



**Minutes of  
THE FLORIDA REAL ESTATE COMMISSION  
April 17, 2002  
Meeting**

Chairman Marie Powell called the meeting of the Florida Real Estate Commission to order, at approximately 8:30 a.m., in Orlando, Florida.

The following Commission members were present: Marie Powell, Chairman; Matey H. Veissi, Vice-Chairman; Tina Richardson, Carlos Valdes, Noel P. McDonell, Poul Hornsleth, and Guy Sanchez, Jr. The Chair declared a quorum present. Daniel Villazon appeared as counsel for the Commission.

The following Division of Real Estate staff members were present: Buddy Johnson, Director; Nancy Campiglia, Chief Attorney; Fred Seli, Bureau Chief of Enforcement; Judy Smith, Investigative Supervisor; Donna Ryan, Rania Soliman, Stacy Robinson Pierce, and Juana Watkins, Prosecutors; Jo Ellen Peacock, Education Coordinator; Jeannie Adkinson, Regulatory Specialist I; Maxine Carter, Regulatory Specialist I; and Lori Crawford, Regulatory Supervisor/Consultant. American Court Reporting Service (407/324-4290) provided court reporter services.

**Commission Business**

The Commission unanimously approved the Minutes of the March 20, 2002, meeting, as written.

Chairman Powell introduced former FREC Commissioner Jack Rodriguez and members of the Real Estate Department from the City of Tampa.

Director Johnson introduced Deputy Secretary Geoff Becker. Mr. Becker stated that he was here to address any questions or concerns about the Department or Legislative issues. Mr. Becker addressed the Legislative issues regarding House Bill 499 relating to Distance Learning, stating that it passed very quickly. He also addressed House Bill 583 relating to the Chapter 475 rewrite, stating that it did not pass for a variety of reasons. He added that it was a very unusual Legislative Session because of redistricting, the budget, the cabinet reorganization and the tax reform issues. He further stated that the Department is committed to working with the Florida Association of Realtors, FREC and others on Chapter 475 issues for next session. Mr. Becker added that he heard that the Legislature may come back into to session on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, however, specific issues have not been set. He stated that we have a rather aggressive budget with our reengineering project, which has been adopted in House version, but has yet to pass the Senate version at this point.

Mr. Becker also reported that since the beginning of the "Project" the Department has now taken over 300,000 phone calls in the new Call Center. He further reported that the answer rate is over ninety percent compared to sixty percent prior to the establishment of the Call Center. He added that more people are using the Customer Self Service than the original ten percent projections, which are now over twenty percent. Mr. Becker informed the Commission that the Department was recently awarded, by Computer World in San Francisco, as one of the top 75 Government non-profit technology projects, competing with forty different countries across the globe as well. He further stated that as with any reorganization, there will be some hiccups along the way, but we are going to get there. He added that as the Department moves forward it would be taking on more responsibilities, such as Alcohol and Tobacco, Hotels and Restaurants, and Land Sales. By the end of this calendar year, the reorganization project should be completed and everyone should see a noticeable difference. Lastly, he stated that as it relates to real estate, this last renewal cycle, forty percent of all renewals were done on-line.

Director Johnson reiterated that the Division is diligent in presenting the Commission's issues and concerns.

Director Johnson introduced Director of Education Chris Workman. Mr. Workman reported on education and exam issues, explaining the steps the Department is taking to implement the statutory mandates the Legislature handed down at its last session. In addition, he addressed Vice-chair Matey Veissi's concerns regarding the number of tests available and the question bank, stating that he believes with a modest investment the necessary changes can be instituted.

Members of the public presented some issues and proffered suggestions.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

The Commission unanimously approved the Minutes of the March 20, 2002, meeting, as written.

### **Commission Business**

Buddy Johnson requested, and the Commission unanimously ratified the reinstatement of licensure status for: Donald Linwood McLaren, Jr., and Lillian Duran Morales who had met all the requirement of reinstatement.

### **Legal Matters**

Upon recommendation of the Legal Section, the Commission unanimously issued two Orders of Rescission, 62 Escrow Disbursement Orders (EDO) and 30 Orders of denial. A list of the Orders is attached to the official minutes.

At approximately 9:15 a.m., the Commission took up the Legal Agenda, consisting of 36 cases. It heard 26 cases and continued 8. The Commission's decisions on these matters are attached to the official minutes.

### **Bureau of Licensing**

The Commission considered the Summary of Applicants Consent Agendas, at approximately 1:00 p.m., unanimously approving Consent Agenda #1 and requiring one from Consent Agenda #2 to appear before it. Jeannie Adkinson, Regulatory Specialist I, presented the Summary of Applicants requesting to sit for the real estate examination to the Commission. The Commission's orders on these matters are attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

### **Bureau of Enforcement**

Fred Seli presented the monthly report for the Bureau of Enforcement. Commissioner Valdes requested an update regarding the request for a report on investigator positions. The Chief deferred to Director Johnson.

### **Director's Matters**

Director Johnson reported that the need for the positions is under evaluation and part of the reason Chief of Staff Mitch Hardin, Deputy Secretary Geoff Becker and Director of Compliance Paul Kirsh, are here is to study the issue.

Commissioner Carlos Valdes stated that the Division has 41 positions in the investigative field and that his concern is how is the Department going to discern where best the investigative position be placed. He stated that the Department should try to make sure that the positions are redistributed in the areas that have holes.

Director Johnson responded that we have been meeting the last two days to determine where are the areas in need.

Chairman Marie Powell requested that the Division provide a report upon conclusion of the study.

Chairman Powell directed JoEllen Peacock to give her report.

FREC Counsel, Daniel Villazon reported that May will be very busy for rule development, and he is requesting FREC approve development of the following rules:

- 61J2-1.014 – Inactive Renewal
- 61J2-2.027 – Applications by Individuals
- 61J2-2.031 – Where to Apply
- 61J2-3.008 – Pre-licensing Education for Broker and Salesperson Applicants
- 61J2-3.009 – Continuing Education for Active and Inactive Broker and Salesperson Licensees

- 61J2-3.015 – Notices of Satisfactory Course Completion
- 61J2-5.016 – License Status of Active Officers and Directors

Commissioner McDonell moved to grant permission for rule development. Seconded by Commissioner Richardson. The motion carried.

Mr. Villazon further reported that HB 499 passed, and a rule workshop should be held, also in May.

Commissioner McDonell moved to establish the workshop. Seconded by Commissioner Richardson. The motion carried.

Vice-chair Matey Veissi stated that she would not be able to attend the meeting in May.

The Commission received the following reports in writing: Interim Report, Education Report, Enforcement Report, Legal Section Activity, and Escrow Section Activity.

There being no further business and no objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m. The next general meeting of the Florida Real Estate Commission is scheduled for May 15, 2002, in Orlando Florida.

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Marie Powell  
Chairman

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Buddy Johnson  
Division Director

Written by:

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Lori Crawford  
Deputy Clerk

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