 9 continued to evolve in the direction we're seeing it 9 A Yeah. So it's not -- so not every utility 10 10 has declining revenues. But if they kept their evolving, what would happen to the business. So 11 that's -- another word for that is just the baseline. 11 customer base the same, Mr. Powell -- if they had, make 12 So the first thing you do is you try to 12 it up, whether that's a million or ten million 13 establish the baseline, and that was the first work we 13 customers and they held those customers the same, they 14 14 have declining revenues. Because everybody is using 15 15 Q Is that -- was that the focus of the first less electricity year over year in the United States. 16 guarter of 2019? 16 BY MR. POWELL: 17 17 A I'd have to go check the dates, but that's Q As an aside, it does seem ironic, doesn't it, 18 the first work we did with -- with McKinsey whenever we 18 because we've been pushing people for at least the last 40 years to use less energy. 19 19 20 20 Q All right. How would you then characterize A Everything is more efficient, that's right. 21 the next phase -- or next stage of working with 21 It's just a reality of the marketplace, and that'll 22 22 continue. 23 A Well, the first phase was not -- it had a --23 BY MS. HARRELL: 24 wasn't unexpected, but it was -- it was a conclusion 24 Q What about on the water side? 25 that the electric side of the business in particular 25 A Water is -- water is different, very

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Page 37 Page 39 1 different. It's a different analysis, because water is 1 A That's from the --2 inherently local. It's very expensive to move it over 2 Q -- and then in '97 they --3 long distance, as opposed to electrons on wires. So 3 A That's from the '97 transition to JEA. So I 4 4 it's expensive to put in pipes and move water long think there was a benefit for JEA taking over the water 5 distances. 5 system at that time. 6 6 It's hard from a regulatory framework to move BY MR. POWELL: 7 7 water over long distances. That's usually not Q All right. So conclusions were reached with 8 accepted, especially in the eastern United States. So 8 respect to the forecast given the status quo scenario? 9 9 A That's the first work we did. water is a limited resource, and we'll continue to 10 serve more and more population with less and less water 10 BY MS. HARRELL: 11 and increased rates. 11 Q Let me go back to a question I had, though, 12 BY MR. POWELL: 12 about the water. You talked about the status quo being 13 Q I do need to ask a question. Hang on a 13 based on the declining energy revenues. 14 14 second. I'm glad Ms. Harrell brought up the water A And we looked at both sides of the business. 15 15 side. Q Okay, that was my question. 16 Among public utilities that -- in the United 16 A And they're two separate business. We don't 17 17 States that you are aware of, would you be able to give mix the money between them. The capital has remained 18 18 us a percentage of those utilities that have both separate, so they're two separate business. 19 19 energy and water? Q And so what was the forecast in that 20 2.0 A I wouldn't. scenario -- in that status quo, baseline, with regard 21 Q Water/wastewater. 21 to the water revenues? 22 A I wouldn't, but it's not a big number. 22 A It was okay. 23 Q So you would agree with me that it's a -- is 23 Q What do you mean "okay"? 24 it a relatively small percentage of public utilities 24 A I don't think there were serious concerns 25 that have -- that enjoy -- would you consider it a 25 about it, is my recollection. Water is becoming more Page 38 Page 40 1 1 luxury that the -- enjoy the luxury of having both and more scarce. The concern in the water business is, 2 2 because it's a scarce resource and it's local, is we'll electric and water/wastewater under one roof? 3 A I don't know if it's a luxury or not, 3 need to look at what's called alternative water 4 4 Mr. Powell. I won't get into that. But it -- it's not supplies in the future for sources of water and develop 5 5 real common for -- to have combined utilities. those locally. 6 Q Okay. So let me ask you this -- but as the 6 Q Okay, thanks. I just wanted to clarify. 7 7 vice president and chief environmental services A And they'll be more expensive. And that's a 8 8 officer, do you see a benefit to the agency that it has common trend in the industry and very common in 9 both electric and water/wastewater? 9 Florida. 10 A I would state it differently. I joined the 10 BY MR. POWELL: 11 company about 19 years ago, and it was clear to me that 11 Q For me that would now bring us to the first 12 12 the water side of the business at the time, which had off-site meeting of the leadership team at Ponte Vedra. 13 13 Do you remember attending that first meeting on April previously been operated as a public utility by the 14 City of Jacksonville, was underinvested, and it was 14 15 15 under a variety of regulatory consent orders because it A I was probably there. I'd have to go look. 16 16 My recollection is I think I missed one of the four, had been underinvested. 17 17 There was a big benefit at that time for the but I couldn't tell you which one. 18 18 water side of the business, because it then received Q Okay. I would ask you also if you could go 19 capital infusion. The facilities were brought up to 19 back and check and let us know which ones you were at. 20 20 Obviously, if you tell us which ones you were at, we'll very good quality -- we're very proud of the water 21 system we've got now -- and brought under what I 21 know the one you missed. 22 22 consider a higher level of professional management. A Yes, of course. 23 BY MS. HARRELL: 23 Q And you might not recall the dates, but do 24 24 Q Are you saying that's from the transition of you recall that there was a meeting in April, a meeting 25 when it was with the City -in June, and two meetings in August?

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	Page 41		Page 43
1	A That sounds right.	1	A And those August ones were on the beach side
2	Q Here we are in January of 2020 looking back	2	of the road.
3	on the year. Are you able to distinguish between the	3	Q What about as between the April and June
4	discussions and presentations at each of those meetings	4	meeting, were they on the same side of the road, so to
5	distinctly?	5	speak?
6	A No. What jumps out in my mind is one of the	6	A I think they would have been on the not-beach
7	last ones, McKinsey was supposed to be providing a	7	side of the road.
8	high-level wrap-up, and the team felt they weren't very	8	Q At either of those first two meetings, do you
9	well prepared. That jumps out in my mind.	9	recall Aaron Zahn discussing with the group and by
10	Q Do you remember whether at the first	10	that I mean members of the senior leadership team
11	meeting you attended, whenever it was, whether McKinsey	11	and talking about that in the event of a
12	presented?	12	recapitalization or change of control of the company,
13	A Yes, certainly.	13	that in that process a large sum of money transfers,
14	Q Did McKinsey present at all the meetings you	14	and that in that event a portion of those funds could
15	were at?	15	be used to fund an incentive plan for employees?
16	A I think so.	16	A Say that again, Mr. Powell.
17	Q All right.	17	Q I worked really hard on that, so I'm going to
18	A That was a that was the main purpose of	18	ask you to read that back, okay.
19	them.	19	(The question was read by the reporter.)
20	Q You're with me that there were two meetings	20	THE WITNESS: I don't remember that and the
21	prior to the July 23 board meeting that we've	21	specific timing.
22	previously identified and summed up. Are you in	22	BY MR. POWELL:
23	agreement?	23	Q Would you have any notes from either the
24	So you had April, June, and then two in	24	April or June meeting that might help you remember?
25	August?	25	A No.
	Page 42		5 44
	rage 42		Page 44
1	_	1	
1 2	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to	1 2	Q You didn't take any notes?
2	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to check the calendar.	2	Q You didn't take any notes?A No.
	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to check the calendar. Do you mind making notes on that?	2	Q You didn't take any notes?A No.Q Were you presented with any materials at
2	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to check the calendar.	2	Q You didn't take any notes?A No.
2 3 4	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to check the calendar. Do you mind making notes on that? MR. POINDEXTER: I have those notes. BY MR. POWELL:	2 3 4	Q You didn't take any notes?A No.Q Were you presented with any materials at either of those meetings?A Took
2 3 4 5	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to check the calendar. Do you mind making notes on that? MR. POINDEXTER: I have those notes. BY MR. POWELL: Q I'd like to ask you to keep your answers now	2 3 4 5	Q You didn't take any notes?A No.Q Were you presented with any materials at either of those meetings?
2 3 4 5 6	A I said that sounds about right. I'd have to check the calendar. Do you mind making notes on that? MR. POINDEXTER: I have those notes. BY MR. POWELL: Q I'd like to ask you to keep your answers now in the meetings that occurred before the July 23 board	2 3 4 5 6	 Q You didn't take any notes? A No. Q Were you presented with any materials at either of those meetings? A Took Q Prepared excuse me, prepared well, I'm
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11 (Pages 41 to 44)

Page 45 Page 47 1 and compile it for the next get-together. That was the 1 standpoint, as an example. 2 2 general focus of those meetings. Q Were you asked also to do a scenario in which 3 BY MS. HARRELL: 3 you cut 15 percent of your team, or you cut --4 4 Q Do you recall what kind of material you were 5 5 asked to have your team gather? Q Or cut 15 percent of your budget, I guess? 6 6 A Sure. And it varied, because what -- in the A Yes. It wasn't specifically 15 percent, 7 7 scenario -- I'll do this as quickly as I can. Ms. Harrell, but that's what I just referred to as 8 In the scenario-based work we were doing, 8 SQ 2, which is what if the utility takes the brunt of 9 9 that very first work we did was a baseline. Baseline if revenues are declining and expenses are increasing, 10 wasn't pretty primarily for the electric side of the 10 what does that look like? And we called that scenario 11 11 business. Water was okay financially. 12 12 Q How did you provide this information to The next thing we did was, well, how could 13 you mitigate that. If you let it all fall on the 13 McKinsey? Was it email; do you remember? 14 14 A I don't remember if I provided -- I think I ratepayer what would that feel like to the ratepayer. 15 15 We call that Status Quo 2. provided a hard copy on a budget sheet on that 16 Or, if instead we didn't let that fall on the 16 particular one. 17 17 ratepayer, but we shrunk the business and took the hit Q Okay. And then what other information --18 18 as much as possible at JEA by all the things you might A Because that one had to do with potential 19 19 imagine, but lower -- lower quality service is what staff cuts. 20 20 that translates to at the end of the day, layoffs and Q Okay. Would you have provided everything to 21 other things. That was the second scenario. 21 McKinsey in either email or hard copy when they were 22 The other scenarios were versions of could 22 asking for information from your team? 23 23 you -- could you become a different type of A Yeah. And there -- there wasn't a lot. Most 24 24 of my work in those sessions was just participating organization so that you could more nimbly get into 25 other businesses or other business practices, expand 25 with the group on common discussions in the room, on Page 46 Page 48 1 1 business practices more nimbly without the risk of the types of things -- the types of exercises --2 2 somebody stealing your business plan, because that's (Brief interruption) 3 what we face right now as a public agency. 3 THE WITNESS: I thought this was off. Pardon 4 And those other -- there were three of them: 4 5 5 An initial public offering, meaning everybody over You know, we would hear their analysis and 6 there probably remains the same, the same teams there, 6 then we would discuss it and break into small 7 7 but you privatize yourself through an IPO; two, through groups and then compare what the small groups had 8 8 a co-op type of organization; or, three, through a talked about and see, if you had four different 9 sale. That part is called the ITN, that's option 5. 9 groups, did they come to the same conclusions on 10 10 That's the option that's gotten all the public them. 11 11 BY MR. POWELL: 12 12 So that is -- all five of those are the suite Q When you all were discussing SQ 2, and in 13 of work that we were doing with McKinsey. 13 particular the staff cuts, do you remember what the 14 Q Okay. So when you said -- you go to this 14 discussion was in terms of the immediacy of the need to 15 15 meeting, McKinsey would ask you for input from your make those staff cuts? 16 team, your group. Did you have to provide data to 16 A I don't. I don't -- my recollection isn't 17 17 McKinsey? that it was something that needed to be done next week. 18 18 A Occasionally, yeah. It was part of the strategy work for those five 19 19 Q Do you remember what kind of things you had different scenarios so that we could lay out a whole 20 20 list of options for the board to consider. to provide? 21 A Yeah. In my area it's some -- every group 21 Q So you don't recall any consensus among the 22 22 group, for example, that if JEA were to opt for SQ 2 got asked early on, do brainstorming with your group on

12 (Pages 45 to 48)

that 10 percent of the workforce would have to be cut

A It varied by group, but that was the intent,

within two years, anything like that?

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what are other businesses. What -- and we would

brainstorm with our teams, our teams of employees --

are the other things we could be doing from a revenue

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was that when we're done with this strategic planning, which was intended to be maybe a year- to year-and-ahalf process, that the board would look first and make a recommendation, and then it would go to Council second.

That was always the intention of this work, and to have a community discussion about these five alternatives.

- Q In the 19 or so years that you've been with JEA, do you recall that periodically there was talk over those years, whether it was every few years or five years, about selling JEA?
 - A It comes up periodically.
- Q Do you remember a -- that in May of 2018, a month after you became vice president -- your timing is really good, I mean when you got in there. I just got to tell you.
- A Well, and I can explain that to you if it helps.
- 2.0 Q Explain what?

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- 21 A Why that timing is.
- 22 Q Okay. What is it?
- 23 So the board had made Aaron the --
- 24 O Interim CEO?
- 25 A -- interim. And Melissa had decided to stay

on the motion by Vice Chair Cumber, the board approved a resolution that provided that, until further board

3 decision, any activities tied to a privatization effort 4 would be put on hold.

> Do you remember that event? Do you remember that board action?

- A I don't. You are saying May of '18?
- Q Yes, sir. All right. I ask you to accept that that's the truth and fact.
 - A Certainly.
- Q And assuming that's the case, would it be correct for us to understand that in your last couple of years as director of environmental services, and then as you were transitioned into the vice president's role, that you personally had not been engaged in any particular degree of discussions about the selling or the privatization of JEA?
 - A That's correct.

on that -- any such effort?

- 19 All right.
 - A That would have been above my pay grade.
- 20 21 Q But now, come April, you're now vice 22 president, would you agree that should discussions like 23 that resume that you would have expected to have been 24 in the loop, or at least made aware, at least briefed

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on. From my point of view, I didn't know if Melissa would stay on in the org. She had competed for the job.

So she called and said -- her conversation with me -- I was at an out-of-town meeting -- was, Paul, I want you to know I've decided to stay on. I'm going to be in the president and COO role. And the way we're going to be organized, I need the operational folks underneath me. I have always appreciated you and your work, and I'd be honored if you'd serve as my vice president of environmental.

So that was a great honor for me, Steve.

Q Well, congratulations. And I can see how it all dovetails.

And I wasn't meaning anything other than good things about the timing.

A But at the time -- I want to explain that organizational move, because it was a change for us; it was a big change. So they put all operations under Melissa as a COO, and they took ancillary roles, government affairs and other things, and those were separate, in a different area.

Q As it so happens, the next month at a board meeting, there was discussion about -- talk and chatter about the privatization of JEA. And at that meeting,

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A Perhaps. I don't know. I'm going to give you a two-part answer to that. One, since we have a two-tier system, maybe not. But, two, I had a general awareness and was participating actively in the strategy work that we were doing, that five-part strategy work.

The five-part strategy work, to my knowledge, was not laid out as we're getting ready to sell JEA. It was looking at five different things to present to the board for the future, for them to select amongst that buffet.

- O No, I do understand that. But one scenario did involve --
 - A Privatization.
 - Q -- privatization; right?
- A Absolutely.
- Q Okay. Do you remember, and it's, frankly, fortunate that -- your timing of becoming vice president, because the time line for us starts at that point.

After May, or shortly after you became vice president, do you recall the first time you were engaged in a discussion on the 16th floor about the possible future restructuring or sale of JEA or privatization of the agency?

13 (Pages 49 to 52)

Page 53 Page 55 1 A Certainly. But in a different context. 1 you would traditionally think of as financial bottom 2 2 Again in the -line value. 3 O No, no, no. When? When? 3 So we developed a new set of documents. This 4 A Oh, when? I don't recall. But it would --4 was top-to-bottom work throughout the organization. We 5 it would have been early on, though, Mr. Powell. 5 spent a number of months doing that. 6 6 That's what I want to make clear. Q And that was during his interim tenure? 7 7 A Yes. What you are referring to as Q Early on in your tenure? 8 8 privatization -- that I'm changing a little, I'm saying A It would have been early on in my tenure, and 9 9 it would have been in the context of developing that's part of the strategy work; it's one option in 10 strategy options for selection. 10 the strategy work. My recollection is that that 11 Q And who would have engaged you in that started later, maybe the winter of '18-'19 when we 11 12 effort? 12 engaged McKinsey. Whenever we engaged McKinsey. 13 13 A Those would have been SLT discussions with Q I'm going to shift gears. Do you remember --14 you're aware of what became known as the long-term 14 the group. 15 15 Q Including Mr. Zahn? performance unit plan? 16 A Yes. Yeah. 16 A I am. 17 17 Q Would any such discussion have been led by Q Do you remember the first time you heard 18 Mr. Zahn? 18 discussion among the senior leadership team about any 19 19 form of long-term incentive plan for employees? A Yeah, probably would have been led by Aaron 2.0 or Melissa. 20 A I don't remember the exact timing. I think 21 Q During Mr. Zahn's interim period, do you 21 it would have been last summer, summer of '19 -- oh, 22 recall any SLT meetings in which Mr. Zahn did lead the 22 actually, for sure it would have been summer of '19, 23 group in a discussion pertaining to the privatization 23 because I think the board asked for a development of a 24 of JEA? 24 long-term incentive program. 25 And that would have been between May of '18 25 Q Thank you. And so to -- of course Page 54 Page 56 1 1 and November of '18. everybody's experience is a little different, right, so 2 A I don't recall. I'd need to go back and look 2 your experience, you have zeroed in on the June time 3 at some of my meeting notices. 3 frame, that board meeting. 4 4 The early work we were doing, early in Do you recall being involved in discussions 5 5 Aaron's tenure, Mr. Powell, was related to mission and among the senior leadership team and/or with Mr. Zahn 6 vision of JEA. That's the first work we did. That --6 about a long-term incentive plan for employees prior to 7 7 this precedes McKinsey work. that June meeting? 8 8 Q And does it precede his becoming the A I don't have recollection of it before then. 9 permanent CEO? 9 And I wasn't privy to any of the development or any 10 10 A Yeah. I think it was in the interim period. other such thing. I have never seen any written 11 11 And that was more related to what we now call CCEF. program of such thing. I was just generally aware that 12 Who do we want to be? What should we be focusing on? 12 program was asked to be developed along the lines of 13 13 Q Okay, that's a new acronym. Can you explain could we incentivize people long term to -- as a tool 14 it for me? 14 to try to increase revenue. 15 15 A Yeah. Q To the extent that -- well, whenever it was 16 Q CCEF. And I know that she will need some 16 that you got engaged in this, were you asked to provide 17 17 help for her record. What does that -any input, either through data or analysis, toward the 18 A So it's an acronym, CCEF. And we spent -- we 18 consideration or development of a plan like that? 19 spent the first bit of that time of Aaron's tenure 19 A No. 20 20 Why do you recall, then, that it was about an developing new mission and vision statements for the 21 organization. 21 incentive to try to encourage employees, I guess, to do 22 Q What does CCEF stand for? 22 better so that the agency would make more money? 23 A That culminated in us developing four 23 A Because we're in a declining revenue business 24 measures of value for the organization: Customer 24 right now. And that's been the subject -- obviously 25 value, community value, environmental value, and what 25 that's been the subject of intense media scrutiny in

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Page 57 Page 59 1 recent few months. 1 total --2 2 Q Right. And I know that it's got to be A Of my knowledge. 3 difficult to separate all the --3 Q -- your sum total understanding and knowledge 4 4 A So things I normally wouldn't recall I've of what the performance unit plan was? 5 probably read in the paper. 5 A Yes. That's why I went into a lengthy 6 Q All right. 6 discussion of that for you. I wanted you to understand 7 7 A So it's a good question, but that's the I have very limited knowledge or involvement of that 8 8 9 9 Q Do you remember when and where and how you Q Well, I appreciate that. And I'm just -- I'm 10 first heard of the plan couched in terms of being a 10 not trying to pick on you. I'm just trying to 11 performance unit plan? 11 12 A I think it was -- I think it was the summer 12 A Well, and especially what is being now shown 13 of '19. 13 in the news media as the uncapped nature of that plan. 14 14 Q Do you remember if it was before or after the BY MS. HARRELL: 15 15 July 23 board meeting? Q Do you mind -- and I'm not trying to nit-pick 16 A I don't. 16 you --17 17 Q What is -- obviously you have an A I don't mind this at all. I'd like to --18 understanding now of what the performance unit plan 18 O I just --19 19 was. You understand it now that it would have required A -- make that clear. 2.0 employees to purchase units in order to participate in 20 (Brief interruption) 21 the plan? 21 BY MS. HARRELL: 22 A The parts that I understood were pretty 22 Q You mentioned that they'd be -- that there 23 limited, that there -- that the board had asked for a 23 was something having to do with a performance ranking. 24 long-term plan. I don't know who was developing it. 24 Do you remember any explanation of that back in 25 It would have been -- would not have been -- I'm a 25 Page 58 Page 60 1 1 subject matter expert, obvioulsy. I don't have a A No, I don't think there was an explanation, 2 business background or an MBA or anything like that. 2 other than there would be a forced ranking, probably 3 So it wouldn't have involved the environmental services 3 throughout the organization, at different levels. 4 4 BY MR. POWELL: team. As opposed to environmental permits, which fall 5 5 on my shoulders. Q What about the relevance of somebody's 6 So the board had asked for that to be 6 position or classification in the agency, as opposed to 7 7 developed. My understanding of it, if you'd asked me their performance in their job? 8 8 this three months ago, I'd say what I've heard about it A Correct. I don't know if it was going to 9 is three-year plan, plan across about a three-year 9 make those types of distinctions or not. 10 period, if you can show continued revenue growth that 10 Q Did you receive an annual performance review it would pay back something, I had no idea what that 11 at the end of September, early October 2019? 11 A I did. 12 something is; and, two, people would be offered the 12 13 opportunity to purchase them based on performance 13 Q Who conducted your review? 14 ranking in the organization. 14 A Herschel Vinyard provided it to me. 15 15 So those are the two things that I had heard Q Was --16 16 about it in a senior leadership team summary. A He's my -- he's my -- I report to him. 17 Q So as of -- let me just make sure we got your 17 Okay. How was it provided to you? 18 18 time frame right. We're here in January. You said if A Meets-meets, in terms of -- we have different 19 I had asked you that three months ago. 19 levels: Exceeds, meets, below, and I think there's 20 20 A Yeah. another level below, which you'd be in a performance 21 Q So three months ago would be in October; is 21 management plan. 22 22 that about right? And it was pretty colloquial. But he said, 23 A Yes. 23 Paul, you know, we've had a tough year. We've all been 24 Q So are you sharing with us that as of October 24 busy, but we've got a lot of work left. And my plan is 25 of last year what you just described is the sum 25 for my -- you know, to -- I don't remember the exact

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Page 61 Page 63 1 1 language, but in a feedback, a one-on-one feedback he Q All right. Elaborate on disappointment, 2 2 and I were having, he said my plan is to issue a please. 3 3 meets-meets. I said that sounds good to me. A I don't think it would be appropriate to have 4 4 Q So you met with Mr. Vinyard to receive your an uncapped long-term incentive program at a municipal 5 review? 5 utility. 6 6 A In a feedback. We schedule -- it's customary Q In addition to news media, you're aware that the Council auditor prepared a memorandum to City 7 7 in our organization to have -- we call them one-on-one 8 8 feedback between direct supervisors and employees on a Council about the plan that detailed the uncapped 9 9 nature of it, and as a result of the uncapped structure regular basis. 10 Q And at the end of that meeting, did he hand 10 that in the event of a recapitalization event or sale 11 you a performance review document? of JEA the performance units could -- would have an 11 12 A No. But at the end of the year, in December 12 extraordinarily high value; are you aware of that? 13 13 we all handed -- all employees got from their direct A I'm aware of the news reports on that issue, 14 14 supervisors: And here's the results of this year's yes. 15 15 performance pay program. Which is a little bit Q And your -- you would share with us that that 16 different than the one you're talking about. 16 news was disappointing to you because you did not 17 17 So we have two things. We have your annual think -- you would not think it appropriate for a plan 18 review, how did you do, and Herschel gave me a meets-18 like this, in a public agency to be uncapped, is 19 19 meets. And the other one is, how did the company do appropriate? 2.0 from a performance standpoint. Because we pay per --20 A Correct. 21 we have performance pay at JEA. 21 Q All right. When you heard that news, do you 22 Q In your meeting with Mr. Vinyard in late 22 remember where you were and what you were doing? 23 23 September, early October to discuss the meet --A I do. It was -- it was not -- I think it was 24 meets-meets plan of his --24 on a Monday when -- it was an afternoon when several of 25 A Yes. 25 our senior leadership team were testifying over here in Page 62 Page 64 1 1 Q -- do you recall whether he mentioned front of City Council committee, and I was watching 2 anything to you or talked to you at all about the 2 what I could. I was busy that afternoon, but I was 3 performance unit plan? 3 streaming what I could. The streaming wasn't very good 4 A We did not talk about that. 4 that day either; the streaming would stop repeatedly. 5 5 Q Have you ever seen a list -- have you ever But I saw some of -- I saw a brief bit of 6 seen a document that is a list of employees that would 6 Mr. Wannemacher's testimony. 7 7 Q Are you referring to the hearing over here on be eligible to participate in the plan? 8 8 December 16th of a meeting that was chaired by 9 Have you ever heard that such a document 9 Councilman Diamond and Councilman Salem? 10 exists? 10 A That's it. 11 Q Was that the first time you learned that the 11 A No. 12 performance plan -- that some performance plan at JEA 12 Q I gather from your -- from the tone and 13 13 was going to be uncapped? context of your earlier -- of your statements a few 14 minutes ago about the plan that you were -- that you 14 A Yes. 15 15 had a reaction to the reporting that in the event of a Q Did Mr. Zahn or Mr. Vinyard or 16 recapitalization event these performance units could 16 Mr. Wannemacher share any details with you about the 17 17 have an extraordinarily high value. performance unit plan after the July 23rd board 18 18 meeting? A No. I wanted to convey two things: One, 19 that I was not involved in the development of the 19 A Not to my recollection. And it seems like 20 20 that would have stood out to me. program; and, two, the revelation that we've all seen 21 21 Q Had they shared any information about the in the media recently, that perhaps it was uncapped, 22 was the same news to me. I would not have expected it 22 performance unit plan -- and when I say information, 23 to be uncapped. 23 I'm including valuations, projections, numbers of units 24 24 Q Are you aware -that individual employees or classifications of

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employees would be afforded an opportunity to purchase.

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A And a disappointment.

Page 65 Page 67 1 So that would be my -- if you need to review 1 board meeting, any discussion among the SLT, where 2 2 your answer to my question, please do. Zahn, and Wannamacher, and Vineyard were, about 3 A Well, the only information I would have had 3 anything other than the ITN scenario? 4 4 would be very general information provided in all SLT A Just the compilation of the work that's going 5 5 meetings at a very high level, and I think I have to be presented for the board. That was the nature of 6 6 already relayed that. So I've heard that. I couldn't what we were doing in the strategy work. 7 7 tell you what dates or how many times, not a remarkable Q Okay, and that's my question. Was there --8 8 would you -- would it be your recollection that the amount of time, because it wasn't something that the 9 9 primary, if not exclusive, focus of that discussion SLT was working on. It was something that would have 10 been reported to us. 10 post July 23 was the ITN? 11 A Most of the strategy work going on post July 11 It wasn't clear to me, Mr. Powell, whether 12 certainly was related to ITN, because we had done the 12 this program was something that would even be done 13 SQ -- we had done options 1 and 2. We had developed 13 while the strategy work was going on. When would you start such a program like this? Would you wait, for 14 14 those. 15 15 example, until of those five -- if you stayed BY MS. HARRELL: 16 Q Quick clarification. When you talk about 16 government, which were what we call SQ 1 or SQ 2, in my 17 options 1 and 2, are you talking about Status Quo 1? 17 mind it wasn't clear to me that you would ever do such 18 A Status Quo 1 and Status Quo 2. 18 19 19 Q Not co-op --If instead you became a co-op or an initial 2.0 A Correct. 2.0 public offering or an ITN, those -- in my own mind, 21 Q -- IPO, ITN? 21 those three probably lended themselves better to such a 22 A Correct. 22 23 Those are three different things under 23 Q After July 23, do you remember any discussion 24 scenario three, or Status Quo 3? 2.4 among the senior leadership team at which Mr. Zahn or 25 A So I don't know that we had them specifically 25 Mr. Vinyard or Mr. Wannemacher participated where there Page 66 Page 68 1 1 was any discussion about a scenario option other than numbered, except for 1 and 2, because we called them 2 the ITN? 2 SQ 1 and SQ 2. So those are remaining who we are, 3 3 THE WITNESS: Mari, would you mind reading government owned, similar structure. 4 4 And then the other three, I don't know that 5 5 MR. POWELL: I don't mind asking that again. they explicitly had numbers, but the order I give them 6 BY MR. POWELL: 6 is IPO, co-op, and ITN. 7 7 Q After the July 23 board meeting, do you BY MR. POWELL: 8 8 remember being in any meeting of the SLT that was Q So I think I understand, you're confirming 9 attended by either -- by Mr. Zahn or Mr. Wannemacher or 9 that after the July 23 board meeting the --10 10 A The main focus was ITN. Mr. Vinyard at which there was any substantive 11 11 Q ITN, okay. discussion of any scenario option other than the ITN? 12 A I'm not meaning to be obtuse here. One more 12 A Absolutely. 13 time. 13 Q Okay. I'm going to show you a document that 14 Q Okay. We've talked about -- you have talked 14 says "Draft 9-10-2019 Confidential" in the upper 15 15 about the scenarios, options that would include -right-hand corner. "Insert JEA Logo." The caption on 16 A Yeah, the five options. 16 this document is "Invitation to Participate in the JEA 17 17 Q -- an IPO, community --Long-Term Performance Unit Plan. 18 MS. HARRELL: Co-op. 18 We will attach a copy of this as Exhibit 1, THE WITNESS: Co-op. 19 19 so that everybody will be clear. BY MR. POWELL: 20 20 My guess is that you have never seen this, 21 Q Co-op and the ITN; right? 21 but my question is: Have you ever seen that document? 22 22 A Yeah. And I'll grant you it's a lengthy document and there's 23 Q After the July --23 lots of stuff in it. I'm just trying to ask you if 24 A Those are the three private. 24 you -- anything --25 Q Let's take those three. After the July 23 25 A I'll scan it quickly, because this is a

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Page 71 Page 69 1 really important answer. 1 A Yes. 2 Q Yes, it is. 2 Q And delegated authority to the CEO to 3 A And I think I know what my answer is, but 3 finalize and implement it without any further review by 4 4 the board of directors? 5 5 A I am now, because I remember hearing that at Q Sure. Take your time. 6 A No. I have not seen that before. 6 the December board meeting and criticism related to (Exhibit Number 1 was marked for 7 7 8 8 Q All right. As a senior executive in an identification.) 9 BY MR. POWELL: 9 organization with two thousand employees and millions 10 Q In this form or any other draft form; 10 and millions of dollars of assets and revenues and 11 enormous responsibility to the people that live here, 11 correct? 12 what are your thoughts on whether a plan should have 12 A Correct. 13 Q You have not seen it? 13 been presented to the board of directors by the 14 14 A Correct. agency's CEO for final approval that had not been 15 Q And I -- and I thought to ask you about this 15 completed by the presenters? 16 because a few seconds -- minutes ago, you know, 16 A Okay. Thank you for asking that question. 17 17 seconds, you mentioned that it wasn't clear perhaps My opinion is that if an organization like 18 that the plan, the performance unit plan, would go 18 ours were to do a multiyear long-term plan such as this 19 19 forward depending upon X, Y, and Z; right? in our current state that it would need to be a very 2.0 A Correct. 20 modest plan, and that if it weren't a very modest plan, 21 Q I mean you said something along those lines? 21 I think it for -- this is to me, I'm in the second tier 22 A Correct. That it was a possibility that 22 of this system. But I would have expected it to go for 23 23 perhaps even such a plan wouldn't be done until after board review if it was something not a modest plan. 24 24 Because my understanding of the purpose of the decision by the board on what type of organization 25 25 that is a multiyear, drive revenue up over two- and do we want to be. Page 70 Page 72 1 Q And so I showed you Exhibit 1, and you've 1 three-year periods. 2 2 never seen this -- anything like this before? What I -- what I saw in the news subsequent 3 A Correct. 3 to the Mr. Diamond meeting that we referred to was a 4 Q Were you not aware of the plans in place at 4 great disappointment to me, to see the potential 5 5 JEA to roll the performance unit plant out in December uncapped nature of that, and a deep embarrassment. 6 through a notice to all employees via your notification 6 BY MS. HARRELL: 7 7 system? What is it called again? Q I want to ask you a question about something 8 8 A Hold on. Currents. you said earlier about one of the four planning 9 Q Currents. 9 meetings. 10 10 A No, I was not aware of that. You said that the team is not happy with what Q Does that surprise you to hear that 11 McKinsey had done? 11 12 12 information? A Yeah. I think it may have been the very last 13 13 A I could see where it would be a possibility one, just that they didn't come prepared with whatever that you would do a long-term performance plan either 14 analysis it was for that day. That sticks out in my 14 15 15 in our current structure or in any possible future 16 structure. But I don't believe the plan -- I don't 16 Q Do you recall --17 17 know if the plan was supposed to be reviewed again by A The SLT members had said to themselves, What 18 18 the board or not. It certainly had not been. was that? We thought our time was being wasted. 19 19 Q What had not been? Q Okay. Do you remember anybody specifically 20 20 A A developed plan. I don't recall seeing a saying that? 21 developed plan reviewed by the board. 21 A Yeah. I remember the whole team saying that. 22 Q Are you aware that the board approved the 22 Q All 13 of y'all? 23 performance unit plan --23 A Yeah. There was a -- they were flat-footed. 24 A In July or so. 24 They probably needed a couple more days to prepare 25 Q -- in July? 25 whatever analysis it was they were supposed to be

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Page 75 Page 73 1 showing us that day that we would then discuss and 1 A No. 2 workshop. They -- we didn't think they were prepared 2 Q Did you attend that meeting? 3 for it. And Aaron subsequently apologized to the team 3 A No. And didn't even know it existed. 4 4 Is this the first time you've heard about 5 5 Q Was that verbally at a meeting? that? 6 6 A It was verbally. And sent them back to 7 7 complete whatever the work was that day. Q Mr. Steinbrecher, we really appreciate you 8 Q Did they come back with a better product or 8 coming in. I have a catchall question, and then we 9 9 presentation? will wrap it up. So this is really is -- this is not a 10 A I don't remember what the resolution of that 10 flip question. This is a very serious question. 11 was. They probably emailed out -- it's not uncommon 11 So as you're talking to us, you are 12 for us to get an email copy, and they usually look 12 effectively communicating to the board of directors. 13 like PDF slides. 13 You do understand that; right? 14 14 So I think we got a revised version of that, A Yes. 15 15 is my recollection, days or weeks later. Q I mean think about it, we're doing this work 16 MS. HARRELL: I don't think I have anything 16 and --17 17 else. A Absolutely. 18 BY MR. POWELL: 18 Q -- we're preparing a work product for the 19 19 Q I assure you we will be out of here in just a board of directors. matter of minutes, but I do have a couple of -- a 2.0 20 So my simple question is this, it's not a --21 couple follow-up questions. And unless I get an answer 21 it's a big one, but it is pretty simply stated: Do you 22 I don't expect, I don't think I will have any more 22 have any other information that you would like to share 23 23 questions after that. with the board of directors about Aaron Zahn's tenure 24 24 as CEO of JEA as it relates to his -- consideration of In our discussion about the performance unit 25 plan, or the long-term incentive plan, whatever 25 terminating his contract for cause? Page 74 Page 76 1 1 iteration it was and whenever you learned of it --A I would just leave one summary. I was 2 A Let's call it PUP for now. That seems to be 2 personally proud of the strategy work that the team was 3 the --3 going through and thought it was and is necessary work. 4 Q Okay. We can call it the PUP, because that's 4 And I don't know how else to say it, other than I was 5 5 ultimately what it became known as. extremely disappointed to see this PUPs issue, as it 6 You never mentioned an entity called Willis 6 has come in recent weeks to be known to us, because I 7 7 Towers Watson, and I only ask to -- to make that point think that unraveled an important community discussion. 8 and to ask you whether your -- whether you had any --8 Q Do you have an opinion of what the impact of 9 what degree of involvement you had with Willis Towers 9 this issue has been on JEA's reputation in the 10 10 Watson in their work that was related to the plan? community? 11 A I had no idea who was involved in developing 11 A Oh, it's horrific. It just has been the plan, including Willis Towers -- is that -- they're 12 12 devastating to the trust of the organization. 13 an HR firm, I believe, aren't they? 13 Q And what about JEA's standing in the utility 14 Don't they help people with salary 14 industry? I'll just limit it to the public utility 15 15 information and that type of thing? industry in the state of Florida. 16 16 A That's a bit complicated. Q That's correct. 17 17 A Yeah. I was not aware that they were Q I'm sure it is. But if you have anything 18 18 involved in any of that. that's intuitive or if you have any direct information 19 19 Q Didn't think you were. Just needed to from people that have contacted you from around the 20 20 clarify. 21 And, lastly, there was a meeting of the 21 A Well, I participate in state associations, 22 executive leadership team plus Mr. Kendrick, and lots 22 environmental. That's the nature of my work. 23 of lawyers and bankers at the Club Continental property 23 So JEA is still a member in good standing of 24 24 in Orange Park in July. the ones I'm a part of. Q So, for example, I see -- and we won't 25 Were you invited to that meeting? 25

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	Page 77	Page 79
1	elaborate on this, but I see that you're a member of	1 now is 11:10 a.m.
2	the that you are president of the Florida Water	2 MR. POWELL: I can't thank you enough.
3	Environment Association Utility Council.	3 (Sworn statement was concluded at 11:10 a.m.) 4
4	A Yeah.	5 6 CERTIFICATE
5	Q Is that still the case?	7
6	A It is.	STATE OF FLORIDA) 8
7	O Is JEA a member of that?	COUNTY OF DUVAL)
8	A We are.	9 I, Marianne Branson, RPR, FPR, do hereby
9	Q Have you been to a meeting of that council	10
10	since all since these developments of two months	certify that I was authorized to and did report the
11	ago?	foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript, pages 1
12	A Yes. Either telephone meetings or in	through 79, is a true record of my stenographic notes.
13	person.	13 I further certify that I am not a relative,
14	Q What what has been your most recent	14
15	meeting?	employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, 15
16	A Probably two days ago on the phone.	nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
17	Q Any discussion about all of this activity?	attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
18	A Oh, they're all they're all aware that	17 financially interested in the action.
19	we're the subject of intense media scrutiny.	18
20	Q Well, apart from that, has there been a	Dated this 13th day of January, 2020.
21	discussion about the the integrity of JEA and its	20
22	hold on its integrity as an agency moving forward?	21 22 7
23	A No, not with the associations I'm part of.	Marianne Branson, RPR-CP
24 25	The one association that there is acrimony with is one	24 Court Reporter
25	called Florida Municipal Electric Association.	25
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1	There is there was very strong acrimony	
2	between that association and JEA, and I think I	
3	think it was on my own personal view as a third	
4	party I'm not involved in that organization, and	
5	it's not my assignment or my role, but I thought both	
6	parties the phrase it takes two to tango I	
7	thought both parties could have handled it better.	
8	Q Sure. That's usually the case, isn't it?	
9	A Well, I really thought that, including FMEA.	
10	I thought a little shuttle diplomacy on either part	
11	would have gone a long way. So that relationship is	
12	very strained and needs to be repaired.	
13	MR. POWELL: Robert, do you want to close us	
14	out, please?	
15	MR. LINSNER: Sure.	
16	Mr. Steinbrecher, do you have anything	
17	additional to offer or add?	
18	THE WITNESS: I don't. I want to thank you	
19	for allowing me to expound on some of the	
20	questions.	
21	MR. LINSNER: Okay. Just be aware, as this	
22	is an ongoing Office of General Counsel	
23	investigation, you are being advised not to	
24	discuss the case with others.	
25	The interview has now concluded. The time	

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[INSERT JEA LOGO]

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JEA LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE UNIT PLAN

Dear [NAME],

We are delighted to let you know that you are eligible to participate in the JEA Long-Term Performance Unit Plan (the "Plan"). The Plan is a new program that was approved by JEA's Board of Directors as part of the long-term compensation framework authorized by the Board of Directors at its meeting on June 27, 2019.

How the Plan Works

The Plan allows you to purchase up to a specified number of performance units, as set forth in your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement, from JEA at a purchase price of \$10.00 per unit. The purchase price is paid by you by deferring a portion of your pay earned in 2020 equal to the aggregate purchase price of the performance units you wish to purchase. For example, if JEA allocates you five performance units and you wish to purchase all five performance units, the aggregate purchase price to be deferred from your pay earned would be equal to \$50.00 (\$10.00 x five performance units). When the performance units vest, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, you are eligible to receive a cash payment in consideration for the performance units you purchased. The amount of the cash payment is calculated based on the attainment of specified corporate performance metrics and includes the aggregate purchase price you paid for your performance units. Enclosed with this invitation booklet is a copy of the Plan and your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement. For additional information on how the Plan works, please refer to the frequently asked questions on Tab A of this invitation booklet.

Risks Associated with Participating in the Plan

As described above, in order to purchase performance units under the Plan, you must pay a purchase price of \$10.00 per unit. As it is possible that you may forfeit the entire amount of the purchase price under certain circumstances (for example, if your employment with JEA is terminated for cause), you should carefully consider whether to purchase the performance units. In considering whether to purchase the performance units, you should review the risks described on <u>Tab B</u> of this invitation booklet and the financial information contained in <u>Tab C</u> of this invitation booklet.

Instructions and Additional Information

If you wish to participate in the Plan and purchase the performance units, please review this invitation booklet carefully and follow the instructions set forth on <u>Tab D</u> of this invitation booklet. All required forms and materials must be postmarked by no later [DATE], 2019. If your required forms and materials are postmarked later than [DATE], 2019, your election will



JEA to confirm date.

not be processed and you will not be eligible to purchase performance units and participate in the Plan.

For further information concerning the Plan, please contact [NAME], [TITLE] at JEA, via email at [EMAIL ADDRESS].

This is an exciting time for JEA!

Sincerely,

Aaron Zahn Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer

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TAB A

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE JEA LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE UNIT PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Below are a number of frequently asked questions ("FAQs") regarding the principal features of the Plan. The Plan was adopted by the Board at its meeting on July 23, 2019.

This document is only intended to be a summary. Some provisions are described in abbreviated form and others are not mentioned at all. If there is any ambiguity in these FAQs or if there is a conflict between these FAQs and the official text of the Plan or your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement, then the official text of the Plan or your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement, as applicable, will govern.

THIS INVITATION BOOKLET DOES NOT PROVIDE LEGAL, FINANCIAL OR TAX ADVICE. JEA STRONGLY ADVISES YOU TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF A QUALIFIED LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND/OR TAX ADVISER REGARDING YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN.

GENERAL PLAN PROVISIONS

- Q1: What is the purpose of the Plan?
- A1: The purpose of the Plan is to provide a means by which employees of JEA may be given incentives to remain with JEA, drive value for customers, drive value for the community of North East Florida, drive environmental value and drive financial value for JEA and the City of Jacksonville.
- Q2: Who is eligible to participate in the Plan?
- A2: Any full-time employee of JEA, its affiliates, assigns, subsidiaries and successors, (collectively, the "JEA Group") who has been employed by any member of the JEA Group for at least three months prior to the Purchase Date (as described in Q&A 3) and any full-time attorney from the Office of the General Counsel of the City of Jacksonville who is dedicated exclusively to JEA for at least three months prior to the Purchase Date is eligible to participate in the Plan. Part-time and temporary employees of JEA are not eligible to participate in the Plan.

Any exceptions to the above eligibility requirements must be recommended by JEA's Chief Executive Officer (the "CEO") and approved by the Chair of the Compensation Committee (the "Committee Chair") of the Board of Directors of JEA (the "Board").

Q3: How does the Plan work?

A3: Each eligible employee may purchase a specified number of performance units (the "Performance Units") as set forth in such employee's Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement from JEA on January 15 of each year (the "Purchase Date") by electing to defer a portion of such employee's pay equal to the aggregate purchase price (the "Purchase Price") for the Performance Units that such employee wishes to purchase.

The Purchase Date for the Performance Units that are allocated to you now will be January 15, 2020.

- Q4: Who administers the Plan?
- A4: The Committee Chair administers the Plan. The Committee Chair has the full authority and discretion to take any actions it deems necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. All decisions, interpretations and other actions of the Committee Chair will be final and binding.
- Q5: How many Performance Units are reserved under the Plan?
- A5: JEA has reserved an aggregate of 100,000 Performance Units for purchase by eligible employees under the Plan.

ALLOCATION OF PERFORMANCE UNITS

- Q6: What is a Performance Unit?
- A6: Each Performance Unit is a phantom or notional unit that represents a right to receive a cash payment equal to the Redemption Price (as described in Q&A 14) in exchange for such Performance Unit. A Performance Unit is not, and does not represent an equity or security interest in JEA.
- Q7: How are Performance Units allocated under the Plan?
- A7: Under the Plan, the Committee Chair has complete discretion to determine when and to whom Performance Units will be allocated and the number of Performance Units that may be allocated. The terms and conditions of Performance Units will be set forth in your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement evidencing the Performance Units.

The Committee Chair has delegated its authority under the Plan to determine the number of Performance Units that may be allocated to eligible employees (other than to the CEO) under the Plan to the CEO. The Committee Chair retains the authority to determine the number of Performance Units that may be allocated to the CEO.

Q8: How many Performance Units must I purchase to participate in the Plan?

A8: You may purchase up to the maximum number of Performance Units allocated to you. However, you may purchase less than all of the Performance Units that you have been allocated to you.

If you purchase none of the Performance Units allocated to you, you will not participate in the Plan and you will not be eligible to receive the Redemption Price in exchange for your Performance Units.

- Q9: How is the Purchase Price determined?
- A9: Under the Plan, the Purchase Price will be no less than \$10.00 per Performance Unit.

 JEA has set the Purchase Price as \$10.00 per Performance Unit.
- Q10: Will I be required to pay the Purchase Price for my Performance Units?
- A10: Yes, to purchase Performance Units under the Plan, you must pay the aggregate Purchase Price for the Performance Units you wish to purchase. The aggregate Purchase Price is equal to \$10.00 multiplied by the number of Performance Units that you wish to purchase.

Example: If JEA allocates you five Performance Units and you wish to purchase four Performance Units, the aggregate Purchase Agreement will be equal to \$40.00 (\$10.00 x four Performance Units).

- Q11: How do I pay the Purchase Price for my Performance Units?
- A11: To pay the Purchase Price for the Performance Units that you wish to purchase, you must elect to defer a portion of your pay equal to the aggregate Purchase Price for the Performance Units you wish to purchase. You may elect to defer your pay in a lump sum or equal installments during certain payroll periods as selected by you. You must elect to defer your pay in the calendar year prior to the calendar year in which the compensation is earned and you purchase the Performance Units.

To purchase Performance Units on January 15, 2020, you must elect to defer your pay by no later than December 31, 2019 (or an earlier date as selected by the Committee Chair). If you do not make this election by December 31, 2019 (or the earlier date as selected by the Committee Chair), you will not be eligible to purchase Performance Units on January 15, 2020.

- Q12: Will I forfeit the Purchase Price that I pay for my Performance Units?
- A12: Yes, if prior to the Vesting Date (as described in Q&A 13) your employment with any member of the JEA Group is terminated for cause (as described in Q&A 20) or you voluntarily resign your employment with any member of the JEA Group for any reason, you will forfeit the entire amount of the Purchase Price that you paid for the Performance

Units that have not vested as of the date of your termination or resignation, as applicable, of employment.

- Q13: When will I receive the Redemption Price for my Performance Units?
- A13: The Performance Units will vest on the earlier to occur of (a) the last day of the three-year performance period (as described in Q&A 14) and (ii) the date on which a Recapitalization Event (as described in Q&A 23) occurs (the "Vesting Date"). Except as otherwise described in Q&A 18, you must be employed with a member of the JEA Group on the Vesting Date for the Performance Units to vest. You will only receive the Redemption Price in respect of vested Performance Units.

A member of the JEA Group will pay the Redemption Price to you in respect of your vested Performance Units no later than 30 days after the Redemption Price has been certified by the Committee Chair as described in Q&A 14. The amount of the Redemption Price will be reduced by applicable withholding taxes.

- Q14: How is the Redemption Price calculated?
- A14: The Redemption Price is calculated as set forth below based on a three-year performance period (if a Recapitalization Event occurs, the performance period will be shortened, and the performance period will end on the closing date of such Recapitalization Event) (the "Performance Period").

The Performance Period will begin on January 15, 2020 and will end on January 15, 2023 (the "2020/2023 Performance Period"), unless a Recapitalization Event occurs before such date in which case the performance period will end on the date on which the closing of the Recapitalization Event occurs.

The 2020/2023 Performance Period will be based on the following performance metrics:

The Redemption Price will increase by \$100.00 per Performance Unit for each "Value Change Percentage" increase of 1% in excess of the "Challenge Value Target" and will decrease by \$0.50 per Performance Unit for each "Value Change Percentage" decrease of 1% below the Threshold Value Target, but the Redemption Price will not be less than \$0.00 per Performance Unit (the "Redemption Price").

- For the 2020/2023 Performance Period, the "Challenge Value Target" will be 110% and the "Threshold Value Target" will be 90%.
- The "Value Change Percentage" means a percentage equal to the "Current Year Value" divided by the "Base Year Value."
- "Current Year Value" means, with respect to the Performance Period, the sum of (a) JEA's Net Position, as shown on JEA's audited financial statements for the Performance Period (or, in the case of a Recapitalization Event, JEA's Net Position as shown on JEA's audited financial statements immediately following the closing date

of the Recapitalization Event), (b) the aggregate consideration paid directly or otherwise transferred to the City of Jacksonville whether in cash or in-kind (excluding any public service taxes or franchise fees) during the 12-month period prior to the end of the performance period, and (c) the aggregate consideration (including refunds, rebates and distributions) paid, distributed, credited or otherwise provided to JEA's customers during the 12-month period prior to the end of the Performance Period. Any consideration and change in Net Position, as applicable, in connection with the Recapitalization Event will be taken into account for purposes of calculating the amounts in (a) - (c).

 For the 2020/2023 Performance Period, "Base Year Value" is the amount equal to the Current Year Value for fiscal year 2019 as reflected on JEA's audited financial statements when available.

The Redemption Price that you receive for your vested Performance Units will include the Purchase Price that you paid for each Performance Unit.²

Example: [To come]³

- Q15: Is it possible that I may not receive any Redemption Price for my Performance Units?
- A15: Yes, as described in Q&A 14, the Redemption Price will be decreased by \$0.50 per Performance Unit for each "Value Change Percentage" decrease of 1% below the Threshold Value Target up to \$0.00 per Performance Unit. However, the Redemption Price will not be less than \$0.00 per Performance Unit.
- Q16: Who will calculate the Redemption Price?
- A16: JEA's Chief Financial Officer will calculate the Redemption Price per Performance Unit. The Committee Chair will certify the Redemption Price as soon as practicable following the completion of JEA's audit for the applicable Performance Period, but in no event later than 30 days following the end of the Performance Period.
- Q17: Are there any conditions to my receipt of the Redemption Price?
- A17: Yes, you need to satisfy certain conditions in order to receive the Redemption Price for your vested Performance Units. These conditions are as follows:
 - (a) you must execute your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement enclosed with this invitation booklet on <u>Tab F</u> and return it to JEA by following the instructions included in <u>Tab D</u>;
 - (b) except as described in Q&A 18, you must be continuously employed with JEA;

JEA to confirm that the Purchase Price will be refunded to a participant even if the performance metrics are not attained.

JEA to provide.

- (c) you must execute and not revoke a release of claims in favor of JEA and the City of Jacksonville (JEA will notify you when it is time for you to execute the release);
- (d) you must comply with the covenants set forth in your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement (the "Agreement"); and
- (e) the conditions in Section 215.425(3), Florida Statutes must be satisfied.⁴

With respect to the conditions in (e), [insert description].⁵

- Q18: What happens to my Performance Units and the Purchase Price that I paid upon an involuntary termination of employment with the JEA Group?
- A18: If you experience an involuntary termination of employment prior to the applicable Vesting Date for your Performance Units, you will be paid the Redemption Price in respect of all of your Performance Units. Any Redemption Price payable to you as a terminated employee in respect of your Performance Units will be paid to you at the same time as the amounts would have been paid had you not experienced an involuntary termination of employment.

An involuntary termination of employment means a termination of employment by JEA without cause (as described in Q&A 20) or due to your death or disability (as defined in the Plan).

- Q19: What happens to my Performance Units and the Purchase Price that I paid upon a termination of employment with the JEA Group for cause or a resignation of employment?
- A19: If you experience a termination of employment for cause (as described in Q&A 20) or you resign your employment with JEA for any reason, in each case, prior to the applicable Vesting Date for your Performance Units, you will forfeit both the Performance Units to the extent unvested and the Purchase Price that you paid for such unvested Performance Units.
- Q20: What is a termination of employment for "cause"?
- A20: Under the Plan, "cause" generally means:
 - (a) if you have an employment agreement, consulting agreement or similar agreement in effect with JEA at the time of purchase of the Performance Units that defines a termination for "cause" (or words of like import), "cause" as defined in such agreement, or

JEA to consider whether to provide.

⁵ JEA to provide.

(b) if you have an employment agreement, consulting agreement or similar agreement in effect with JEA at the time of purchase of the Performance Units or where there is such an agreement but it does not define "cause" (or words of like import): (i) you have been convicted of, pled guilty or no contest to or entered into a plea agreement with respect to, any felony under applicable law or any crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude; (ii) you have engaged in (A) any willful misconduct or gross negligence or (B) any act of dishonesty, violence or threat of violence that would reasonably be expected to result in a material injury to any member of the JEA Group; (iii) you willfully fail to perform your duties to any member of the JEA Group and/or willfully fail to comply with lawful directives of the Board; (iv) you materially breach any term of any contract to which you and any member of the JEA Group is a party; or (v) you materially breach any term of the Plan and/or your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement.

With respect to clauses (iii), (iv) and (v) and if the event giving rise to the claim of "cause" is curable, JEA will provide written notice to you of the event within 30 days of JEA learning of the occurrence of such event, and such cause event must remain uncured 15 days after JEA has provided such written notice and any termination of your employment for "cause" with respect to clause (iii), (iv) or (v) must occur no later than 30 days following the expiration of such cure period.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, to the extent that this definition of "cause" is inconsistent with a definition of "cause" (or words of like import) in any applicable and lawful collective bargaining agreement or the applicable and lawful Civil Service and Personnel Rules and Regulations of the City of Jacksonville (the "Civil Service Rules"), the definition of "cause" (or words of like import) in such collective bargaining agreement or the Civil Service Rules, as applicable, will control.

- Q21: What happens if I am retirement eligible and retire before the applicable Vesting Date?
- A21: If you become a retirement eligible employee (as described below) and retire, in each case, prior to the applicable Vesting Date for your Performance Units, your Performance Units will vest on the applicable Vesting Date.

You are retirement eligible if you have attained one of the retirement milestones as described in the General Employees Retirement Plan.

- Q22: What happens if my designation changes from appointed to civil service?
- A22: If at any time during the period commencing on the date on which you are notified by JEA of your eligibility to participate in the Plan and ending on the last day of the Performance Period, your designation changes from appointed to civil service (whether or not such change is voluntary), the level at which you participate in the Plan will be adjusted to reflect such change.

If such change occurs (a) at any time prior to the Purchase Date, the number of Performance Units that you will be eligible to purchase will be reduced to a number of Performance Units that is equal to the number of Performance Units you would have been eligible to purchase had you been civil service on the date on which you were notified of your eligibility to participate in the Plan or (ii) at any time on or after the Purchase Date, but prior to the last day of the Performance Period, you will forfeit a number of Performance Units such that you will have purchased a number of Performance Units that is equal to the maximum number of Performance Units you would have been eligible to purchase had you been civil service on the Purchase Date (it being understood that such number of forfeited Performance Units may be zero) and JEA will refund to you the aggregate Purchase Price in respect of such forfeited Performance Units.

RECAPITALIZATION EVENT

Q23: What is a Recapitalization Event?

A23: A "Recapitalization Event" means the closing and funding of a transaction or a series of related transactions in accordance with Article 21 of the Charter of the City of Jacksonville and any other applicable law that results in either (a) unencumbered cash proceeds to the City of Jacksonville of at least \$3,000,000,000 or (b) at least 50% of the net depreciated property, plant and equipment value of either JEA's electric system or JEA's water and wastewater system being transferred, assigned, sold or otherwise disposed of.

Q24: What happens to my Performance Units upon a Recapitalization Event?

A24: On the closing date of a Recapitalization Event, your Performance Units will vest and you will receive the applicable Redemption Price for your Performance Units. The Redemption Price will be paid in cash no later than 30 days after the Redemption Price has been certified by the Committee Chair as described in Q&A 16.

AMENDMENTS OF THE PLAN

Q25: May the Board amend the Plan?

A25: Yes, the Board may amend the Plan at any time. However, no amendment to the Plan may impair the rights of participants in the Plan without such participants' written consent. You will be provided any details of any amendment that would affect you as soon as reasonably practicable.

MISCELLANEOUS

Q26: Has the Plan been collectively bargained?

A26: Yes, the Plan has been collectively bargained with the applicable union representatives.⁶

⁶ JEA to update as applicable.

- Q27: How should I respond if someone asks about my Plan benefits or JEA's financial status?
- A27: All inquiries from persons other than your legal, financial and/or tax advisors relating to the value of your Performance Units or JEA generally (including questions from the press, prospective JEA investors, JEA customers or vendors, prospective JEA hires and current co-workers) should be directed to the JEA's [TITLE].

⁷ JEA to confirm that this is acceptable.

TAB B

RISK FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED BEFORE PURCHASING THE PERFORMANCE UNITS UNDER THE JEA LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE UNIT PLAN

The occurrence of any of the following risks could materially and adversely affect JEA's business, operating results and financial condition. In addition, risks and uncertainties that are not presently known to us or that we currently believe are immaterial may also impair JEA's business and operations. If any of these risks occur, the value of your Performance Units could decline and you may lose all or part of your Purchase Price.

The list of risk factors below does not purport to be a complete enumeration or explanation of the risks involved in purchasing the Performance Units under the Plan. You should carefully evaluate all of the information in this invitation booklet, the Plan and your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement and consult with your own legal, tax and/or financial advisers before deciding whether to purchase Performance Units and pay the Purchase Price under the Plan.

There are a number of factors that may impact JEA's business and financial conditions.

The Redemption Price of the Performance Units will be subject to the future performance of JEA and, accordingly, before purchasing the Performance Units, you should carefully consider the risk factors described in JEA's Electric System and Water & Sewer System Annual Disclosure Reports (the "Annual Reports") filed with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board on its EMMA website and on www.jea.com under the "Financial Reports" section (About > Investor Relations > Financial Reports > Annual Disclosure Reports), which are incorporated by reference into this invitation booklet, together with the other information incorporated by reference herein or provided in this invitation booklet (including the risks set forth below).

The issues and associated risks and uncertainties discussed in the Annual Disclosure Reports that are incorporated herein by reference are not the only ones JEA may face. Additional issues may arise or become material as the energy, water and wastewater industries evolve. The risks and uncertainties associated with those additional issues could impair JEA's businesses in the future.

The Redemption Price of the Performance Units in the future may be higher or lower than the Purchase Price that you paid for the Performance Units due to changes in JEA's operating performance or prospects and other factors, including broad market fluctuations. Some specific factors that may have a significant effect on the Redemption Price of your Performance Units include:⁸

• JEA has a history of losses, and may not achieve or maintain profitability in the future;

⁸ JEA to confirm.

- climate change, or legal, regulatory or market measures to address climate change, may negatively affect JEA's business, operations and/or financial performance;
- natural disasters, including, but not limited to, hurricanes and/or fires, could destroy JEA's facilities and equipment;
- actual or anticipated fluctuations in JEA's operating results or future prospectus;
- factors outside of JEA's control, including modifications to JEA's book value;
- strategic actions by other industry participants, such as acquisitions or restructurings;
- new laws or regulations or new interpretations of existing laws or regulations applicable to JEA's business;
- JEA may be subject to legal proceedings and litigation, which are costly and may subject JEA to significant liability and increased costs of doing business;
- · changes in accounting standards, policies, guidance, interpretations or principles; and
- adverse conditions in the financial markets or general economic conditions, including but not limited to, those resulting from war, incidents of terrorism and responses to such events.

There is no duty to update this invitation booklet.

JEA has no obligation to update the information contained in this invitation booklet Accordingly, you should bear in mind that there may have been material changes in the affairs of JEA since the date of this invitation booklet, and it is up to you to review JEA's publicly available reports and information.

The information and expressions of opinion set forth herein or included herein by specific reference are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this invitation booklet, nor the Plan nor your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement shall, under any circumstances, create the implication that there has been no change in the affairs of JEA since the date hereof and thereof.

The Performance Units are not transferable and there is no market available for sale of the Performance Units.

You may not transfer, sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of your Performance Units (other than by will or the laws of descent or distribution) and there is no market to sell the Performance Units.

THE PERFORMANCE UNITS ARE NOT SECURITIES OF JEA, NOR ARE THEY INTENDED TO BE TREATED AS SUCH AND ANY REPRESENTATION BY JEA OR ITS AGENTS TO THE CONTRARY SHOULD NOT BE RELIED UPON.

TAB C

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

You can access and view JEA's financial statements, including the unaudited Quarterly Analysis of Financial Performance for the quarter ended June 30, 2019, through this link:⁹

https://www.jea.com/About/Investor_Relations/Financial_Reports/

Please contact [NAME] at [EMAIL ADDRESS] if you have trouble viewing or accessing the financial statements.

To be updated prior to distribution to participants, as necessary.

TAB D

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE JEA LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE UNIT PLAN

To purchase Performance Units and participate in the Plan:

- You must sign and return your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement enclosed with this invitation booklet;
- You must complete, sign and return the Purchase of Performance Units and Deferral Election attached as <u>Schedule I</u> to your Long-Term Performance Unit Agreement; [and]
- [Any other requirements?]¹⁰

The documents listed above must be returned to [NAME], [TITLE], at JEA, at [ADDRESS], or at [EMAIL ADDRESS].

All required forms and materials must be postmarked by no later [DATE], 2019. If your required forms and materials are postmarked later than [DATE], 2019, your election will not be processed and you will not be eligible to purchase Performance Units and participate in the Plan.

JEA to confirm.

TAB E

JEA LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE UNIT PLAN

[To be attached]

JEA LONG-TERM PERFORMANCE UNIT AGREEMENT

[To be attached]