

Hi Heather,

Thank you for the information. I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the October 21, 2025, Board of County Commissioner's meeting when the County Attorney Selection Committee's recommendation will be presented as I won't be returning to the States until October 31st. In lieu of my attendance, I'd like to share some comments and observations via this email.

First of all, I want to express my deep gratitude to the Board for allowing me to be part of a process where transparency was paramount, discussion was encouraged and forthcoming, and professionalism reigned from start to finish at every level. I appreciate how Don, Matt and you coordinated and executed your Board's wishes to ensure that all that could be done was done to get to the point of being able to recommend a new County Attorney. It truly was also an honor to serve with Clerk Timmann and Sheriff Budensiek. True professionals, all.

As the County Attorney for Palm Beach County from 1996-2021, I have seen many applications and resumes. Some advertisements would generate much interest at one time, with not so much the next time for reasons unknown. What I've learned over the years is that the quantity received doesn't mean much. It's all about the quality. My experience also showed me that some applicants were looking at an opportunity to have a less stressful job by working for the government. If they really knew what the job entailed, especially with strong boards who want to get things done for the betterment of their community, they never would have applied. Sifting out those whom may have such an intention isn't always easy, and sometimes only revealed after an individual is hired.

Fortunately for Martin County, there was a very strong candidate in the application mix. Even if hundreds of others applied, it's highly unlikely any could come close to what your Deputy County Attorney Elysse Elder can offer. It's not usual to find someone who has vast private *and* public sector experience, is actively involved in their community, and who has not only the intellectual capacity, but excellent leadership skills as evidenced by responses to questions asked during her interview. Ms. Elder clearly cares about rendering the best legal counsel to the Board, Administration and the County's various departments, divisions and constitutional officers, as well as fully supporting the County Attorney team. Her humility is also to be lauded. On top of all this, she has a proven track record working in Martin County's legal office in different positions since 2018, including the very role she is seeking. Ms. Elder is the complete package.

I strongly join in the recommendation that Deputy County Attorney Elysse Elder be appointed the County Attorney for Martin County.

Thank you for your public service.

Best wishes,

Denise-Marie