

**03/24/2023 Town
Commission
Special Meeting**

**Public Comments
for Vice Mayor-
Commission
Vacancy**

**03/24/2023 Town
Commission
Special Meeting**

Renee and Gary Foote

From: footepath@aol.com
To: [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Subject: Vice Mayor Position
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2023 3:50:05 PM

Please forward my letter to our two newly elected commissioners. Thank you

Dear Commissioner Goldberg and Commissioner Peters,

My husband and I were very sad to hear about the sudden passing of our wonderful town Mayor Doug Hillman. He spent a tremendous amount of time helping our community begin to achieve what was once thought "the impossible". We would like to see these endeavors continue so that we have the very best fire, ambulance service etc.

Our newly elected commissioners will certainly need some time to learn all the ins and outs of running our town. This is not something they can be achieved in a day, week or even a month. John Shoemaker had been working closely with Doug and has had a positive influence in our community over his three year term. He is someone who can provide the needed knowledge and continuity to complete these projects successfully. We believe while resumes are important, actual experience is also essential

Unfortunately twice since we have lived here, the Vice Mayor has had to unexpectedly step into the role as mayor. People move, things change etc. This is another critical reason why John should be the one to fill the temporary position of Vice Mayor. He has the experience which no other candidate you are considering would have.

Thank you,
Renee and Gary Foote
Braemar Isle Apt 1508

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Barbara James

From: [Barbara Blamid James](#)
To: [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Cc: [Marshall Labadie](#); [Evalyn David](#); [Natasha Moore](#)
Subject: CLARIFICATION: COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPTY CHAIR
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 3:50:04 PM

CLARIFICATION --- In re-reading my letter, please realize that I **do not suggest** that John Shoemaker be placed in the Mayor-Chair. I expect that Natasha will be occupying that. My suggestion is **that "an" empty seat** be filled by him.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Barbara Blamid James <bocablamid@yahoo.com>
To: Lanelda Gaskins <lgaskins@highlandbeach.us>
Cc: Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>; Evalyn David <edavid@highlandbeach.us>;
Natasha Moore <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 at 03:40:55 PM EDT
Subject: COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPTY CHAIR

Dear Lanelda,

Will you kindly include the following letter as Public Comments during either the March 21st or March 28th commission meetings. I do not know whether my concept has been considered, and thus I am writing to express it at this time.

Our loss to the Town is just so HUGE. May our commission remember and follow the concept, behavior and relationships to and with each other, that our Mayor, Doug Hillman successfully revamped on a very necessary basis. To you all, my heart hurts as we say our farewell to the best of the best - - I can only assume you each feel even worse.

Thank you - Barbara James,

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING AS PUBLIC COMMENT AT THE APPROPRIATE COMMISSION MEETING:

Dear Commission Members -

We are all mourning the loss of a truly capable and wise Mayor. Doug Hillman stood in a class seldom seen on this Commission. My heartfelt condolences to you as you adjust to his absence in your lives and in our Town.

My thoughts went to the necessity to sit the right person in the newly empty chair - needing a fifth member on our Town Commission. With the heavy duty projects hitting "home", and having been slotted in over the past two+ years, it is my recommendation that the Commission think strongly and consider reenlisting former Commissioner John Shoemaker to fill that seat while we catch our breath. His three years of having been on the

Commission is extremely valuable at this exact point in the Town's work ahead. The Fire Department, The Fire House, The A1A work by FDOT and other projects in the works. As of this weeks elections, we have only two existing Commissioners. Natasha Moore and Evalyn David. John has spent three full years - he has followed and been a part of the roots of all of these topics. It would be a shame to lose his knowledge and leave it up to three new Commissioners (two newly elected and one to be appointed) to learn the facts in a very abbreviated fashion. I believe we have a win-win opportunity; John Shoemaker can fill in many gaps that could come up. He is (I believe) fairly free to jump in for whatever time the Town appoints him.

Please mull this over, if you haven't actually already considered it. ***I think Doug would have thought of this too; bless his heart - may he rest in peace as our Town carries on without him.***

Sincerely, Barbara James
Resident since 2001

Barbara Blamid James
3201 S Ocean Blvd PH-1
Highland Beach, FL 33487

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

John Shoemaker

From: [John Shoemaker](#)
To: [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Cc: [Marshall Labadie](#); [Evalyn David](#); [Natasha Moore](#)
Subject: Re: CLARIFICATION: COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPTY CHAIR
Date: Friday, March 17, 2023 5:13:19 PM

All,

Please know that I did not seek this endorsement although I am amazed at what she wrote - especially since I do not even know this woman! I Never met her!

Of course, I am ready to serve if you like. I am still in shock over both the election results and Doug's passing. Incredible.

John Shoemaker
President of the Clarendon Condominium Association

My Website: <https://www.john-shoemaker.com/>
Click here to learn about our Veterans: <https://highlandbeach.us/veteranheroes/>

On Friday, March 17, 2023, 3:50 PM, Barbara Blamid James <bocablanid@yahoo.com> wrote:

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Barbara Blamid James <bocablanid@yahoo.com>
To: Lanelda Gaskins <lgaskins@highlandbeach.us>
Cc: Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>; Evalyn David <edavid@highlandbeach.us>; Natasha Moore <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 at 03:40:55 PM EDT
Subject: COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPTY CHAIR

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Thank you - Barbara James,

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Please mull this over, if you haven't actually already considered it.
***I think Doug would have thought of this too; bless his heart -
may he rest in peace as our Town carries on without him.***

Sincerely, Barbara James
Resident since 2001

Barbara Blamid James
3201 S Ocean Blvd PH-1
Highland Beach, FL 33487

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Ron Reame

From: [Marshall Labadie](#)
To: [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Subject: FW: Endorsement
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:04:21 AM

For meeting....

Sincerely,

Marshall Labadie
Town Manager

Town of Highland Beach
3614 South Ocean Boulevard
Highland Beach, FL 33487
(561) 278-4548 Office
(561) 265-3582 Fax
www.highlandbeach.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Ron Reame <rreame@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:35 AM
To: evalyn-david@comcast.net; Natasha Moore <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>
Cc: Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>; John Shoemaker <shoerfid@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Endorsement

Hello All,

Unfortunately I'm not going to be able to attend tomorrows meeting. I have my grandkid's in town.

I continue to endorse JS for the Commission and I'm also available to assist in any way that I can.

Thanks

Ron

-----Original Message-----

From: Ron Reame
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 4:31 PM
To: 'evalyn-david@comcast.net' <evalyn-david@comcast.net>; 'nmoore@highlandbeach.us' <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>
Cc: Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>
Subject: FW: Endorsement

I would like to recommend and endorse John Shoemaker for the Town Commission for Highland Beach. I consider him to be among the most knowledgeable and experienced and reputable persons in our community. John would then continue to be a valued asset for our Town.

Ron Reame
Dalton Place
Boca Highlands

Sent from my iPhone

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Fred Rosen

From: [Fred M. Rosen](#)
To: nmore@highlandbeach.com
Subject: Upcoming meeting
Date: Sunday, March 19, 2023 8:04:21 PM

Natasha, please let me wish you nothing but success taking over as mayor under such difficult circumstances. I have no doubt that you will the expertise and much success in your new position.

With the passing of Doug and the election of two newcomers to the commission, I would like to recommend John, who has had experience on this commission for the past few years, to be nominated for the appointment of Vice Mayor.

Considering half the commission will be new to the job until your former position is filled, I strongly feel that someone with the needed experience is not only the best option for this position, but would be a prudent decision under these difficult circumstances.

Thank you

Fred Rosen
732-614-1743

4740 South Ocean Blvd.
Unit 1015
Highland Beach Florida 33487

email

fredrosen@icloud.com

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Elyse Riesa

From: [Marshall Labadie](#)
To: [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Subject: FW: Additional commissioner
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:04:52 AM

For meeting....

Sincerely,

Marshall Labadie

Town Manager

Town of Highland Beach
3614 South Ocean Boulevard
Highland Beach, FL 33487
(561) 278-4548 Office
(561) 265-3582 Fax
www.highlandbeach.us

From: Elyse Riesa <eriesa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 8:33 PM
To: Evalyn David <edavid@highlandbeach.us>; Natasha Moore <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>
Cc: Marshall Labadie <mlabadie@highlandbeach.us>; peg <peggygossettp@gmail.com>
Subject: Additional commissioner

Ofcourse like everyone else I was saddened to hear the news about Doug.

I also felt it important to let you know I have spoken with many candidates that ran or intended to run for office in this last election.

With regard to John Shoemaker I had no concerns if folks voted him in . The fact that he lost the election , however, would put unnecessary pressure on the current commission to appoint him after losing his election. It would have very bad optics to our residents.(Btw Don Peters seemed like a good team player that will serve the town well .)

With regard to David Goldberg , I did get to meet him and discuss his candidacy when he was running against Doug.

Please know what he wrote to you was false. He personally told me he told Doug to resign and become "mayor emeritus " which doesn't exist. He wanted no competition. He was not a team player . He was an intimidator. Please do not consider him in any role .

I believe David Stern would be a great asset to the town if you were to choose him or another candidate that has not run for office. Maybe even wait a week to get your thoughts together . It's so important you remain a cohesive team without being bullied by anyone. I wish you and the new commissioners well.

My Best Regards

Elyse Riesa

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Jeffrey Kleiman

From: [Jeffrey](#)
To: [Natasha Moore](#); [Evalyn David](#); [Donald Peters](#); judy@judithgoldberg.com; jgoldberg@judithgoldberg.com; [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Cc: [Marshall Labadie](#); [John Shoemaker](#); jahalpern@comcast.net
Subject: Next Mayor
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:24:07 PM

Public Comment for March 21st Commission Meeting.

Vice Mayor, Commissioners,

What should the process be before our Commission appoints a candidate to a vacant Commission seat, especially the Mayor's seat?

Would giving our residents a couple of weeks' notice and a chance to comment before making an appointment be the correct thing to do?

Former commissioner Shoemaker would like a seat on our Commission. John Shoemaker and every eligible resident who may want a seat on our Commission, as Mayor, Vice Mayor, or Commissioner, should be allowed to apply and be heard at a public meeting.

Vice Mayor Moore would be my pick for Mayor. However, I would never want anyone appointed to our Commission without our residents afforded ample time to voice their opinions.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Kleiman
3907 S Ocean Blvd.

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Peggy Brown

From: [Peggy Brown](#)
To: [Natasha Moore](#)
Cc: [Lanelda Gaskins](#); [Evalyn David](#)
Subject: John Shoemaker for appointment as Vice Mayor
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:21:30 AM

Good morning Natasha,
I am unable to attend today's meeting.

I support you, Natasha, be appointed as Mayor of Highland Beach and
John Shoemaker be appointed as Vice Mayor of Highland Beach

Please note I do not support the Committee to Save Highland Beach and they do not speak for me.

Thank you,
Peggy Brown
4319 Tranquility Drive

Sent from my iPad

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Robin Furlin

From: [richard.furlin](#)
To: [Natasha Moore](#)
Cc: [Lanelda Gaskins](#)
Subject: John Shoemaker Nomination
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 10:12:40 AM

Ms. Moore,

It is my pleasure to submit the nomination of John Shoemaker for the Vice Mayor of Highland Beach position.

I cannot recommend anyone more honorable and dedicated to Highland Beach with more integrity and commitment to excellence.

I have known and worked extensively with John in his position as President of the Clarendon. His attention to detail and caring for the owners is indeed rare and we at Clarendon have benefited and will continue to benefit from his dedication.

Highland Beach needs someone who will strive to improve our community in the future and continue the excellent performance of the town council in the past and hopefully with his participation more accomplishments in the future.

Sincerely,

Rich Furlin
3407 S. Ocean Blvd. Apt. 4A

Highland Beach, FL 33487
8327416238

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Ron Brown

From: rdbrown1@aol.com
To: [Natasha Moore](#)
Cc: [Lanelda Gaskins](#); [Evalyn David](#)
Subject: Recommend John Shoemaker be appointed interim Vice Mayor & Natasha Moore be appointed Mayor
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:09:33 AM

Good morning Natasha,

I am unable to attend today's Commission meeting.

I would like to make an input that I support Natasha Moore to be appointed interim Mayor of Highland Beach and I support John Shoemaker to be appointed interim Vice Mayor of Highland Beach.

I would also like to say that the Committee to Save Highland Beach does not speak for me. I have my own voice.

Thank you,

Ron Brown, Pres., Bel Lido Property Owners Association
4319 Tranquility Drive

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Rose Zammataro

From: [Rose Zammataro](#)
To: [Laneida Gaskins](#)
Cc: nmore@highlandbeach.com
Subject: appointment of Vice Mayor
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:08:45 AM

Hi Laneida, I don't know if you remember me but this is Rose Zammataro I was running for commissioner a few years back. I am still working and so not interested in running for any position at the moment. However because I have been resident of Highland Beach for over 40 years am very much interested in the people that are going to run for office. I would like with this e mail show that I and my whole family who own the 4 apartments at 4324 South Ocean blv. would like to support Natasha Moore for Mayor and John Shoemaker for Vice Mayor. By the way we still have poor attendance in any election of course I was there voting for John but not many others that I know would like to see him in the administration. Thanks

Rose Zammataro
561-441-2430

03/21/2023

**Town Commission
Special Meeting**

Barry Donaldson

21 March 2023

Barry Donaldson
3700 S. Ocean Blvd 1608
Highland Beach, FL 33487

To The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Highland Beach:

RE: Commission Vacancies

The town is still reeling from the sudden loss of Doug Hillman. He was not only Mayor of our small barrier island community, but was also a good friend to many of us who live here. His is a terrible loss at both a personal and public level.

Yet, it is comforting we have an active and seasoned Vice-Mayor to step into the role as Mayor, and I endorse **Natasha Moore** to be confirmed in that position. Her work on the Water and Sewage Rates, financial insights on the Fire and Rescue Building and promotion of the community-building signage contest outreach to residents are just a few of her many commendable actions.

The Commission will be left with consideration of completing the filling of the resulting vacancy with a new member. I can offer no better candidate than **John Shoemaker**.

Like Mayor Moore, John has gone far beyond his role as Commissioner to seek out and highlight the many stories of military veterans in our community, as well as enthusiastically supporting and expanding the community-building holiday food-truck gatherings at Town Hall. He has worked hard to build a solid working consensus with his fellow Commissioners on key issues of vital importance to the Town.

As the Town enters a critical period in the run-up to groundbreaking for the Fire-Rescue Station, personnel expansion to staff the new services, audit of Delray Beach finances related to the "true-up" cost controversy, formation of a new budget and approaching RRR FDOT and County Milani Park projects, the continuity of his beneficial insight is much needed.

John recently lost a very close election to newly-elected Commissioner Peters, garnering 47% of the vote, a substantial show of support from voters in Highland Beach. Please listen to the voters.

The community needs John, and I am hopeful the Commission will fully realize the benefits of bringing him to the Commission and work with you on the many important tasks you will be facing in the coming year.

Thank you,

Barry Donaldson