

CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF PAHOKEE  
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Reported by Ashleigh Simmons, C.E.R.T.

APPEARANCES

Vice Mayor Regina Bohlen

Commissioner Sara Perez

Commissioner Juan Gonzalez

Gary Brandenburg, Esquire  
City Attorney

PROCEEDINGS

\*\*\*\*\*

**MR. BRANDENBURG:** Vice Mayor, would you call the meeting to order, please?

**VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** I call the meeting, a Special Commission Meeting on Wednesday, August 11th, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. to order.

**MR. BRANDENBURG:** Vice Chairman, I'd just like to point out that the notice of today's meeting was published in the Palm Beach Post. We have the affidavit of publication for the record. And now we can proceed with the agenda.

**VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Okay. We will have the invocation. Mr. Colvin, would you give us the invocation, please?

**MR. COLVIN:** Father, today as we come forward to do the business of the City, Lord, we just pray that your will will be done. God give our leaders wisdom. And we ask you to do this and bless our city in Jesus' name. Amen.

**VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Pledge of Allegiance (inaudible) a flag on?

**MALE VOICE:** The flag is that way.

**VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** The flag's that way.  
Okay.

1           **MULTIPLE SPEAKERS:** I pledge allegiance to the  
2       flag of the United States of America. And to the  
3       Republic for which it stands, one nation, under  
4       God, indivisible, and liberty and justice for all.

5           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Roll call. Mayor Babb?

6           **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Mayor Babb, Mayor Murvin --

7           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Murvin,  
8       excuse me. Commissioner Perez?

9           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Here.

10          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Commissioner Bohlen?

11          **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Vice Mayor --

12          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen.

13          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Yes. Commissioner Gonzalez?

14          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Present.

15          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Okay. Vice Mayor, I would  
16       suggest that you allow anyone from the public that  
17       would like to comment on today's agenda to have a  
18       few minutes to do so.

19          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Yes, sir. Is there anyone  
20       in the public that would like to speak?

21          **MS. WALLACE:** I would like to ask some  
22       questions on behalf of the public.

23          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Okay. This is an  
24       opportunity for you to speak. It's not an  
25       opportunity for you to ask questions. If you would

1 like to speak, go ahead.

2           **MS. WALLACE:** I speak on the legality of this  
3 meeting being called. I never saw it posted on the  
4 City page. I about hear Mr. Brandenburg say that  
5 he posted in the Times or the Palm Beach Post. I  
6 don't know whether the citizens know that because  
7 they're used to all of this being posted on the  
8 city web page.

9           I want to understand totally why this  
10 would have a meeting at 10:30 in the morning when  
11 the citizens have been deprived of an opportunity  
12 to speak against or for whatever you are about to  
13 do.

14           **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Thank you.

15           **MS. WALLACE:** And I just think that -- I hope  
16 that you would reconsider what you're doing because  
17 I feel as a citizen who lived here for sixty-seven  
18 years, that the action you take today is illegal  
19 and should not do -- be happening. It's not in the  
20 best interest of all of the citizens of Pahokee.  
21 And we do not endorse the actions of this supposed  
22 to be counsel.

23           You are the members elected by the City.  
24 You are not elected by Brandenburg. You are hired  
25 by the City to uphold the ordinance of the City of

1 Pahokee. And today, I feel that what you're doing  
2 is a violation of the city ordinance. I feel you  
3 are violating my rights. And I term this as a  
4 silent insurrection against the citizens of  
5 Pahokee, Florida. Thank you.

6 My name is Patricia S. Wallace. And I'm  
7 a lifetime resident of Pahokee. I know some of you  
8 just moved here, but I know the whole story. Thank  
9 you.

10 **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Thank you.

11 **FEMALE VOICE:** Yes, I would like to comment on  
12 this. As far as the hosting of this, I believe  
13 that Mayor Babb actually posted the agenda on his  
14 website. And I understand that a lot of people who  
15 are concerned of him not getting notice are  
16 watching it on his website.

17 Secondly of all, I appreciate that there  
18 is an interpretation of the law. And on my side of  
19 this interpretation, I feel that this is perfectly  
20 legal. That from what I've seen here in the five  
21 short years that I have been, have been nothing but  
22 red flags.

23 If the citizens' vote did not count to  
24 show how the citizens of Pahokee want to see this  
25 change, then nothing ever will. We're talking

1 about IG reports, we're talking about  
2 investigations, we're talking about hundreds of  
3 thousands of dollars that have suspiciously gone  
4 missing. We're talking about the continuation of a  
5 budget for this city that has line items of  
6 miscellaneous with no accountability in every  
7 department for upwards, if I'm not mistaken, of  
8 \$4,000.00 or more.

9 This city is not being accountable to its  
10 citizens, nor has it been for some great time.  
11 Regardless of whether you have lived here all of  
12 your life or not, it is plain to see (inaudible).  
13 So continue what you're doing, continue operating  
14 within the law as interpreted. Thank  
15 you - - - - -

16 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Is there anyone else?  
17 Yes, sir.

18 **MR. COLVIN:** My name is Bobby Colvin, 3096  
19 Bacom Point Road. I wasn't going to say anything  
20 this morning, but for several months since the  
21 election we have Commissioners that have tried to  
22 get motions to the floor. And the Mayor would say,  
23 you cannot make that motion, or that is an illegal  
24 motion, or some other reason. And there would be a  
25 motion, there would be a second -- someone else on

1 the commission would say I agree with that. You  
2 can clearly see that three people wanted it. The  
3 Mayor would not allow anyone to speak. This is  
4 going on. One meeting about five minutes till 9:00  
5 he closed down the meeting so Commissioners  
6 couldn't put something on the agenda for the next  
7 meeting. They have tried to call Special Meetings,  
8 but something would happen. This meeting was  
9 posted something like a week ago.

10 The Mayor was afraid. I believe it's  
11 because that attorney, Brandenburg, knows where the  
12 bodies are buried, figuratively speaking. He knows  
13 of crimes that have taken place in this city. And  
14 the Mayor does not want these crimes revealed.  
15 Therefore he is fearful. Even in the last meeting,  
16 it was obvious that three Commissioners wanted  
17 something done and the Mayor did not want it done.  
18 And therefore the meeting turned to chaos.

19 It's time for the people to be heard, all  
20 of the people. And the Mayor does not want that to  
21 happen. That's why he came -- you see all of the  
22 violence going on today.

23 What a sham, what a sham. He's fearful  
24 that his criminal neglect will be brought to the  
25 light. And I believe that that's going to happen



1 whether it's at this meeting or another one. It  
2 may take another week, I don't know. But it's time  
3 for people to see that Pahokee is a great place to  
4 live, but we have corruption at the head.

5 For about two years the Mayor has  
6 absolutely refused to allow the IG reports to be  
7 brought to light that showed crime in our city. He  
8 absolutely refused. And now that it's about to  
9 come to light, what do we have? Declaration of an  
10 emergency. It's not an emergency. The only  
11 emergency is the Mayor's darkness is about to be  
12 brought to light. And I'm thankful for this  
13 meeting.

14 **FEMALE VOICE:** Hallelujah.

15 **MR. BRANDENBURG:** -- Okay. Topic C, first  
16 item on the agenda.

17 **MR. JOSEPH:** Hold on --

18 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** There's someone -- yes,  
19 sir?

20 **MR. JOSEPH:** You know, my name is Michael  
21 Jones. I was born and raised here in Pahokee.  
22 Sixty-five years, November 21st will be sixty-five  
23 years.

24 I mean, all of this that is going on --  
25 Mr. Brandenburg, you've been a part of this

1 community with the -- as being the attorney for at  
2 least ten, twelve, fifteen years. So if any  
3 corruption and all of that stuff was going on, you  
4 should -- you say he's at the head, or the  
5 whatever, or he knew it. So if it's been going on,  
6 why wasn't it brought up? Why -- I mean, and it's  
7 sad that he didn't bring it out. But then you got  
8 a -- he was fired. Yeah, he had just got fired a  
9 couple of months ago.

10 **MALE VOICE:** Because he tried to bring it out.

11 **MALE VOICE:** Because he tried to bring it out.

12 **MALE VOICE:** That's exactly why.

13 **MS. JOSEPH:** No, okay. But all of this here  
14 is going on because of the marina up there. All of  
15 this going on about the marina and Robert Lambert.

16 Okay. Robert Lambert, have anybody seen  
17 a financial statement on Robert Lambert for him  
18 taking over the marina? Because that's just --  
19 that's what all of this foolishness is about.

20 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I have.

21 **MR. JOSEPH:** Robert Lambert, have you seen a  
22 financial statement? You get people to go up there  
23 for two years. After two years, they don't have  
24 any money. They owe people. They have to shut it  
25 down. Who's seen the financial statement? You

1     seen the financial statement, Gonzalez? You --  
2     Bohlen, Vice Mayor Bohlen, no. Perez, have you  
3     seen a financial statement on --

4             **COMMISONER PEREZ:** (Inaudible) --

5             **MR. JOSEPH:** You're the only one who's seen  
6     the financial statement. Okay. But it's sad, it  
7     is sad the way things are going on here and about  
8     the City of Pahokee. You got people on Facebook  
9     ain't got nothing good to say about Pahokee --  
10    ain't got nothing good to say about Pahokee, but  
11    they live here. But they (inaudible) and they're  
12    talking all kinds of smack.

13            It is sad what's going on here, it is sad  
14    about what's going on. And my thing is that  
15    marina, you want to give them a fifteen year lease,  
16    twenty year lease, and they -- they don't have the  
17    financial backing -- they don't have the financial  
18    backing.

19            Mr. Brandenburg, you've been here -- all  
20    of this, what's been going on, you've been a part  
21    of it, you've been a part of it. Now, I hear you  
22    want -- they want to fire the City Manager.  
23    They're going to make you the City Manager, as well  
24    as the attorney. And it's sad.

25            **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Mr. Joseph, could you wrap

1 it up, please?

2 MR. JOSEPH: Excuse me?

3 VICE MAYOR BOHLEN: I'm saying could you wrap  
4 it up? Your three minutes --

5 MR. JOSEPH: Yeah, yeah, okay. Well, I'll  
6 wrap it up.

7 VICE MAYOR BOHLEN: Thank you.

8 MR. JOSEPH: But it's sad what's going on.  
9 I've been here all of my life, all of my life.  
10 What I've done here, or what my -- what we've done  
11 here in Pahokee having did nothing but help this  
12 community. Employed over fifty people at one time  
13 here in Pahokee, in the City of Pahokee. And all  
14 of these people doing all of this talking about  
15 they this and they -- what have they done for  
16 Pahokee? Nothing but criticize Pahokee.

17 VICE MAYOR BOHLEN: Okay.

18 MR. JOSEPH: They haven't employed anybody,  
19 they haven't brought nothing in Pahokee to make  
20 Pahokee a better place.

21 VICE MAYOR BOHLEN: Sir, your --

22 MR. JOSEPH: None of that.

23 VICE MAYOR BOHLEN: -- three minutes are up.

24 MR. JOSEPH: It's sad though.

25 VICE MAYOR BOHLEN: Thank you, sir.

1           **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Vice Mayor, the next topic  
2 on the agenda is Resolution Terminating the August  
3 9th, 2021 Declaration of State of Emergency of the  
4 Mayor.

5           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a motion?

6           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.

7           **COMMISIONER PEREZ:** I make a motion to -- where  
8 is it at?

9           **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Number one.

10          **COMMISIONER PEREZ:** Yeah. For Resolution  
11 Terminating the August 9th, 2021 Declaration of  
12 State of Emergency of the Mayor.

13          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

14          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** I second it.

15          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Questions? Hearing none.  
16 Roll call?

17          **COMMISIONER PEREZ:** Yes.

18          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Perez.

19          **COMMISIONER PEREZ:** Yes.

20          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

21          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

22          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice-Mayor Bohlen, yes.

23          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Item number two is a  
24 Resolution Appointing an Interim City Clerk. And I  
25 would recommend that the City appoint Tijuana

1 Warner, if she is willing and able to serve in that  
2 capacity. In the event she is not, then Sandy  
3 Malloy.

4 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Okay. Can I get a motion?

5 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Okay. I would like to put  
6 a motion for appointing Tijuana Warner as Interim  
7 City Clerk, if she's able and willing to accept it.  
8 And if not, Sandy --

9 **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Malloy.

10 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** -- Malloy.

11 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

12 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I second it.

13 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Okay. Questions? Hearing  
14 none. Roll call.

15 Commissioner Perez?

16 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Commissioner Perez, yes.

17 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

18 **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

19 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice-Mayor Bohlen, yes.

20 **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Lies therein number three is  
21 a Ratification of Prior Action terminating  
22 Burnadette Norris-Weeks as City Attorney. So this  
23 will be a motion ratifying the prior termination of  
24 Burnadette Norris-Weeks.

25 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Okay. Can I get a motion?

1           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Okay. I would like to put  
2 a motion for the Ratifying of the Prior Action  
3 terminating Burnadette Norris-Weeks as City  
4 Attorney.

5           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

6           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.

7           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Call for questions?

8           Hearing none, roll call.

9           Commissioner Perez?

10          **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

11          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

12          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

13          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice-Mayor Bohlen, yes.

14          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Item number four is a  
15 Ratification of Prior Action of --

16          **MALE VOICE:** Can I ask a question?

17          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** No, sir. It's not  
18 opportunities for you to ask questions at this  
19 point.

20          **MALE VOICE:** You did it last week.

21          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Ratification of --

22          **MALE VOICE:** Can I ask a question --

23          **MR. BRANDENBURG:** -- Prior Action of the  
24 Employment of Brandenburg & Associates, P.A., Gary  
25 M. Brandenburg, as City Attorney, commencing July

1 23rd, 2021.

2 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Okay. Wait until we're  
3 done. I would like to submit a motion for the  
4 Ratification of Prior Action of the Employment of  
5 Brandenburg & Associates, P.A., Gary M.  
6 Brandenburg, as City Attorney, commencing July 23,  
7 2021.

8 **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Item number five, Vice  
9 Mayor, is --

10 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Wait, hold on.

11 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Questions? Hearing none,  
12 calling roll call. Commissioner Perez?

13 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

14 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

15 **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

16 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.

17 **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Item number five is the  
18 resolution approving a contract with Brandenburg &  
19 Associates, P.A. for City Attorney services.

20 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a motion?

21 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I submit a motion for  
22 resolution approving a contract with Brandenburg &  
23 Associates for City Attorney services.

24 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

25 **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.



1           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Questions? Hearing none,  
2 roll call. Commissioner Perez?

3           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

4           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

5           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

6           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.

7           **MR. BRANDENBURG:** Item number six, Resolution  
8 instructing the City Manager and staff to withhold  
9 payment of any sums representing the three months'  
10 notice payment in the contract between Burnadette  
11 Norris-Weeks and the City of Pahokee unless ordered  
12 by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction.

13           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a motion?

14           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I would like to put in a  
15 motion for Resolution instructing the City Manager  
16 and staff to withhold payment of any sums  
17 representing the three months' notice payment in  
18 the contract between Burnadette Norris-Weeks and  
19 the City of Pahokee unless ordered by a Court of  
20 Competent Jurisdiction.

21           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

22           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Motion and second. Call  
23 for Questions? Hearing none, roll call.  
24 Commissioner Perez?

25           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

1           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

2           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

3           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.

4       Number seven is Resolution instructing the Interim  
5       City Manager and all staff to immediately  
6       discontinue payment of any City funds to anyone  
7       without the prior written approval of the City  
8       Attorney, Mr. Gary Brandenburg. Can I get a  
9       motion?

10          **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I would like to put a  
11       motion Resolution instructing the Interim City  
12       Manager and all staff to immediately discontinue  
13       payment of any City funds to anyone without prior  
14       written approval of the City Attorney, Mr. Gary  
15       Brandenburg.

16          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

17          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.

18          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Call for questions?

19       Hearing none, roll call. Commissioner Perez?

20          **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

21          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

22          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

23          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.

24       Number eight, Resolution authorizing the City  
25       Attorney, Gary Brandenburg, to direct the City's

1 insurance/defense counsel provided by the City's  
2 insurance company with respect to all ongoing  
3 litigation matters. Can I get a motion?

4 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I would like to make a  
5 motion of a resolution authorizing the City  
6 Attorney, Gary Brandenburg, to direct the City's  
7 insurance/defense counsel provided by the City's  
8 insurance company with respect to all ongoing  
9 litigation matters.

10 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

11 **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.

12 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Call for questions?

13 Hearing none, roll call. Commissioner Perez?

14 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

15 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

16 **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

17 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.

18 Number nine, Resolution removing Rodney D. Lucas as  
19 Interim City Manager immediately.

20 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I would like to make a  
21 resolution appointing --

22 **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Make a motion.

23 **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Oh, I'd like to make a  
24 motion for a resolution removing Rodney D. Lucas as  
25 Interim City Manager immediately.

1           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

2           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Second.

3           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Call for questions.

4       Hearing none, roll call. Commissioner Perez?

5           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

6           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

7           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

8           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.

9       Number ten, Resolution appointing an Interim  
10      City Manager, effective immediately, with  
11      discussion of terms and compensation to be added to  
12      the next Regular or Special Meeting of the City  
13      Commission. Can I get a motion?

14           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I'd like to make a motion  
15      for a Resolution appointing an Interim City  
16      Manager, effective immediately, with discussion of  
17      terms and compensation to be added to the next  
18      Regular or Special Meeting of the City Commission.

19           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Can I get a second?

20           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.

21           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Call for questions. Mr.  
22      Brandenburg, do we need to name that person?

23           **MR. BRANDENBURG:** You should, yes.

24           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Yes. Do we have anybody  
25      that we would like to appoint?

1           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I think it was -- Gary  
2     Brandenburg.

3           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Okay. Can I have a  
4     second?

5           **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Second.

6           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Call for questions.  
7     Hearing none, roll call. Commissioner Perez?

8           **COMMISONER PEREZ:** Yes.

9           **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Commissioner Gonzalez?

10          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

11          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Vice Mayor Bohlen, yes.  
12     Okay. That concludes the meeting. I need a motion  
13     to adjourn.

14          **COMMISONER PEREZ:** I make a motion to adjourn  
15     this meeting.

16          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** Second.

17          **COMMISIONER GONZALEZ:** Yes.

18          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** This meeting is hereby  
19     adjourned at -- who knows what time it is?

20          **MALE VOICE:** 10:49.

21          **VICE MAYOR BOHLEN:** 10:49. Thank you very  
22     much.

23           (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 10:49  
24     a.m.)

25

C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PALM BEACH

I, Ashleigh Simmons, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did report the City of Pahokee Commission Meeting; and that the transcript is a true and correct transcription of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorneys or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

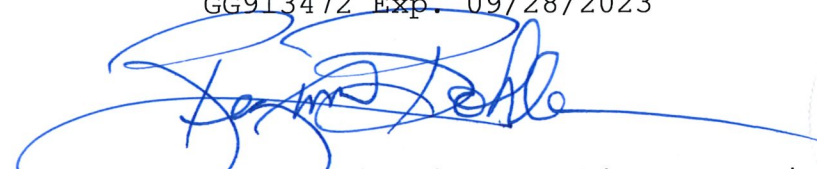
Dated this 12th day of August, 2021.



Ashleigh Simmons, C.E.R.T.

GG913472 Exp. 09/28/2023



  
The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same any means unless under the direct control and/or direction of the certifying reporter.

9/15/21