

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

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DEENA BATEH WALLACE

ETHICS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

CITY HALL, MEZZANINE FLOOR, EXAM ROOM 1

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Dr. Erich Freiberger. Attendees: Dr. Erich Freiberger, William Maule, Robyn Blank, Sean Mulholland, Sunny Gettinger, Deena Bateh Wallace, David Thompson (arrived at 4:14 p.m.), Angella Beckom and Leah Palestrant.

Others in attendance: Kirby Oberdorfer, Director of the Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight ("Ethics Office"); Andrea Myers, Ethics Office Program and Training Manager; Sandy Homrighouse, Ethics Office Executive Assistant; and Dylan Reingold, Office of General Counsel ("OGC").

Public In Attendance: Tylor Rapport, Walette Stanford, and John Nooney.

Confirmation of Quorum:

Dr. Freiberger confirmed a quorum for the meeting with eight (8) Ethics Commission members present. Dr. Freiberger thanked everyone for attending the holiday dinner the previous evening. Dr. Freiberger then welcomed new Ethics Commission members Angella Beckom and Deena Bateh Wallace.

November 12, 2025, Ethics Commission Meeting Minutes Approval:

Ms. Gettinger moved to approve the minutes of the November 12 Ethics Commission meeting. Ms. Palestrant seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed 8-0 in favor.

Reports:

Ethics Office: Ms. Oberdorfer thanked everyone who attended the holiday dinner and also thanked Ms. Homrighouse for her work in organizing the dinner. Ms. Oberdorfer stated the Ethics Office has been very busy and reported on the work of the Ethics Office since the last Ethics Commission meeting. Ms. Oberdorfer first summarized the ethics conference sponsored by the Naples Ethics Commission and Ave Maria Law School that she attended in Naples along with other ethics and compliance officials in the state, including the Director of the Tallahassee Ethics Commission, the attorney for the Tallahassee Ethics Commission, the Director of the Naples Ethics Commission

and the Miami Beach Inspector General. Next, Ms. Oberdorfer reported on the personnel and budget resources of the Ethics Office. The Ethics Attorney position has been posted to fill the vacancy resulting from Ms. Johnston leaving the Ethics Office in 2025. The position is being posted on a continuous time frame due to difficulty in filling other attorney positions in the City. Employee Services sent Ms. Oberdorfer eleven (11) applicants to review. Ms. Oberdorfer and Mr. Reingold discussed the applicants and agreed to select the top three or four applicants to interview. Ms. Oberdorfer also provided an update regarding the partial funding of the Ethics Office from the City's independent authorities through a Memorandum of Understanding. JEA and the Mayor's Administration have agreed to JEA reducing its budget contribution for the Ethics Office to \$10,000 for FY 26-27 due to the increased budget contribution JEA has made to the City. The Administration confirmed to Ms. Oberdorfer that the Ethics Office budget will not be reduced as a result of the decrease in the budget contribution from JEA. Ms. Oberdorfer subsequently provided an overview of the main initiatives and work the Ethics Office has completed since the last Ethics Commission meeting. Ms. Oberdorfer reported the Ethics Office has completed fifty (50) different issues. The Ethics Office has been working on travel questions, conflicts of interest, secondary employment, post-employment, Sunshine Law, gifts, training and compliance, and nepotism issues. Additionally, Ms. Oberdorfer provided data regarding the main issues completed by the Ethic Office in 2025. Of the 520 issues completed last year, Ms. Oberdorfer handled 300 of them. Finally, Ms. Oberdorfer summarized the ethics related legislation that has been filed with the Florida Legislature this legislative session, including whistleblower protection for government employees that file complaints with the State Ethics Commission, the inclusion of foster families in the definition of relatives for state gift laws, and a one-forgiveness of automatic fines for the financial disclosure filers that fail to file on time.

Office of General Counsel: Mr. Reingold reported he & Ms. Oberdorfer jointly provided ethics, Sunshine Law and Public Records training the Mayor's Disability Council.

Complaints and Referrals Committee: Mr. Maule reported there is one (1) pending Complaint that will be returned.

New Business:

Review of 2025 Strategic Plan and Planning for 2026: Ms. Oberdorfer referred to the 2025 strategic plan document. Dr. Freiburger asked for comments and input from the Ethics Commission members regarding the Commission's priorities in 2026. The Commission members shared their input and discussed potential priority areas for the Commission's work in 2026. The Commission also discussed the process for training surveys conducted by the Ethics Office. Dr. Freiburger advised that the Open Government Committee will continue its work on community outreach during 2026.

2026 Committee Assignments: Dr. Freiburger presented the 2026 committee assignments and explained he tried to accommodate the preferences of each Commission member.

Ethics Commission Community Outreach Plan: Ms. Gettinger summarized the research she conducted related to the Ethics Commission's community outreach initiative since the last Ethics Commission meeting and advised she is working on the next steps. She provided an overview of a meeting she had with City of Jacksonville Public Affairs Officer Phil Perry and his team and Ms. Oberdorfer to discuss effective ways to communicate the Commission's work and disseminate information to the community, including writing and publishing op eds, social media posts, Ethics Commission website, videos, The Florida Times-Union, the Jacksonville Daily Record, First Coast Connect, and community organizations such as Rotary. The Ethics Commission members then discussed the community outreach initiative and reviewed the application of the Commission's press policy set forth in the Commission's Internal Operating Procedures. Dr. Freiburger thanked the Open Government Committee for its work on this initiative.

Summary of Prior Ethics Commission Legislative Work, Including Disclosure of Travel and Gifts, Use of City Resources in Campaign Advertisements, and Registration and Reporting for Political Consultants: Ms. Oberdorfer stated the Legislative Committee met in October 2025. Dr. Freiburger would like to see work done on the (1) disclosure of travel and gifts and (2) registration/reporting of political consultants. The Legislative Committee will reconvene to consider the areas to address.

Executive Director Performance Appraisal for 2025: Ms. Oberdorfer referred to her performance appraisal completed by Dr. Freiburger. Mr. Maule commended Ms. Oberdorfer for her excellent work.

Public Comment: Dr. Freiburger asked for public comment. Mr. Nooney provided public comment.

Announcements: None.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Sandy Homrighouse

4/20/2026

Sandy Homrighouse, Executive Assistant, OECO

Date Approved

This is a summary of the meeting and not a verbatim transcription. A recording of these proceedings is available at <http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-office/notices,-agendas-minutes>.

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