

From: [Miller, Carla](#)
To: [CM](#)
Cc: [SS](#)
Subject: Sunshine Training: discussions about Council leadership
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 12:55:30 PM

Hello,

Thank you as always for your diligence in complying with the Sunshine Law. Florida has the most stringent laws on this in the United States and I know how hard you all try to comply with the requirements of the law.

Below are 2 emails I sent out in 2015 about the Sunshine Law and activities related to the vote for Council Leadership positions.

Please read them as a review. I am now calendaring this to send this reminder out the first week of every January in the future.

If you are running, it is OK to send out a one-directional email/letter telling people you are seeking an office. You can enclose a pledge form if you want to. Put in the letter/email "Please do not respond in any way to this email, and do not send me a signed pledge. We can set up a noticed meeting to discuss my candidacy and the pledge".

If you are the recipient of that email, do not respond to that email in any way, including sending a signed pledge to the person running.

If you want to support someone, either vote for them at the actual election meeting or notice a meeting on it with the person running.

The person running, of course, can also set up noticed meetings to discuss the election with any other council members.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Carla

Carla Miller, Director
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From: Miller, Carla
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 3:08 PM
To: CM; SS
Cc: Gabriel, Jason

Subject: MORE: Sunshine Training: discussions about Council leadership

Hello,

To be even clearer, (see below email sent last week)

You cannot have back and forth communications (discussions, texts, emails, letters, pledges, thumbs up in passing, etc.) with other Council Members about elections for Council leadership outside of a **noticed meeting**.

You cannot have anyone else (staff, ECAs, lobbyists) do it either.

You can send a letter saying you are running. That is it—**one** directional-- “I am running and will set up a noticed meeting with you later.”

You cannot collect pledges back from anyone or sign pledges in support of anyone outside of a noticed meeting.

CORRECT PROCEDURE. Send out a letter if you want, saying you are running. At the end, put “please do not respond in any way to this email. I will be setting up a noticed meeting with you to discuss”.

Set up a noticed meeting. If you want someone to sign a pledge at that noticed meeting, you can do so. Then, you cannot send out or say anything announcing “I have 10 pledges”. Someone can look at all of the minutes of the noticed meetings and figure it out, but you do not count up votes/pledges and announce it in any way.

If you have done anything else up to this point, then please discuss with OGC a “cure” for it. (typically a noticed meeting)

Thank you for complying with the Sunshine law in this manner and please call if you have any questions.

Best,
Carla Miller
Ethics Director

From: Miller, Carla
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 2:19 PM
To: CM
Cc: SS
Subject: Sunshine Training: discussions about Council leadership

REMINDER:

Ultimately, the City Council **votes** on who will be President of the Council and

Vice-President.

Therefore, all discussions about this between Council Members need to be in the Sunshine (meetings in City Council chambers; notices and minutes taken).

This is not a procedural matter.

It is a Sunshine issue.

You also cannot use another person to “test the waters” or to get information about who is supporting who. (ECA’s, lobbyists, etc.) That is using a liaison and also violates the Sunshine law.

Example: a council member invites you to lunch and starts to bring up that he/she wants to run for President. NO. sunshine violation

Example: a council member stops by your office and mentions how he would do things differently than the current leadership and that is why he is running. NO. sunshine violation.

Example: a lobbyist/member of Mayor’s staff/ECA mentions to another Council Member that you are running and for support. NO. sunshine violation.

If you want to discuss this with another council member; have your ECA set up a meeting and notice it, per our regular meeting procedures.

Thanks for complying with this.

Carla Miller

Ethics Director