



City of Tampa
Ethics Commission
2023 Annual Report

City of Tampa
Ethics Commission
2022-2023

Commission Members

Carolyn Bricklemyer, Chairman

Chip Fletcher, Vice-Chairman

Dr. Alex Levine

William Levens

Stuart C. Markman

The Ethics Commission

The City of Tampa Code of Ethics (Section 2-650), effective January 1, 2004, “created and established the City of Tampa Ethics Commission to administer the code of ethics for City officials and employees.”

The Ethics Commission is composed of five volunteer members who serve staggered terms. For the initial commission composition, the code provided that two members would serve two-year terms and three members would serve four-year terms, after which the cycle of appointment continues, with four-year terms for all future appointees. Ordinance 2017-61 was passed by Tampa City Council on April 20, 2017, because of the unavailability of the Chief Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to make the two appointments to the Ethics Commission. The amendment provides that appointments will now be made as follows:

- ◆ **President of the Hillsborough County Bar Association** – Two appointments with the following qualifications:
 - (1) Former Federal Judge, or former U.S. Magistrate, or former State Court Judge;
 - (2) Former U.S. Attorney or Assistant U.S. Attorney, former State Attorney or Assistant State Attorney, former County Attorney or Assistant County Attorney, or former City Attorney or Assistant City Attorney.

- ◆ **Dean of the Stetson University School of Law** – One appointment with the following qualifications:

Full time or adjunct faculty member who is knowledgeable in legal ethics.

- ◆ **President of the University of South Florida or University of Tampa** – One shared appointment with the following qualifications:

Full time or adjunct faculty member who is knowledgeable in ethics.

- ◆ **Mayor** – one appointment with the following qualifications:

Has held elective office at the local level prior to appointment.

Each member must be a resident of the City of Tampa. Additionally, while serving on the Commission, each member cannot hold or campaign for elective office or hold office in any political party or political committee, actively participate in or contribute to any political campaign for City office, be employed by the City of Tampa, or allow his or her name to be used by a campaign in support of or against any candidate for city office or any city referendum or other city ballot question.

Meetings

For the 2022-2023 term, the Commissioners re-elected Carolyn Brickleyer to serve as their Chairman and Chip Fletcher as Vice-chairman. Carolyn Brickleyer was reappointed by Mayor Jane Castor to serve another four-year term. Stuart C. Markman was reappointed by the Dean of the Stetson Law School to serve another four-year term. Chip Fletcher was reappointed by the Hillsborough County Bar Association to serve another four-year term.

During the annual period, the Commission held five meetings. All meetings of the Commission were duly posted for public notice and the minutes were transcribed and approved by the Commission. The Commission's Rules and Regulations (see Appendix A of this report) provide further information regarding the conduct of meetings and its process.

Meetings of the Ethics Commission were held on the following dates:

August 26, 2022
October 20, 2022
October 25, 2022
January 19, 2023
April 20, 2023

Accomplishments

During the course of its meetings and work, the Ethics Commission accomplished the following:

- ◆ Ethics Complaints – Two Ethics Complaints were received during this reporting period.
- ◆ Advisory Opinions – No advisory opinions were rendered by the Legal Department for the Ethics Office and Ethics Commission.
- ◆ Ethics Code Amendments – The Ethics Code was proposed for review during this reporting period. On April 6, 2022, Mayor Jane Castor formally requested that the Ethics Commission conduct a comprehensive review of the City of Tampa lobbyist disclosures and registrations, ethics enforcement process, and conflict of interest disclosure requirement for all elected city officials. Recommendations for changes to the Ethics Code were presented to the Legal Department for review and implementation in October, 2022. The Legal Department is finalizing the code with the recommended changes in place for final approval.
- ◆ Lobbyist Financial Disclosure Enforcement – The Commission will review the Ethics Office’s reports regarding the tracking of the Lobbyist Annual Financial Disclosure Reports with follow-up correspondence to those lobbyists with delinquent reports and provide additional direction throughout the reporting period.
- ◆ Elected and Appointed Employee Financial Disclosure Enforcement – The Commission will review the Ethic Office’s reports regarding the annual receipt of financial disclosure reports. All active elected officials completed City Form 6 by July 15, 2022. All but two active designated employees completed City Form 1 on time. Sixty-seven designated employees no longer with the City completed City Form 1 on time, with fourteen former employees completing no report. The Commission will direct the issuance of follow-up correspondence with delinquent reports and provide additional direction throughout the reporting period.