

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: Resolution 2023-770

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President Salem

Date of Introduction: October 24, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: October 23, 2023

Type of Action: Reappointment

Bill Summary: This bill reappoints Erich David Freiberger Ph.D to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission, as a higher education faculty member for former faculty member with experience in ethics, for a second full term ending 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 one of the nine members of the commission shall be appointed by the President of the Council and confirmed by Council.

Dr. Freiberger holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Boston College. He is a professor at Jacksonville University and teaches courses in ethics, philosophy and public policy. Dr. Freiberger resides in Duval County in council district 1.

Attendance: Dr. Freiberger attended 14 of 16 meetings (88%) during his first term 2/1/21 – 12/31/23

Policy Impact Area: Jacksonville Ethics Commission operations

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City

Analyst: Hampsey