

## CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



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### **MEETING MINUTES LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 20, 2021

In-Person Meeting

Exam Room #1, Mezzanine, City Hall

The meeting was called to order by Imani Boykin, Chair of the Legislative Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Committee Attendees: Imani Boykin, LaTonya Lipscomb Smith and Carlton DeVooght. Excused Absence: Erich Freiberger. Other Ethics Commission attendees: Ellen Schmitt and Joseph Rogan. Other attendees: Kirby Oberdorfer, Deputy Director, Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight, (“OECO”), Cherry Shaw Pollock, Assistant General Counsel, Office of General Counsel (“OGC”); Andrea Myers, OECO Program and Training Manager, and Sandy Homrighouse, OECO Executive Assistant.

#### New Business:

Ordinance 2020-705: Ms. Boykin thanked Ms. Oberdorfer for the bill summary she prepared and provided to the Legislative Committee. Ms. Oberdorfer then summarized the bill. Ordinance 2020-705 was filed by Council Member Garrett Dennis requiring political consultants to register and report information to City Council on an annual basis. Ordinance 2020-705 creates new sections 602.805-811 in Part 8 of the Jacksonville Ethics Code that addresses lobbying. Ordinance 2020-705 was modeled after a Regulation of Campaign Consultants ordinance in San Francisco that is administered by the San Francisco Ethics Commission. The Legislative Committee first discussed the definition of a political consultant in the bill and Mr. Rogan recommended the definition be clarified to limit it to persons who serve as political consultants for local campaigns. Ms. Oberdorfer recommended that Ordinance 2020-705 also be revised to include a definition of client that is referenced throughout the bill. The Legislative Committee next discussed Mr. Rogan’s additional recommendation to assign the duties in proposed section 602.809 to OECO rather than the Ethics Commission and clarify a discrepancy between proposed sections 602.808(a) and 602.809(b) regarding the City entity that should receive and retain registration information from political consultants. The Legislative Committee also agreed to seek clarification as to whether there was a conflict between proposed section 602.806(a) that does not require employees of political consultants to register and section 602.808(a)(3) that requires information regarding employees of political consultants. Ms. Boykin requested clarification regarding the effective date of Ordinance 2020-705 because the effective date in the legislation has passed. Finally, the Legislative Committee discussed the process for providing its recommendations and input to Council Member Dennis. Per Ms.

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Boykin's request, Ms. Oberdorfer and Ms. Pollock will meet with Paige Johnston and Council Member Dennis to relay the input from the Legislative Committee for Ordinance 2020-705.

**Potential Legislation Regarding Disclosure of Travel and Gifts:** The Legislative Committee next discussed potential legislation that would require City officials and employees to disclose travel-related expenses for City business that are paid by a third party. The Committee reviewed legislation that had been previously filed in City Council, Ordinance 2018-570, and discussed several requirements to be potentially included in the travel disclosure legislation, including invoices provided by third party in a timely manner, adoption of rule from state gift law allowing government officials and employees to pay down a portion of a gift to below the restricted amount, manner and method of payment for travel expenses by City officials and employees, valuation of gifts and travel. The Legislative Committee recommended that draft legislation be prepared by the Office of General Counsel to require disclosure of the full amount of travel expenses paid by a third party, the amount of travel expenses paid down by City officials and employees, and date of pay down. The Legislative Committee also discussed whether to revise section 602.703 to eliminate the knowing requirement for the restriction of a lobbyist or vendor providing a prohibited gift to City officials and employees and whether to require training for lobbyists on Ethics Code provisions that relate to them. Mr. DeVooght made a motion for the Legislative Committee to recommend to the full Ethics Commission to adopt the 90-day pay down period in the local gift laws to be consistent with state gift laws. Ms. Smith seconded the motion. Public comment was requested. There was no public comment offered. There being no discussion, the motion passed unanimously with a vote of 3-0.

Public Comment:

Ms. Boykin requested public comment. None was provided.

Announcements and Scheduling of Future Meetings: Ms. Schmitt thanked the members of the Legislative Committee for their service.

Adjourn: There being no further business to discuss; the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

*Sandy Homrighouse*

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Sandy Homrighouse, Executive Assistant, OECO

7-14-21 \_\_\_\_\_

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> .