**Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization**

**of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission**

**Marc Hassan, Chair**

**Chris Brady, Vice Chair**

**Internal Operations Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 12, 2017**

**4:00 p.m.**

**City Council Conference Room B**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Niki Brunson, John Pittman, Greg Rachal, Danny Ferreira and Marc Hassan

**Excused:** Commissioner Barbara Finke (Chair)

**Also**: Jeff Clements and Colleen Hampsey – City Council Research

Commissioner Niki Brunson called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

After introductions, copies of the TRUE Policies and Procedures manual draft (with markups from Commissioner Finke) were distributed to the group. TRUE Chairman Marc Hassan then joined the meeting. The discussion turned to a meeting earlier in the week at which, among others, Mr. Hassan and City Council Members Garrett Dennis and Tommy Hazouri were in attendance. The focus for that meeting was the restructuring (fewer members, different appointment procedures) or possible sunsetting of the TRUE Commission.

Chair Hassan proposed that TRUE should offer a restructuring compromise to the one outlined by Councilman Hazouri and he suggested making a request at the next Rules Committee meeting for a bit of time to work out the details and review the *Ordinance Code*.

The subject shifted to the importance of producing regular reports and creating a calendar that coordinates with the City Council’s legislative schedule. Ms. Brunson asked about the possibility of staffing. Mr. Hassan said it could be broached with whoever is the next Council president. Ms. Brunson suggested looking into potential AmeriCorps grants; Mr. Hassan suggested Rotary Club grants as well, to provide funds for a part time staffer. He believes the commission’s authorizing ordinance requires the Mayor’s approval to seek outside grants. Chairman Hassan emphasized the importance of a communication plan and a strong liaison with Council to make TRUE more effective. He suggested that the commission undertake an expansion of the previous contract management study as the first project for the 2017-18 year, researching and reporting on how other cities and counties better manage their contracts.

The group discussed the lack of mayoral appointments to the commission for the past 4 years and the message that this sends to the commission about the mayor’s apparent lack of interest in the work of the commission. Commissioner Rachal speculated that some of the commission’s investigations and recommendations may have ruffled some feathers in the Mayor’s office and caused the mayor or his staff to be predisposed not to empower the commission any further.

Mr. Hassan described the changes to the commission’s legislative authorization discussed at Council Member Hazouri’s noticed meeting on Monday. The changes include: reducing the size of the commission’s membership from 18 to 11; having 6 members appointed by the Mayor from the 6 CPAC areas (but not necessarily CPAC members) and 5 appointed by the Council President from the 5 at-large Council residence areas; providing that the commission will be given assignments by the Finance Committee; and adding an automatic review provision that would sunset the TRUE Commission every other year unless it is affirmatively continued by the City Council. Mr. Hassan asked staff to provide him with a list of the Rules Committee members and their contact information and with contact information for past TRUE Commissioners who may have an interest in contacting council members to advocate on the TRUE Commission’s behalf. He also requested copies of TRUE Commission annual reports from years past.

Staff was asked to schedule two meetings for the Legislative Tracking Committee – on Wednesday, April 19th at 2 p.m. and Thursday, May 4th at 2 p.m. (immediately preceding the Audit Committee at 3 p.m. and the full commission at 4 p.m.).

There being no further business, the Internal Operations Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jeff Clements, City Council Research

Posted 4.13.17 5:00 p.m.