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MARY BLAND LOVE

ETHICS COMMISSION

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

February 13, 2019

Conference Room B, Second Floor, City Hall

The meeting of the Complaints Committee was called to order by Ms. Ellen Schmitt, Chair, at 4:02 p.m. A quorum was present. Attendees: Ellen Schmitt and J. J. Dixon. Mary Bland Love attended via conference call. Others in attendance: Joseph Rogan, Chair, Ethics Commission; Carla Miller, Director of the Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Oversight (OECO); Kirby Oberdorfer, Deputy Director OECO; Cherry Shaw Pollock, Office of General Counsel (OGC); and Lourdes Barboza, Executive Assistant OECO.

Public in Attendance:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

New Business:

Ms. Schmitt opened the meeting by asking Ms. Miller to summarize about the past activities and purpose of the Complaints Committee. Ms. Miller explained the differences between open meetings and shade meetings. Mr. Rogan added that the Complaints Committee handles the critical business of the Ethics Commission. Ms. Oberdorfer summarized the number of complaints received in 2018 and the dispositions of those complaints. Mr. Rogan added that at each regular Commission meeting the Complaints Committee Chair will report on the aggregate data of the activities of the Complaints Committee.

Ms. Schmitt opened the discussion to possible revisions to the calculation of time in Rule 2 of the Ethics Commission Complaint Procedures. Ms. Oberdorfer summarized the current method of time computation and the reasons why they were originally adopted in the October 2017 revisions of the Procedures. There was further discussion and clarification about the calculation of time and how the proposed changes would provide ample time for the Ethics Office to process a new complaint. Mr. Rogan is supportive of this change to the computation of time.

Ms. Dixon made a motion to replace current Rule 2(a) with "In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by these rules the time period shall be calculated using City of Jacksonville business days only, unless otherwise specified in the Rule." Ms. Love seconded the motion. Mr. Rogan clarified the language of the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0.

Office of Ethics, Compliance & Oversight
117 W. Duval Street, Room 450
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 630-1476 HOTLINE: 630-1015

Ms. Miller recommended that the numbers of days in Rule 5(f) be changed from 15 to 30 or 45 days for the return of complaints filed prior to an election. Mr. Rogan suggested that the Committee review all rules with date computation in the Complaint Procedures and revise them as needed. The following changes were discussed and proposed:

- Rule 5(d): change from 5 to 10 days
- Rule 6(c): change from 30 to 15 days in both occurrences
- Rule 11(b)(2): change from 14 to 10 days
- Rule 11(b)(3): change from 14 to 10 days
- Rule 11(b)(5): change from 14 to 15 days
- Rule 11(b)(8): change from 7 to 10 days
- Rule 5(f): change from 15 to 30 days
- Rule 14(b): change from 5 to 10 days

Ms. Dixon made a motion to recommend to the full Ethics Commission that the Complaint Procedures be changed as discussed. Ms. Love seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a 3-0 vote.

Public Comment:

There were no members from the public present for comment.

Next Meeting:

There was no date set for the next Complaints Committee meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:50 p.m.

Lourdes Barboza

Lourdes Barboza
Executive Assistant
Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight

/lb

March 7, 2019

Date of Approval

This is a summary of the meeting and is not a verbatim transcription. A recording is available at the Ethics Commission web site at [http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-commission/notices.-agendas--minutes-\(1\).aspx](http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-commission/notices.-agendas--minutes-(1).aspx)

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