On June 18, 2019, Policy No. 03-05

Code of Ethics, was repealed and replaced by the Code of Ethics Ordinance No. 19-07

LEON COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 2019- 07

THE

LEON

OF

COUNTY

FLORIDA,

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AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION", BY PROVIDING FOR A CODE OF ETHICS; RENAMING ARTICLE XII, "LOBBYIST REGULATIONS", AS "CODE OF ETHICS"; AMENDING ARTICLE XII BY ADDING A NEW DIVISION 1, **PROVISIONS**" **NEW DIVISION** "GENERAL AND OF CONDUCT"; RENUMBERING "STANDARDS AMENDING "LOBBYIST REGULATIONS"; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS: **PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY**; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

OF

OF

ORDINANCE

COMMISSIONERS

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2002, the citizens of Leon County adopted a Home Rule Charter (the "Charter"), which provides for full home rule authority under the law and citizen determination of the structure, powers, and functions of county government; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.2 of the Charter establishes the process for amending the Charter, one of which is through a Citizen Charter Review Committee ("CCRC") which must be convened every eight years for the purpose of reviewing the Charter and proposing any amendments thereto for consideration by the Leon County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board established the 2017-2018 CCRC, which conducted meetings and public hearings, and recommended amending the Charter to provide a Code of Ethics ordinance requirement; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2018, the Board conducted a public hearing and adopted Ordinance No. 2018-06 to provide a Code of Ethics ordinance requirement in the Charter upon approval of the voters at the November 6, 2018 General Election; and

WHEREAS, at the November 6, 2018 General Election the Leon County electorate voted affirmatively to amend the Charter to provide for enactment by ordinance of a Code of Ethics to prescribe standards of conduct for members of the Board, county employees, and members of boards and committees created by the Board, no later than the first Board meeting in December of 2019; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.5 of the Charter provides that the Code of Ethics shall include, but not be limited to, standards of conduct, offenses, penalties, and lobbyist regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

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2	Section 1. Amendments.
3 4 5	Chapter 2 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:
5 6 7	ARTICLE XII - LOBBYIST REGULATIONS ARTICLE XII. CODE OF ETHICS
9	DIVISION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS
1	Sec. 2-650. Title; purpose.
2 3 4	(a) This article shall be known as the Leon County Code of Ethics.
5	(b) The purpose of this article is to continue to provide a high level of transparency and ethical conduct in Leon County government.
7	Sec. 2-651. Definitions.
8 9 20	The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	Advisory body means any board, committee, commission, council, or authority, however selected, whose total budget, appropriations, or authorized expenditures constitute less than \$100,000 annually and whose powers, jurisdiction, and authority are solely advisory to the Leon County Board of County Commissioners and do not include the final determination or adjudication of any personal or property rights, duties, or obligations, other than those relating to its internal operations.
28 29 30 31	Agency means any state, regional, county, local, or municipal government entity of this state, whether executive, judicial, or legislative; any department, division, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision of this state therein; or any public school, community college, or state university; or any special district as defined in F.S. § 189.012.
33 34 35 36	Business associate means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee as a partner, joint venturer, corporate shareholder where the shares of such corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange, or co-owner of property.
38 39 40	Business entity means any corporation, partnership, limited partnership, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, self-employed individual, or trust, whether fictitiously named or not, doing business in this state.
12	Communicate or communication shall include one-on-one meetings, discussions, telephone

calls, e-mails, text messages, and the use of other persons or electronic communications to convey information or receive information.

1 Conflict of interest means a situation in which regard for a private interest tends to lead to 2 disregard of a public duty or interest. 3 4 Corruptly means done with a wrongful intent and for the purpose of obtaining, compensating, 5 or receiving compensation for, any benefit resulting from some act or omission of a public servant 6 which is inconsistent with the proper performance of his or her public duties. 7 8 County Commissioner means any member of the Leon County Board of County 9 Commissioners. 10 County employee means any person employed by the Leon County Board of County 11 12 Commissioners. 13 14 County Real Estate Transaction means any existing or proposed real estate transaction in which 15 the County is involved as either a buyer, seller, lessee, lessor, or is otherwise involved as a party. 16 17 Gift means that which is accepted by a donee or by another on the donee's behalf, or that which is paid or given to another for or on behalf of a donee, directly, indirectly, or in trust for the donee's 18 benefit or by any other means, for which equal or greater consideration is not given within 90 days. 19 20 The term "consideration" does not include a promise to pay or otherwise provide something of value unless the promise is in writing and enforceable through the courts. "Gift" would include the following: 21 22 23 (a) Real property. 24 25 (b) The use of real property. 26 Tangible or intangible personal property. 27 (c) 28 The use of tangible or intangible personal property. 29 (d) 30 A preferential rate or terms on a debt, loan, goods, or services, which rate is below the 31 (e) customary rate and is not either a government rate available to all other similarly 32 situated government employees or officials or a rate which is available to similarly 33 34 situated members of the public by virtue of occupation, affiliation, age, religion, sex, or 35 national origin. 36 37 (f) Forgiveness of an indebtedness. 38 Transportation, other than that provided in relation to officially approved governmental 39 (g) business, lodging, or parking. 40 Food or beverage. (h) 41 42 Membership dues. 43 (i) 44 Entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets to events, performances, or facilities. 45 (i) 46

1	<u>(k)</u>	Plants, flowers, or floral arrangements.
2	(1)	Services provided by persons pursuant to a professional license or certificate.
4	(1)	Services provided by persons pursuant to a professional needse of certificate.
5	<u>(m)</u>	Other personal services for which a fee is normally charged by the person providing the
6		services.
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8	<u>(n)</u>	Any other similar service or thing having an attributable value not already provided for
9		in this section.
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11	"Gift"	does not include:
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13	<u>(a)</u>	Salary, benefits, services, fees, commissions, gifts, or expenses associated primarily
14		with the donee's employment, business, or service as an officer or director of a
15		corporation or organization.
16	2/4 V	
17	(b)	Contributions or expenditures reported pursuant to F.S. ch. 106, campaign-related
18		personal services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering their
19		time, or any other contribution or expenditure by a political party.
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21	(c)	An honorarium or an expense related to an honorarium event paid to a person or the
22		person's spouse.
21 22 23 24 25	7.15	
24	(d)	An award, plaque, certificate, or similar personalized item given in recognition of the
25		donee's public, civic, charitable, or professional service.
26	(-)	
27	<u>(e)</u>	An honorary membership in a service or fraternal organization presented merely as a
28		courtesy by such organization.
29	(6)	The conservation of a multiple control of the contr
30 31	<u>(f)</u>	The use of a public facility or public property, made available by an agency, for a public
32		purpose.
33	(a)	Transportation provided by an agency in relation to officially approved governmenta
34	<u>(g)</u>	business.
35		business.
36	(h)	Gifts provided directly or indirectly by a state, regional, or national organization which
37	(11)	promotes the exchange of ideas between, or the professional development of
38		governmental officials or employees, and whose membership is primarily composed or
39		elected or appointed public officials or staff, to members of that organization or officials
40		or staff of an agency that is a member of that organization.
41		of start of an agency that is a member of that organization.
42	Honor	carium means a payment of money or anything of value, directly or indirectly, as
43	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	for a speech, address, oration, or other oral presentation, regardless of whether presented
44		orded, or broadcast over the media, or a writing, other than a book, which has been or is
45	intended to be	

Intangible personal property means intangible personal property as defined in F.S. § 192.001(11)(b).

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Lobby or lobbying means communications by a lobbyist, whether written or oral, with a County Commissioner, county employee, or member of an advisory body, whereby the lobbyist seeks to encourage or influence the passage, defeat, modification or repeal of any item which may be presented for vote before the Board of County Commissioners or any advisory body, or which may be presented for consideration by a county employee as a recommendation to the Board or advisory body.

<u>Lobbyist</u> means a person who is employed and receives payment for lobbying, or who contracts for economic consideration for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or agency to lobby on behalf of that other person or agency.

Lobbying firm means a business entity, including an individual contract lobbyist, that receives or becomes entitled to receive any compensation for lobbying, where any partner, owner, officer, or employee of the business entity is a lobbyist.

Outside or concurrent employment means engaging in employment with any person or entity, other than the County, in exchange for remuneration.

<u>Material interest</u> means direct or indirect ownership of more than five percent (5%) of the total assets or capital stock of any business entity. Indirect ownership does not include ownership by a spouse or minor child.

Principal means a person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity.

<u>Property Manager</u> means the individual or entity retained by the Board of County Commissioners to lease and manage any County-owned property.

<u>Purchasing agent means a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee having the authority to commit the expenditure of public funds through a contract for, or the purchase of, any goods, services, or interest in real property for the County, as opposed to the authority to request or requisition a contract or purchase by another person.</u>

 Relative, unless otherwise specified in this article, means an individual who is related to a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee as: father; mother; son; daughter; brother; sister; uncle; aunt; first cousin; nephew; niece; husband; wife; registered domestic partner; same-sex spouse; father, mother, brother, sister, or children of the registered domestic partner or same-sex spouse; father-in-law; mother-in-law; son-in-law; daughter-in-law; brother-in-law; sister-in-law; stepfather; stepson; stepdaughter; stepbrother; stepsister; half brother; half sister; grandparent; great grandparent; great grandchild; great grandchild; step grandparent; step great grandparent; step great grandchild; person who is engaged to be married to the officer or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself out as or is generally known as the person whom the officer or employee intends to marry or with whom the officer or employee intends to form a household; or any other natural person having the same legal residence as the officer or employee.

Represent or representation means actual physical attendance on behalf of a client in a County 1 meeting or proceeding, the writing of letters or filing of documents on behalf of a client, or personal 2 3 communications made with a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee 4 on behalf of a client. 5 6 Sec. 2-652. Advisory opinions. 7 When in doubt as to the applicability and interpretation of the Leon County Code of 8 Ethics, the County Administrator or any County Commissioner may request an advisory opinion from 9 the County Attorney's Office. Requests for advisory opinions shall be in writing and shall state all 10 material facts necessary for the County Attorney to understand the circumstances and render the 11 12 advisory opinion. 13 The County Attorney's Office shall keep a file, open to the public, of all advisory (b) 14 15 opinions issued. 16 17 Sec. 2-653. Investigation; prosecution. 18 The investigation or prosecution of any alleged violation of this article shall be as provided by 19 20 law. 21 22 Sec. 2-654. Penalties. 23 24 The penalty for an intentional violation of this article shall be those specified in F.S. § 125.69(1), as may be amended from time to time, and shall be deemed supplemental to the penalties 25 26 set forth in section 1-9 of the Leon County Code of Laws. 27 28 The failure of a lobbying firm to file the required quarterly compensation report as required by division III of this article shall result in the imposition of a penalty equal to twice the annual 29 30 lobbyist registration fee. 31 32 Sec. 2-655. Conflicts. 33 34 This article shall supplement and not contradict or supersede any statutory or 35 administrative standards of conduct which apply to any County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee. 36 37 (b) This article shall not conflict with the power of the Governor to suspend a County 38 Commissioner, or of the Senate to remove a County Commissioner from office, or the power of the 39 people to recall a County Commissioner from office. 40 41

DIVISION 2. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

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44 45 Sec. 2-660. Solicitation or acceptance of things of value.

- (a) Gifts. No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee would be influenced thereby.
- (b) Lobbyist. No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body or county employee shall solicit or accept as compensation, payment, favor, service, or thing of value from a lobbyist or principal of the lobbyist when such County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee knows, or with the exercise of reasonable care should know, that it was given to influence a vote or recommendation favorable to the lobbyist or principal of the lobbyist.

(c) Unauthorized compensation. No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee, or his or her spouse or minor child, shall, at any time, solicit or accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when such County Commissioner member of an advisory body, or county employee knows, or, with the exercise of reasonable care, should know, that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

Sec. 2-661. Misuse of public position.

No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee shall corruptly use or attempt to use his or her public position or any property or resource which may be within his or her trust, or perform his or her official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others. This section shall not be construed to conflict with F.S. § 104.31.

Sec. 2-662. Disclosure or use of certain information.

No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee shall disclose or use information not available to the general public and gained by reason of his or her public position for his or her personal gain or benefit, or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

Sec. 2-663. Nepotism.

- (a) "Relative," for purposes of this section only, with respect to a County Commissioner or a county employee, means an individual who is related to the County Commissioner or county employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.
- (b) A relative of any County Commissioner shall not be eligible for employment in or advancement to any position which reports directly to the County Commissioner.
- (c) A relative of any county employee with supervisory responsibility shall not be eligible for employment in or advancement to any position which reports directly to the supervisory employee.

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2	(d) A county employee shall not be eligible for advancement to any position with direct
3	supervisory responsibility over a position in which a relative is employed.
4	See 2 ((4 Outside on community and learning
5	Sec. 2-664. Outside or concurrent employment.
6 7	(a) A county employee shall not engage in outside or concurrent employment which is, or
8	(a) A county employee shall not engage in outside or concurrent employment which is, or may be determined to be, inconsistent, incompatible, or in conflict with the duties, functions, or
9	responsibilities of his or her county employment.
10	responsibilities of his of her county employment.
11	(b) A county employee who desires to accept outside or concurrent employment in addition
12	to county employment shall follow the procedures set forth in the Leon County Board of County
13	Commissioners Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual, as may be amended from time to
14	time.
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16	(c) A County Commissioner may engage in outside or concurrent employment where not
17	otherwise inconsistent with the provisions of Chapter 112, Part III, Florida Statutes.
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19	Sec. 2-665. Solicitation; fundraising.
20	
21	(a) A county employee shall not solicit, or be solicited for, political campaign contributions
22	during county working hours or in county work areas.
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24	(b) A county employee may solicit, or be solicited for, contributions for a non-profit
25	charitable organization, as defined under the Internal Revenue Code, during county working hours or
26	in county work areas upon approval of the County Administrator or designee, or the County Attorney
27	or designee, as appropriate.
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29	(c) A County Commissioner shall not utilize county employees or county resources in the
30	solicitation of charitable contributions or political campaign contributions.
31	
32	Sec. 2-666. Workplace harassment.
33 34	(a) Design The manage of this section is to provide a weak anxironment free of weakings
35	(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide a work environment free of workplace harassment, and which encourages mutual respect, cooperation and understanding amongst County
36	Commissioners, members of an advisory body, and county employees.
37	Commissioners, memoers of an advisory body, and county employees.
38	(b) Application. This section applies to County Commissioners, members of an advisory
39	body, and county employees.
40	ody, and county employees.
41	(c) Definition.
42	
43	1. For purposes of this policy, harassment consists of unsolicited, offensive, or
44	retaliatory behavior based on race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age,
45	disability, ancestry, marital status, pregnancy, familial status, gender, gender
46	identity or expression, or sexual orientation, genetic information, or an

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employee's exercise of their constitutional or statutory rights. Sexual harassment consists of unsolicited, offensive behavior involving sexual overtures or conduct, either verbal or physical. Neither harassment nor sexual harassment refers to occasional comments of a socially acceptable nature to a reasonable person. Harassment refers to behavior that is not welcome, that is personally offensive, that lowers morale, and that, therefore, interferes with the work environment.

- 2. Offensive comments about an employee's race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, ancestry, marital status, pregnancy, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or genetic information, or an employee's exercise of his or her constitutional or statutory rights constitute harassment when:
 - (i) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term of an individual's employment;
 - (ii) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or
 - (iii) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.
- 3. Harassment may also take the form of adverse employment actions such as termination, demotion, or other adverse employment decisions which effect an employee's working conditions, if such actions are taken on the basis of an employee's race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, ancestry, marital status, pregnancy, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, or an employee's exercise of his or her constitutional or statutory rights. Employment actions that are based on an employee's performance or other legitimate reasons are not harassment.

(d) Complaint procedure.

1. A county employee who believes he or she has been subjected to workplace harassment must promptly bring the problem to the attention of the County. If an employee believes that he or she has been harassed, the employee should immediately report the problem to the employee's supervisor. If the complaint involves the employee's supervisor, or if the employee is uncomfortable presenting the issue to the employee's supervisor, the employee should inform the Human Resources Director or Employee Relations Manager in the Human Resources Division.

- 2. If a complaint of harassment/discrimination involves a County Commissioner, a county employee should immediately report the problem to the Human Resources Director, the Employee Relations Manager in the Division of Human Resources, or the Chairman of the County Commission. If the complaint involves the Chairman of the County Commission, or if the employee is uncomfortable presenting the issue to the Chairman, then the employee should inform the Vice-Chairman of the County Commission, the Human Resources Director, or the Employee Relations Manager in the Human Resources Division. At that time, the Human Resources Director will refer the complaint to a private law firm or private entity outside the County's political jurisdiction, to investigate the claim. This step should be complied with prior to notification to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administrator, or County Attorney. Once the complaint has been referred to the outside private agency or law firm for investigation, then the party involved in the complaint is notified.
- 3. Each complaint will be immediately and thoroughly investigated in a professional manner. All harassment complaints reported to a supervisor, or any member of management, shall be promptly reported to the Employee Relations Manager or the Human Resources Director.
- 4. Actions taken to investigate and resolve harassment complaints shall be conducted confidentially, to the extent practicable, appropriate, and legally in order to protect the privacy of persons involved. The person who is accused of engaging in harassing behavior will be notified and given an opportunity to respond verbally and/or in writing. Investigation may include interviews with the parties involved in the incident, and if necessary, with individuals who may have observed the incident or conduct or who have relevant knowledge.
- 5. The complainant will be notified of a decision or the status of the investigation in a timely manner. There will be no discrimination or retaliation against any individual who files a good-faith harassment complaint, even if the investigation produces insufficient evidence to support the complaint, and even if the charges cannot be proven. There will be no discrimination or retaliation against any other individual who participates in the investigation of a harassment complaint.
- 6. If the investigation substantiates the complaint, appropriate corrective and/or disciplinary action will be swiftly pursued. Disciplinary action, which may include discharge, will also be taken against individuals who make false or frivolous accusations, such as those made maliciously or recklessly. If the investigation substantiates a complaint against a County Commissioner, the report shall be referred to the Florida Commission on Ethics for their further handling.
- 7. If deemed to be in the County's best interest, the complainant, the respondent or both, may be placed on leave with pay during the investigation process. This decision will be made by the County Administrator or designee (for a county

employee), the County Attorney or designee (for a County Attorney employee), 1 2 the Chairperson (for another Commissioner's Aide or Board Appointee), or the Vice Chairperson (for the Chairperson's Aide). 3 4 5 Sec. 2-667. Lobbying restrictions following vacation of office. 6 From the effective date of this article until December 31, 2022, no County Commissioner shall 7 8 lobby the County for a period of two (2) years following vacation of the office of County Commissioner. Effective December 31, 2022, no County Commissioner shall lobby the County for a 9 period of six (6) years following vacation of the office of County Commissioner. 10 11 Sec. 2-668. County employee holding elective office. 12 13 A county employee who successfully runs for and is elected to an elective public/political 14 office, or who is appointed to an elective public/political office, shall resign his or her employment 15 with Leon County prior to taking such elective office. 16 17 18 Sec. 2-669. Non-interference in performance of duties. 19 Except for the purpose of inquiry and information, no County Commissioner shall 20 21 interfere with the performance of the duties of any county employee who is under the direct or indirect supervision of the County Administrator or County Attorney by giving said employee instructions or 22 directives. Such action shall constitute malfeasance within the meaning of Article IV, Section 7(a) of 23 the Florida Constitution. 24 25 26 (b) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent a County Commissioner from discussing any county policy or program with a citizen or referring a citizen complaint or request for information 27 28 to the County Administrator or County Attorney. 29 30 Sec. 2-670. Non-interference in county real estate transactions. 31 32 The following provisions are intended to assure the integrity of the competitive bidding process is preserved, agreements are negotiated at arms-length and consistently enforced, and that no County 33 34 Commissioner utilizes his or her public position or any property within his or her trust, to secure a 35 special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others. 36 37 (a) No County Commissioner shall knowingly communicate with any individual or entity, 38 or their employees, officers, or agents, involved as a party in any County Real Estate Transaction, 39 unless the communication is: 40 41 Part of the transactional process expressly described in a request for bids or other such solicitation invitation; 42 43 44 Part of a noticed meeting of the Board of County Commissioners; or

1	<u>3.</u>	
2		Estate Transaction in which such individual or entity is a party.
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4 5		County Commissioner who receives a communication in violation of this section shall dat the next regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, the following:
6		
7	<u>1.</u>	Any and all such written communications;
8		
9	<u>2.</u>	Memoranda stating the substance of any and all such oral communications; and
10		
11	<u>3.</u>	
12		the substance of any and all oral responses thereto.
13		
14		County Commissioner shall directly or indirectly coerce or attempt to coerce the
15		rator, the County Attorney, the Property Manager, or any other county employee
16	with respect to ar	y County Real Estate Transaction.
17	(1)	1
18 19		accordance with the Real Estate Policy (Board of County Commissioners Policy No.
20		mended from time to time) and Leon County Administrative Code (Ch. 2, Article X. le, as may be amended from time to time), the County Administrator or designee shall
21		or the management of any county-owned property, including the enforcement and
22	-	se and license agreements. Except for the purpose of inquiry, County Commissioners
23		nicate directly or indirectly, give directions, or otherwise interfere with these property
24	management resp	
25		
26	(e) Ai	ny communication outside a noticed meeting of the Board of County Commissioners
27		ty Commissioner, or his or her aide, and the County Administrator, the County
28	Attorney, the Pr	operty Manager, and/or any county employee, which communication involves a
29		in a County Real Estate Transaction, shall be summarized in writing (Communication
30	Summary) no late	er than three (3) working days after the communication, as follows:
31	_	
32	<u>1.</u>	The template provided on the county intranet is the preferred format for the
33		Communication Summary. Other forms of effective written communication.
34 35		such as e-mail, are acceptable.
36	2.	The Communication Summary shall include, at a minimum, the name of the
37	<u> </u>	persons involved in the communication, the date of the communication, the
38		subject matter of the communication, and the way in which the communication
39		was ended. The Communication Summary may also include the remarks of the
40		persons involved.
41		
42	3.	The completed Communication Summary shall be provided to the Chairperson
43	_	of the Board of County Commissioners, unless the communication involved the
44		Chairperson in which case it shall be provided to the Vice-Chairperson. A copy
45		of the Communication Summary shall also be provided to the County
46		Administrator and County Attorney.

1 2 Sec. 2-671. Prohibited communication in competitive solicitations. 3 Prohibition. Any form of communication, except for written correspondence, shall be 4 5 prohibited concerning a request for proposal, request for qualification, request for bids, or any other competitive solicitation between: 6 7 8 Any person or person's representative seeking an award from such competitive 9 solicitation; and 10 Any County Commissioner or county employee authorized to act on behalf of 11 12 the Board of County Commissioners to award a contract. 13 For the purpose of this section, a person's representative shall include, but not be limited to, the 14 15 person's employee, partner, officer, director, consultant, lobbyist, or any actual or potential subcontractor or consultant of the person. 16 17 18 (b)___ Exemptions. 19 The provisions of this section shall not apply to oral communications at any 20 public proceeding, including pre-bid conferences, oral presentations before 21 selection committees, contract negotiations during any public meetings, 22 presentations made to the Board of County Commissioners, and protest 23 24 hearings. 25 The provisions of this section shall not apply to contract negotiations between 26 2. any county employee and the intended awardee, any dispute resolution process 27 28 following the filing of a protest between the person filing the protest and any county employee, or any written correspondence with any County 29 Commissioner, county employee, member of an advisory body, or selection 30 committee member, unless specifically prohibited by the applicable competitive 31 32 solicitation process. 33 (c) Effective date of prohibition. The provisions of this section shall be in effect as of the 34 35 date of the deadline to submit the proposal, bid, or other response to a competitive solicitation. 36 (d) Termination of prohibition. The provisions of this section shall terminate at the time 37 38 the Board of County Commissioners, or county employee authorized to act on behalf of the Board, 39 awards or approves a contract, rejects all bids or responses, or otherwise takes action which ends the 40 competitive solicitation process. 41 42 Sec. 2-672. Voting conflicts. 43 44 "Relative," for purposes of this section only, with respect to a County Commissioner or a member of an advisory body, means an individual who is related to the County Commissioner or 45

member of an advisory body as father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law.

(b) County Commissioners. No County Commissioner shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss; which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained, other than an agency as defined in F.S. § 112.312(2); or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the County Commissioner.

Such County Commissioner shall, prior to the vote being taken, publicly state to the assembly the nature of the interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining from voting and, within fifteen (15) days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes.

(c) Members of advisory body. No member of an advisory body shall vote in an official capacity upon any measure which would inure to the member's special private gain or loss; which the member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom he or she is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which he or she is retained; or which he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a relative or business associate of the member of an advisory body.

Such member of an advisory body shall, prior to the vote being taken, publicly state to the assembly the nature of the interest in the matter from which he or she is abstaining from voting and, within fifteen (15) days after the vote occurs, disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes.

(d) Appointment or reappointment. Whenever a County Commissioner or member of an advisory body, or former County Commissioner or advisory body member, is being considered for appointment or reappointment to an advisory body, the appointing body shall take into consideration the number and nature of the conflicts of interest previously filed under this section by said County Commissioner or member of an advisory body.

Sec. 2-673. Doing business with the County.

(a) Prohibition.

 No county employee acting in his or her official capacity as a purchasing agent, or County Commissioner or member of an advisory body acting in his or her official capacity, shall either directly or indirectly purchase, rent, or lease any realty, goods, or services for the County from any business entity of which the County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee has a material interest.

1		2	No county employee acting in his or her official capacity as a purchasing agent.
2			or County Commissioner or member of an advisory body acting in his or her
3			official capacity, shall either directly or indirectly purchase, rent, or lease any
4			realty, goods, or services for the County from any business entity of which the
5			spouse or child of the County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or
6			county employee is an officer, partner, director, or proprietor and has a material
7			interest.
8			
9		3.	No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee,
10			acting in a private capacity, shall rent, lease, or sell any realty, goods, or services
11			to the County.
12			
13	(b)		er for members of advisory body. The requirements of this section, as they pertain
14		V	n an advisory body, may be waived in a particular instance by the body which
15			to the advisory body, upon a full disclosure of the transaction or relationship to
16			prior to the waiver, and an affirmative vote in favor of the waiver by two-thirds
17			ng body. In instances in which appointment to the advisory body is made by an
18			ay be effected after a public hearing by determination by the appointing entity and
19	full disclosure	e of the	transaction or relationship by the appointee to the appointing entity.
20			
21	(c)	Exem	ptions.
22			
23		1.	This section shall not affect or be construed to prohibit contracts entered into
24			prior to:
25			
26			(i) Qualification for the elective office of County Commissioner.
27			
28			(ii) Appointment to an advisory body.
29			
30			(iii) Beginning county employment.
31			
32		2	Additional exemptions to the requirements of this section are provided in section
33			2-675 of this division.
34			
35	Sec. 2-674. (Conflict	t of interest in employment or contractual relationship.
36	(-)	n 1	
37	(a)		bition. No County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county
38			or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity or
39			subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, the County, excluding those
40	organizations	and in	eir officers who, when acting in their official capacity, enter into or negotiate a

employee shall have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business entity or any agency which is subject to the regulation of, or is doing business with, the County, excluding those organizations and their officers who, when acting in their official capacity, enter into or negotiate a collective bargaining contract with the state or any municipality, county, or other political subdivision of the state; nor shall a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee have or hold any employment or contractual relationship that will create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict of interest between his or her private interests and the performance of his or her public duties,

or that would impede the full and faithful discharge of his or her public duties.

appointed the the appointing vote of the a individual, w	erving of person	ver for members of advisory body. The requirements of this section, as they pertain on an advisory body, may be waived in a particular instance by the body which in to the advisory body, upon a full disclosure of the transaction or relationship to prior to the waiver, and an affirmative vote in favor of the waiver by two-thirds in body. In instances in which appointment to the advisory body is made by an may be effected after a public hearing by determination by the appointing entity and transaction or relationship by the appointee to the appointing entity.
(c)	Exem	nptions.
	1.	If the Board of County Commissioners exercises regulatory power over a business entity residing in another agency, or when the regulatory power which the Board exercises over the business entity or agency is strictly through the enactment of laws or ordinances, then employment or a contractual relationship with such business entity by a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee shall not be prohibited by this section or be deemed a conflict of interest.
	2.	This section shall not prohibit a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee from practicing in a profession or occupation when such practice is required or permitted by law or ordinance.
	3.	Additional exemptions to the requirements of this section are provided in section 2-675 of this division.
Sec. 2-675.	Additio	onal exemptions.
The f	ollowin	ng are additional exemptions to the provisions of this division.
(a)	Matt	ers affecting compensation.
	1.	No County Commissioner shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a County Commissioner, as provided by law.
	2.	The County Administrator shall not be prevented from considering any matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as the county administrator, as provided by law.
	3.	The County Attorney shall not be prevented from considering any matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as the local government attorney, as provided by law.
(b) or county en		k affiliation. The fact that a County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, e is a stockholder, officer, or director of a bank will not bar such bank from

qualifying as a depository of funds coming under the jurisdiction of the County, provided it appears in

1	the record that the B	oard of County Commissioners has determined that such County Commissioner
2	member of an advisor	ry body, or county employee has not favored such bank over other qualified banks
3		
4	(c) Exemp	ption for certain business transactions. No County Commissioner, member of ar
5	advisory body, or co	ounty employee shall be held in violation of Code of Ethics s. 2-673, "Doing
6	Business with the	County," or s. 2-674, "Conflict of Interest in Employment or Contractua
7	Relationship," if:	
8		
9	1.	The business is transacted under a rotation system whereby the business
0		transactions are rotated among all qualified suppliers of the goods or services
11		within the County.
12		
13	2.	The business is awarded under a system of sealed, competitive bidding to the
14		lowest or best bidder, and:
15		io west of best order, and
16		(i) The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county
17		employee, or spouse or child of the County Commissioner, member of
18		an advisory body, or county employee, has in no way participated in the
19		determination of the bid specifications or the determination of the lowes
		or best bidder.
21		of best bluder.
27		(ii) The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27		employee, or spouse or child of the County Commissioner, member of
23		an advisory body, or county employee, has in no way used or attempted
24		
25		to influence or persuade the County or any personnel thereof to enter
20		such a contract other than by the mere submission of the bid.
2/		(iii) The Country Country Country in the first transfer to the country of the cou
28		(iii) The County Commissioner or member of an advisory body, prior to or
29		at the time of the submission of the bid, has filed a disclosure statement
30		with the County.
31	2	
32	3.	The purchase or sale is for legal advertising in a newspaper, for any utilities
33		service, or for passage on a common carrier.
34	, and the same of	
35	4.	An emergency purchase or contract, which would otherwise violate Code of
36		Ethics s. 2-673 or s. 2-674, must be made in order to protect the health, safety
37	_	or welfare of the citizens of the state or any political subdivision thereof.
38	<u>5.</u>	The business entity involved is the only source of supply within the County and
39		there is full disclosure by the County Commissioner or member of an advisory
40		body of his or her interest in the business entity to the Board of County
41		Commissioners prior to the purchase, rental, sale, leasing, or other business
12		being transacted.
13		
14	6.	The total amount of the transactions in the aggregate between the business entity
45		and the County does not exceed \$500 per calendar year.
46		

1	7. The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee
2	purchases in a private capacity goods or services, at a price and upon terms
3	available to similarly situated members of the general public, from a business
4	entity which is doing business with the County.
5	
6	8. The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee
7	in a private capacity purchases goods or services from a business entity which
8	is subject to the regulation of the County and:
9	
10	(i) The price and terms of the transaction are available to similarly
11	situated members of the general public; and
12	(ii) The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or
13	county employee makes full disclosure of the relationship to the
14	Board of County Commissioners prior to the transaction.
15	
16	(d) Exemption for tax-exempt organization. No County Commissioner, member of an
17	advisory body, or county employee shall be held in violation of Code of Ethics s. 2-673, "Doing
18	Business with the County," or s. 2-674, "Conflict of Interest in Employment or Contractual
19	Relationship," if the County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee
20	maintains an employment relationship with an entity which is currently a tax-exempt organization
21	under s. 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code and which contracts with or otherwise enters into a
22	business relationship with the County, and:
23	ousness relationship with the county, and.
24	1. The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee
25	is not directly or indirectly compensated as a result of such contract or business
26	relationship;
27	relationship,
28	2. The County Commissioner, member of an advisory body, or county employee
29	has in no way participated in the county's decision to contract or to enter into
30	the business relationship with his or her employer, whether by participating in
31	discussion at the meeting, by communicating with a County Commissioner,
32	member of an advisory body, or county employee, or otherwise; and
33	
34	3. The County Commissioner or member of an advisory body abstains from voting
35	on any matter which may come before the Board of County Commissioners
36	involving the officer's employer, publicly states to the assembly the nature of
37	the County Commissioner or member of an advisory body's interest in the
38	matter from which he or she is abstaining, and files a written memorandum as
39	provided in F.S. § 112.3143.
40	
41	DIVISION 3. LOBBYIST REGULATIONS
42	
43	Sec. 2-700. Definitions.
44	
45	The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings
46	ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

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(a) Lobbying shall mean communications, whether written or oral, by a lobbyist with any member or members of the Board of County Commissioners, or any member or members of any decision-making body under the jurisdiction of the board, or any county employee, whereby the lobbyist seeks to encourage or influence the passage, defeat, modification or repeal of any item which may be presented for vote before the Board of County Commissioners, or any decision-making body under the jurisdiction of the board, or which may be presented for consideration by a county employee as a recommendation to the board, or decision-making body.

- (b) Lobbyist means a person who is employed and receives payment, or who contracts for economic consideration, for the purpose of lobbying, or a person who is principally employed for governmental affairs by another person or governmental entity to lobby on behalf of that other person or governmental entity.
- (c) Lobbying firm means a business entity, including an individual contract lobbyist, that receives or becomes entitled to receive any compensation for the purpose of lobbying, where any partner, owner, officer, or employee of the business entity is a lobbyist.
- (d) Principal shall mean a person, firm, corporation, or other legal entity which has employed or retained a lobbyist.
- (e) Employee shall mean the county administrator, county attorney, executive director of tourist development, commission staff, and all persons employed by the board of county commissioners.
- (f) Decision making body shall mean any body established by the board of county commissioners.

Sec. 2-701. Registration of lobbyists. Sec. 2-680. Registration of lobbyists.

- (a) All lobbyists, as defined herein, shall register with the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners on an annual basis, including payment of a non-refundable \$25.00 fee for each principal so represented, prior to engaging in any lobbying. Registration shall be updated annually to add or withdraw principals, and at least each time a lobbyist commences lobbying on behalf of any new principale.
- (b) Each lobbyist shall be required to register on forms prepared by the clerk of the bBoard of County Commissioners. The lobbyist shall state under oath his or her name, business address, the name and business address of each principal represented, that the principal has actually retained the lobbyist, the general and specific areas of legislative interest, and the nature and extent of any direct business association or partnership with any current member of the Board of County Commissioners, county employee, or person sitting serving on an advisory decision-making body. Each lobbying firm may register in the name of such firm, corporation or legal entity, provided the registration and the payment of the lobbyist fees shall be for each of the persons who engage in lobbying as defined in this article.

(c) Failure to register, or providing false information in the lobbyist registration form, shall constitute a violation of this article.

Sec. 2-702. Exemptions. Sec. 2-681. Exemptions.

The following persons are not lobbyists as defined in this article section 2-700(b), and shall not be required to register as lobbyists or to keep records as lobbyists:

(1) Leon County employees discussing government business;

(2) Law enforcement personnel conducting an investigation;

(3) Persons who communicate with board members County Commissioners or county employees in an individual capacity for the purpose of self-representation, or on behalf of a family member, without compensation or reimbursement;

(4) Consultants under contract with Leon County who communicate with County eCommissioners or county employees regarding issues related to the scope of services in their contract;

(5) Any government officials or employees who are acting in their official capacity or in the normal course of their duties, unless they are proposing submitting a bid or proposal in a competitive procurement, or are government employees principally employed for, or whose substantial duties pertain to, governmental affairs lobbying;

(6) Persons who make purely factual informational requests to a member of the board of county County eCommissioners, member of an advisory a decision making body, or county employee with no intent to affect a decision or recommendation on any item; and

(7) Persons or representatives of organizations contacted by a member of the board of eCounty eCommissioners, member of an advisory body, a decision making board, or county employee when the contact is initiated by that County Commissioner board member, member of an advisory body decision making board member, or county employee in his or her official capacity in the normal course of his or her duties to obtain factual information only.

Sec. 2-703. Validity of action. Sec. 2-682. Validity of action.

The validity of any decision, action, or determination made by the <u>Board of County Commissionerseommission</u>, <u>advisory body</u>, <u>decision makingboard</u> or <u>county</u> employee shall not be affected by the failure of any person to comply with the provisions of this <u>division</u>. <u>article</u>.

Sec. 2-704. Quarterly compensation report.

 Sec. 2-683. Quarterly compensation report.

Each lobbying firm shall file a compensation report, signed under oath, with the clerk of the $b\underline{B}$ oard of $e\underline{C}$ ounty $e\underline{C}$ ommissioners for each calendar quarter during any portion of which such a lobbyist or lobbyist firm was registered under this $\underline{division}$ article to represent a principal (hereinafter "reporting period").

(1) Each lobbying firm shall file a quarterly compensation report with the clerk of the board Board of County Commissioners for each calendar quarter during any portion of which the lobbyist or one or more of the firm's lobbyists were registered to represent a principal. The report shall include the:

a. Full name, business address, and telephone number of the lobbying firm;

b. Name of each of the firm's lobbyists; and

c. Total compensation provided or owed to the lobbying firm from all principals for the reporting period, reported in one of the following categories: \$0.00; \$1.00 to \$49,999.00; \$50,000.00 to \$99,999.00; \$100,000.00 to \$249,999.00; \$250,000.00 to \$499,999.00; \$500,000.00 to \$999,999.00; \$1 million or more.

(2) For each principal represented by one or more of the firm's lobbyists, the quarterly compensation report shall also include the:

a. Full name, business address, and telephone number of the principal; and

b. Total compensation provided or owed to the lobbying firm for the reporting period from such principal, reported in one of the following categories: \$0.00; \$1.00 to \$9,999.00; \$10,000.00 to \$19,999.00; \$20,000.00 to \$29,999.00; \$30,000.00 to \$39,999.00; \$40,000.00 to \$49,999.00; or \$50,000.00 or more. If the category "\$50,000 or more" is selected, the specific dollar amount of compensation must be reported, rounded up or down to the nearest \$1,000.00.

(3) The quarterly compensation reports shall be filed no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period. The four reporting periods are from January 1 through March 31, April 1 through June 30, July 1 through September 30, and October 1 through December 31, respectively. The quarterly compensation reports shall be filed in the form provided by the clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, and the quarterly reporting shall commence on January 1 of each year.

(4) Failure to file a required quarterly compensation report with the clerk of the board shall result in the imposition of a penalty equal to twice the annual lobbyist registration fee.

Sec. 2-705. Maintaining Registrations and Compensation Reports. Sec. 2-684. Maintaining registrations and compensation reports.

The clerk of the $b\underline{B}$ oard of $e\underline{C}$ ounty $e\underline{C}$ ommissioners shall accept and maintain the lobbyist registrations and quarterly compensation reports, which shall be open for public inspection.

Sec. 2-706. Prohibited conduct of county officials and employees.

No member of the board of county commissioners or County employee of Leon County shall solicit or accept as compensation, payment, favor, service, or thing of value from a lobbyist or principal when such member of the board of county commissioners or County employee, as specified above, knows, or with the exercise of reasonable care, should know, that it was given to influence a vote or recommendation favorable to the lobbyist or principal.

Sec. 2-707. - Prohibited communication.

(a) Any form of communication, except for written correspondence, shall be prohibited regarding a particular request for proposal, request for qualification, bid, or any other competitive solicitation between:

(1) Any person or person's representative seeking an award from such competitive solicitation; and

(2) Any county commissioner or commissioner's staff, or any county employee authorized to act on behalf of the commission to award a particular contract.

(b) For the purpose of this section, a person's representative shall include, but not be limited to, the person's employee, partner, officer, director, consultant, lobbyist, or any actual or potential subcontractor or consultant of the person.

(c) The prohibited communication shall be in effect as of the deadline to submit the proposal, bid, or other response to a competitive solicitation.

(d) The provisions of this section shall not apply to oral communications at any public proceeding, including pre-bid conferences, oral presentations before selection committees, contract negotiations during any public meetings, presentations made to the board, and protest hearings. Further, the provisions of this section shall not apply to contract negotiations between any employee and the intended awardee, any dispute resolution process following the filing of a protest between the person filing the protest and any employee, or any written correspondence with any employee, county commissioner, or decision making board member, or selection committee member, unless specifically prohibited by the applicable competitive solicitation process.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any purchases made in an amount less than the competitive bid threshold of \$20,000.00, as set forth in Leon County Purchasing Policy No. 96-1, as amended.

(f) The provisions of this section shall terminate at the time the board, or a county department authorized to act on behalf of the board, awards or approves a contract, rejects all bids or responses, or otherwise takes action which ends the solicitation process.

Sec. 2-708. Penalties.

The penalties for an intentional violation of this article shall be those specified in F.S. § 125.69(1), as amended, and shall be deemed supplemental to the penalties set forth in section 1-9 of this Code.

Section 2. Conflicts.

 All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, except to the extent of any conflicts with the Tallahassee-Leon County 2030 Comprehensive Plan as amended, which provisions shall prevail over any parts of this ordinance which are inconsistent, either in whole or in part, with the said Comprehensive Plan.

Section 3. Severability.

If any word, phrase, clause, section, or portion of this Ordinance is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall have effect upon becoming law.

DONE, ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this 18th day of June, 2019.

LEGN

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Jimbo Jackson, Chairman

Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:

Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of Court & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Leon County Attorney's Office

Herbert W. A. Thiele, Esq.

County Attorney

F96-00031