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ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, First Floor, Lynwood Roberts Room
Wednesday, January 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Dr. Freiberger. Ethics Commission attendees: Chair Erich Freiberger, William Maule, Linda McCallum, Leah Palestrant, Scott Simpson, Robyn Blank, Sean Mulholland and David Thompson. Excused Absence: Sunny Gettinger.

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

Public In Attendance: David Johnston and John Nooney

Confirmation of Quorum:

Dr. Freiberger confirmed quorum. Ms. Oberdorfer announced the new Ethics Commission members in attendance: Sean Mulholland and David Thompson.

New Business:

Strategic Planning:

Ms. Oberdorfer referred to the draft Strategic Plan, which is attached to these minutes.

Following a discussion by the Ethics Commission and staff, below is a summary of the proposed changes to the Ethics Commission Strategic Plan:

a. In the first row:

In Chapter 602 column: delete “or initiate.” Remaining language will be “Receive complaints.”

In Federal Sentencing Guidelines column, delete “Anonymous reporting including hotline and surveys.” Replace with following language: “Maintain a hotline and conduct surveys.”

In the Additional Committee Goals column, add additional language: “Maintain data on number of complaints filed under prior law compared to number of complaints filed after changes in SB 7014.”

In the Measures column, add additional language “# Surveys received”

- b. In the second row, no changes needed.
- c. In the third row, no changes needed.
- d. In the fourth row:

In Chapter 602 column: delete “Establish an” and capitalize “Ethics.” Remaining language will be “Ethics hotline.”

In Federal Service Guidelines column, delete “Anonymous reporting including hotline and surveys.” Replace with following language: “Maintain a hotline and conduct surveys.”

- e. In the fifth row:

In Committee column, add “Internal Operations Committee/TBD.

In Additional Committee Goals column, add “1. Conduct surveys (add topics from Federal Sentencing Guidelines & Blue Ribbon columns for complaints). Ask about knowledge of complaint process. Final paragraph of survey to provide information on how to file complaint and can’t be anonymous; 2. Track data on number of training presentations by Ethics Office/year and number of attendees at each training; and 3. Ensure training incorporates input from surveys.”

In Measures column, add “# Trainings and # People trained.”

In the seventh row under Chapter 602, delete “charter” and add “Code” after “areas of”

- f. In the sixth row, no changes needed.
- g. In the seventh row:

In Chapter 602 column, delete “(charter)” and add paragraph (c) to reflect that this duty is now incorporated into the duties in Jacksonville Ordinance Code Chapter 602 in section 921(c).

In Committee column, add “Internal Operations Committee.”

In Additional Committee goals column, add “Encourage City Council to carry forward legislation.”

Additional changes include: (1) adding eighth row to include “Review Committee Structure to consider (1) combining Legislative & Open Government Committees and (2) creating new Training and Education Committee to work on surveys” and deleting “CM” designation throughout the Strategic Plan.

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

Announcements:

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m.

Sandy Homrighouse

5-13-25

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>.