

MINUTES OF LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE
ETHICS COMMISSION
DATE: August 15, 2008

Call to order: The Ethics Commission was held in City Hall-St. James Building, Jacksonville, Florida on August 15, 2008. The meeting convened at 12:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Braxton Gillam
Mary Alice Phelan

Also in attendance were Jon R. Phillips, General Counsel's office and Carla Miller, Ethics Officer.

Discussions were as follows:

1. Discussion of Pittsburg's ethics code; how they handle complaints.
2. Discussion of public records law as it relates to the Hotline; there are exemptions under public records law for ongoing investigations. Once the case is closed, the records become public. What if there is false info or frivolous info? The state ethics commission requires a sworn complaint. But, this is not the procedure for whistleblower complaints, which can be anonymous. Should be good screening on calls.
3. The Mayor announced the hotline last August; this was before the Hotline was established by the City Council in the code revisions of Nov. 2007. So is it 2 hotlines or one? Carla said it is impractical to have 2 hotlines; obviously, it is one.
4. We should have rules of procedure in the Code for handling of hearings. Braxton has a concern on procedures for administrative hearings. There should be transparency. There is a value of transparency but we have to make sure careers are not ruined by inaccurate data.
5. Carla reminded the Chair that the procedures of the Hotline were being reviewed by the Commission's hotline committee.
6. Jon Phillips said he was reviewing procedures of hotlines across the state.
7. There was a discussion on JPA (port authority) not having to file financial disclosure at the state ethics commission level. There was a motion, seconded and passed that the Ethics Commission recommend a "Jacksonville Bill—J bill" to require the Port Authority Board to file financial disclosure.
8. Also, a motion was passed that Carla discuss the Hotline procedures at the next Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned - 1:00 P.M..

/s/ Christine Lyle
Christine Lyle
Ethics Commission Coordinator

9/22/08
Date of Approval