

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2023-814

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the State Attorney of 4th Judicial Circuit

Date of Introduction: November 14, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: November 14, 2023

Type of Action: Appointment confirmation

Bill Summary: This bill confirms the State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit's appointment of Robyn Blank to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission, as an attorney and a current and former government executive with ethics experience, replacing Darcy Galnor, for a first term expiring December 31, 2026.

Background Information: The Jacksonville Ethics Commission is established pursuant to Chapter 602, Part 9, *Ordinance Code*, and empowered to review, interpret, render advisory opinions and enforce Chapter 602, *Ordinance Code*; and, in accordance with Section 1.202, *Municipal Charter*, to exercise the following powers and duties:

- Authorized to receive, and to investigate and issue findings with regard to complaints alleging an ethics violation;
- Provide assistance and input into the management and coordination of the training and education of local officers and employees in state and local ethics, including the City's Ethics Education Program, as well as all public records and sunshine law training throughout the government;
- May, upon employee or citizen complaint, or upon its own initiative, seek information and gather facts for the purpose of reviewing any circumstance or situation of which the Commission may become aware that appears to violate or may potentially violate an acceptable standard of ethics conduct for City officers and employees;
- Jurisdiction to levy those civil fines or penalties authorized in Chapter 602 for violations of the City's ethics code; and
- Act as the hiring committee, subject to Council confirmation, for the executive director of the Ethics Oversight and Compliance office.

Section 602.912, *Ordinance Code*, provides that the Ethics Commission shall be composed of nine members, one of whom is appointed by the State Attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Blank holds a bachelor's degree from Emory University and a JD from FSU College of Law. She works as the Associate VP and Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer at UNF and worked previously as the Chief Compliance and Ethics Officer for FSU. Ms. Blank has been a member in good standing with the Florida Bar since 2006. She resides in Duval County in council district 4.

Policy Impact Area: Ethics Commission operations

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey