



City of Tampa
Ethics Commission
2017 Annual Report

City of Tampa
Ethics Commission
2016-2017

Commission Members

Rodney Morgan, Chairman

Stuart C. Markman, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Brickleyer

Dr. John Belohlavek

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 2016-2017 term, the Commissioners re-elected Rodney Morgan to serve as their Chairman and Stuart C. Markman as Vice-chairman. John Belohlavek was re-appointed by the President of the University of South Florida to serve another four year term. Stuart Markman was re-appointed by the Dean of the Stetson Law School to serve another four year term. Charles Scruggs was in the process of being re-appointed but passed away suddenly on June 5, 2016.

During the annual period, the Commission held three 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 30, 2016
September 27, 2016
January 19, 2017

Accomplishments

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

- ◆ Ethics Complaints – No Ethics Complaints were received during this reporting period.
- ◆ Advisory Opinions – No advisory opinions were rendered by the Commission.
- ◆ Ethics Code Amendments – One Ethics Amendment was proposed for review and was subsequently passed on November 3, 2016, by Tampa City Council.
- ◆ Lobbyist Financial Disclosure Enforcement – The Commission reviewed the Ethics Office’s reports regarding the annual tracking of Lobbyist Disclosure Forms and the subsequent annual Financial Disclosure Report. Seventy-six Lobbyist Disclosure Forms were received for calendar year 2016. The Commission directed the issuance of follow-up correspondence with delinquent reports and provided additional direction throughout the reporting period.
- ◆ Elected and Appointed Employee Financial Disclosure Enforcement – The Commission reviewed the Ethic Office’s reports regarding the annual receipt of financial disclosure reports. All active elected officials, eight total, completed City Form 6 on time. All active designated employees completed City Form 1 on time. Sixteen designated employees no longer with the City completed City Form 1 on time, with nine former employees completing no report. The Commission directed the issuance of follow-up correspondence with delinquent reports and provided additional direction throughout the reporting period.