

# CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



**COLLEEN HAMPSEY,**  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**  
(904) 255-5151

117 West Duval Street  
City Hall, Suite 425  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
FAX (904) 630-3403

**Bill Type and Number:** Resolution 2023-813

**Introducer/Sponsor(s):** Council President at the request of the Jacksonville Ethics Commission

**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 Jacksonville Ethics Commission's appointment of Leah N. Palestrant, to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission, replacing Ellen M. Schmitt, 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, three of whom are to be appointed by the Ethics Commission and confirmed by council.

Ms. Palestrant is the Director of the Springboard Fellowship at Hillel International. She worked previously for Teach for America and City Year Jacksonville. Ms. Palestrant serves on the board of the Interfaith Center of NE Florida, as an advisor to the Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Alpha Chi Omega, Inc. at UNF, and she is a Roller Derby Captain. She resides in Duval County in council district 3.

**Policy Impact Area:** Ethics Commission operations

**Fiscal Impact:** No direct cost to the City

**Analyst:** Hampsey