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ETHICS COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, Second Floor, Conference Room C
Monday, October 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Legislative Committee Chair Robyn Blank. Attendees: Committee Members Robyn Blank, William Maule, Scott Simpson and David Thompson; Ethics Commission Member Judge Linda McCallum.

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

Public In Attendance: John Nooney, Brittany Norris, Chief Erica Weber of Jacksonville Sheriff's Office ("JSO"), JSO Director Brian Kee, and JSO Chief Legal Advisor Gaby Young.

Confirmation of Quorum:

Ms. Blank confirmed the quorum with all Legislative Committee members present.

New Business:

Historical Summary of Legislative Committee Work: Ms. Blank asked Ms. Oberdorfer to give the historical summary. Ms. Oberdorfer stated the Committee has considered several potential legislative proposals in the recent past, but no legislation has been filed except changes to specific Jacksonville Ethics Code provisions in 2018. The prior work of the Legislative Committee includes:

- Proposed changes to Jacksonville Ordinance Code section 602.401(d)(3) regarding use of City resources in campaigns
- Legislation introduced by a former Council Member that would regulate PACs at a local level by requiring disclosure regarding travel paid by PACs and other information
- Legislation introduced by a former Council Member that would require registration and certain disclosures by political consultants
- Prior revisions in 2018 to Jacksonville Ethics Code Chapter 602 sections 401, 402 and 411 that were enacted into law

Overview of Legislative Process: Mr. Reingold gave an overview of the City Council legislative process, including bill sponsorship, City Council public hearings, review of legislation by the Council Auditor's Office, Council Committee work, and the City Council final vote. Mr. Reingold confirmed there is no limitation to the number of bills Council Members can sponsor.

Consideration of Proposed Changes to Jacksonville Ordinance Code Section 602.401(d)(3) Regarding the Use of City Resources in Campaigns, Including First Responders' Uniforms: Ms. Blank referred to the previously drafted legislation provided to the Legislative Committee members and included in their notebooks. Judge McCallum, Carla Miller and Jason Gabriel worked on the draft legislation several years ago. Ms. Oberdorfer advised she invited both JSO and JFRD to attend and participate in the Legislative Committee meeting today on behalf of the Ethics Commission and she expressed gratitude to JSO for attending the meeting. The Legislative Committee discussed the purpose of the proposed changes to section 602.401(d)(3), including whether the changes are needed, and the impact of the proposed changes on first responders compared to the regulations currently in place at JSO and JFRD. Mr. Maule made a motion to further explore the draft of the proposed changes to section 602.401(d)(3). The motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Reingold summarized the options available to the Legislative Committee. Ms. Blank noted it appeared the Legislative Committee is interested in learning more about this issue, but is not ready to recommend to the Ethics Commission the draft of the proposed changes to section 602.401(d)(3). The Legislative Committee then discussed additional information it would like to obtain on this issue before its next meeting early next year and agreed to the following:

- Ms. Blank will speak with the State Attorney and research whether any other local Ethics Commissions have a similar restriction on the use of City resources in campaigns by first responders or whether they have previously addressed this issue.
- Mr. Thompson will contact JSO, FOP and IAFF to obtain input.
- Mr. Maule will research whether other sheriff's offices have any similar restriction on use of City resources by first responders in campaigns and will speak with the Public Defender.
- Ms. Oberdorfer will distribute the complaints filed with the Ethics Commission over the years pertaining to this issue.

Public Comment: Ms. Blank asked for public comment. Mr. Nooney offered public comment.

Announcements: None

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Sandy Homrighouse, Executive Assistant, OECO Date of Approval

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>.