

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2023-585

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the Request of the Mayor

Date of Introduction: August 22, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: August 21, 2023

Type of Action: Appointment confirmation

Bill Summary: This bill confirms the Mayor's appointment of Joshua C. Gellers, Ph.D. as a member of the Environmental Protection Board, as a discreet citizen representative, replacing Charles Garrison, for a partial term September 30, 2024, followed by a first full term to expire on September 30, 2028.

Background Information: The Environmental Protection Board is established pursuant to Chapter 73, *Ordinance Code*, and charged to study, promulgate and enforce appropriate rules for environmental protection; work in cooperation with the State and other agencies and groups interested in environmental quality control; investigate pollution control programs; conduct investigations and hearings on complaints; issue appropriate orders for enforcement of pollution standards; grant variances requested by pollution sources; general authority over the Groundwater and Surface Water Resource Management Program and the Hazardous Regulated Substance Program; and review and approve requests for Sustainable Building Certification Refund Grants.

Section 73.101, *Ordinance Code*, provides that five of the members of the board shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council in various categories including a discreet citizen representing the general public.

Dr. Gellers holds a bachelor's degree from UF, a master's degree from Columbia University and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Irvine. He has worked as a professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at UNF since 2014. Dr. Gellers served as a Subject Matter Expert for the Subcommittee on Community Outreach on the City Council Special Committee on Resiliency, and he was honored with the Green Teacher of the Year Award (Higher Education), by the US Green Building Council Florida, Northeast Florida Region in 2020. He resides in Duval County in council district 7.

Policy Impact Area: Environmental Protection Board operations

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey