



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
RESEARCH DIVISION**

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City Ethics and Sunshine Training, 2025

Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2025

Location: Lynwood Roberts Room, City Hall

In attendance: Council Members Amaro, J. Carlucci, Boylan, Carlucci, Clark-Murray, White, Freeman, Salem and Miller; ECAs Bethany Bryan, Jamey Crozier, George Foote, Sonia Johnson, Breyuanna White, Celestine Mills, Rebekah Hagan, Gerrie Ford-Hardin, Cory Armstrong, Carol Register

Also: Jason Teal, Council Secretary/Director; Kirby Oberdorfer, Paige Johnston and Andrea Myers, Office of Ethics, Compliance and Oversight; Steve Zuilkowski, Florida Commission on Ethics; Michael Fackler, Mary Staffopoulos and Dylan Reingold, Office of General Counsel; Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

Meeting Convened: 9:05 a.m.

Jason Teal, Council Secretary/Director introduced the annual training session, as mandated by Ordinance Code and state statute. The panel was led by Ethics Commission and Office of General Counsel staff, and covered ethics, sunshine law, and public records.

Kirby Oberdorfer, Andrea Myers and Paige Johnston, Ethics Office, and Steve Zuilkowski, Florida Commission on Ethics led a panel on Government Ethics. Mr. Zuilkowski talked about the role and configuration of the Florida Commission on Ethics. He provided some historical background about the Sunshine Amendment. Mr. Zuilkowski talked about required financial disclosures, and the prohibition on gifts intended to influence. He talked about the permissibility of some gifts valued below \$100, depending on the source, and the disclosure requirements for such gifts. There was discussion about specific gift circumstances.

Mr. Zuilkowski talked about ways to address professional and personal voting conflicts. He talked about conflicts of interest. Mr. Zuilkowski talked about local requirements for disclosing family members affiliated with non-profits doing business with the City. He talked about post-office lobbying, and nepotism. He fielded questions about Form 6 and financial investments.

Break: 11:13 am – 11:21 am

Michael Fackler, General Counsel, introduced the Public Records and Sunshine Training. He introduced Mary Staffopoulos and Dylan Reingold of the Office of the General Counsel to provide the training. Mary Staffopoulos and Dylan Reingold of the Office of the General Counsel presented on Public Records laws. Mr. Reingold spoke about the definition of a public record. He noted that this definition is extremely broad and can even extend to personal texts relating to public business.

There was discussion related to social media posts, and public record requests. Mr. Reingold explained that questions cannot be considered official public records requests and that there is no affirmative obligation for public officials to answer questions. Mr. Reingold stated that there are watchdog groups that attempt to bait local governments into public records violations, so public officials should be diligent in maintaining records of anything that could be considered public record. Ms. Staffopoulos talked about the purpose of public records laws to promote public trust in government.

Ms. Staffopoulos and Mr. Reingold talked about Sunshine Law preventing members of the same voting body from discussing matters that could conceivably come before the body on which they serve outside of a noticed meeting. They explained that Sunshine Law requires that qualified meetings give notice, be open to the public, and provide some level of minutes documenting what is discussed at the meeting. The minimum time for notice is 24 hours for emergency meetings, with 72-hour minimum notice recommended for non-emergency meetings. Ms. Staffopoulos noted that Sunshine Law is broad and that the penalties for violations can be very serious.

Meeting adjourned: 12:56 p.m.

Minutes: Colleen Hampsey, Council Research

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