

Robyn Tice

From: Don Kraher
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:12 PM
To: Jared Moore; Ann Hill; Sherri Myers; Jennifer Brahier; Casey Jones; Teniade Broughton; Delarian Wiggins
Cc: Keith Wilkins; Grover C. Robinson, IV; Elaine Mager; Sonja Gaines; Melanie Kruszona; Ericka Burnett; Robyn Tice
Subject: Fwd: Charter related to council meeting with staff

Council President and Members of City Council

Re working with Mayorial staff, please see correspondence below from our City Administrator.

Respectfully,

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Keith Wilkins <KWilkins@cityofpensacola.com>
Date: February 13, 2021 at 5:49:16 PM CST
To: "Grover C. Robinson, IV" <GRobinson@cityofpensacola.com>
Cc: Sherri Myers <smyers@cityofpensacola.com>, Susan Woolf <swoolf@cityofpensacola.com>, Don Kraher <DKraher@cityofpensacola.com>, sfmada@aol.com
Subject: Re: Charter related to council meeting with staff

Yes our policy, reiterated here in writing, is that all Council persons may make inquiries directly to Department Directors. Directors, at their discretion, may refer Councilpersons to subordinate staff. In all cases, Directors are to back brief their supervisors of the initiatives. Councilpersons may not direct staff. If issues are contentious, controversial or require Administration or Mayoral involvement, the Director may or shall refer the issue accordingly. The Mayor or City Administrator may alter this policy of Director access if a Councilperson is deemed by them to abuse this accessibility.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2021, at 12:13 PM, Grover C. Robinson, IV
<GRobinson@cityofpensacola.com> wrote:

We ask all council members to work with directors. We can provide you an organization chart that shows all individuals you as a council member should work with. We will be happy to again remind both Council and directors how we expect that relationship to work.

However, directors run their departments. If they feel comfortable with their staff working with Council members, I will provide them that latitude. I still expect all communication to be shared with Senior staff and directors on the work that is occurring.

Keith, please confirm your understanding and work to again notify both directors and council. Thanks.

Grover

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2021, at 11:50 AM, Sherri Myers
<smyers@cityofpensacola.com> wrote:

Mayor Robinson, I have concerns over statements you made last night regarding the availability of city staff to work with city council members on issues. At one meeting with you (and I believe Keith) you asked me to work through you and Keith on issues rather than staff because it creates confusion for staff when working with two council members who may have conflicting request. I agreed with your request. I am requesting that the Mayor issue some directive in writing to council members regarding your position on how we are to interact with staff. I want to know do I have the same access as other council members appear to have with city staff. Here is what the Charter says regarding council members interacting with staff:

Section 4.04. - Prohibitions.

(b)

Interference with Administration. Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations made in good faith, the City Council or Council Members shall deal with the City officers and employees, who are subject to the direction and supervision of the Mayor, solely through the Mayor. Neither the City Council nor Council Members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately. **It is the express intent of this Charter that recommendations for improvement of municipal governmental operations by individual Council Members be made solely to and through the Mayor.**

I.