

190503

Commission Ethics & Guidelines Presentation

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General Policy Committee Meeting
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Gainesville Context

- Florida State Law establishes a Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.
 - Standards of Conduct
 - Ethics Training
 - Commission on Ethics
- Alachua County and City of Gainesville enforce state ethics laws
- Neither jurisdiction currently has local Code of Ethics nor a body to administer it.

Gainesville Context

- The City of Gainesville has Draft Guidelines in place for City Commissioners and the Mayor.
- City Internal Auditor
 - Financial and compliance audits
 - Implementation of City Human Relations & Equal Opportunity Ordinance
- Equal Opportunity Director
 - Investigate complaints of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, etc.

Why have a Code of Ethics?

- Currently **no** established code in place
- Offers city employees **and** public officials
 - Standards by which to be held accountable
 - A document that they can reference
- Would establish a local body
 - administer it
 - hear any local cases as opposed to the State
 - Be a resource for questions and recommendations

Components of a Code of Ethics

- Disclosure of Interests
- Political Activity
- Standards of Conduct
- Penalties and violations
 - Typically enforced by a **local** commission on ethics.
 - Currently, the state commission on ethics hears cases
- Ethics Education/Training

Administering a Code of Ethics

- Administrative body could look like
 - A Board of Ethics
 - Inspector General
- An administrative body would
 - Not encroach on the responsibilities of the Charter Officers
 - Directly govern and review violations of the Code of Ethics
 - Make recommendations to the local governing body & be a resource for questions
 - Administer ethics training
 - Enforce local election laws

State – City Ethics Interaction

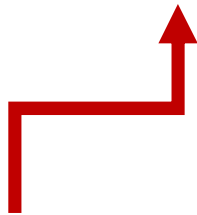
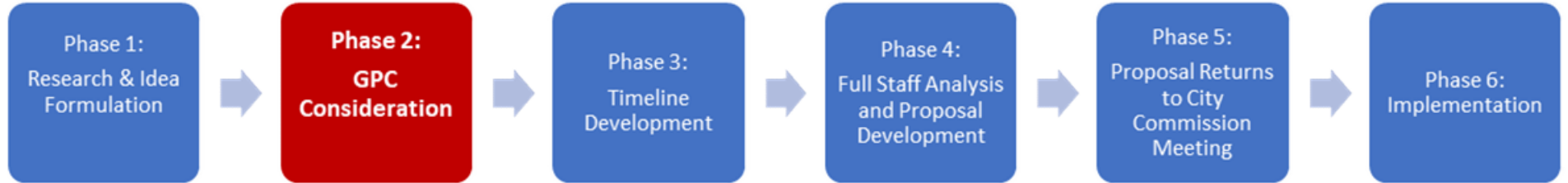
- There *is still* the State Commission on Ethics
- In the event that an ethical violation is not included in the local Code of Ethics, nor in the jurisdiction of review by the Auditor or Equal Opportunity Director, the matter would be referred to the State of Florida Commission on Ethics.

Jurisdictions in Florida

- Broward County
- **Palm Beach County**
- City of Boca Raton
- City of Jacksonville
- City of Tallahassee

Palm Beach County Presentation

Recommended Next Steps



We are here!

If the General Policy Committee wants to proceed, move this project to Phase 3 of the Policy Process.