

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

**RESEARCH DIVISION**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-255-5137

**CITY COUNCIL ETHICS TRAINING**

**Workshop Minutes**

 **November 22, 2021**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Hybrid in-person (Lynwood Roberts Room) and virtual (via Zoom platform) meeting

**In attendance:** Council Members Aaron Bowman, Matt Carlucci, Kevin Carrico, LeAnna Cumber, Randy DeFoor, Garrett Dennis, Al Ferraro, Reggie Gaffney, Sam Newby, Ju’Coby Pittman, Brenda Priestly Jackson, Ron Salem, Randy White

**Excused**: Council Members Danny Becton, Terrance Freeman, Joyce Morgan

**Also**: Cheryl Brown – Council Director/Secretary; Jeff Clements – Council Research Division; Peggy Sidman and Paige Johnston – Office of General Counsel; Kirby Oberdorfer and Andrea Hartley-Meyers – Ethics Office

**Meeting Convened**: 11:05 a.m.

President Newby convened the meeting and welcomed the attendees, noting the importance of continuing ethics training to avoiding potential future difficulties. Ethics Director Kirby Oberdorfer gave presentations on various aspects of the relevant City and state ethics laws, including conflicts of interest, gift receipt and reporting requirements, and misuse of official position. A considerable portion of the training related to various gift scenarios, including what are prohibited gifts, permitted gifts with a reporting requirement, and gifts with no reporting requirements. Emphasis was placed on the three fundamental questions to be asked whenever a gift is offered to a public official: who is the gift from, what is the value of the gift, and what is the purpose for which the gift is offered? The particular details of each case will determine if the gift can be accepted without restriction, accepted if reported on gift disclosure forms, or cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

Ms. Oberdorfer reviewed the various provisions of the City Ordinance Code and City personnel policies that relate to restricted and prohibited conduct by City employees and officials related to elections. No election-related activity may take place in City workplaces at any time, and no City-furnished resources (phones, computers, copiers, internet access, etc.) may be used for campaign purposes.

The workshop concluded with Ms. Oberdorfer relating several ethics-related news reports from around the state of Florida in the last year.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:55 a.m.

Minutes: Jeff Clements, Council Research Division

jeffc@coj.net 904-255-5137

11.22.21 Posted 5:30 p.m.