

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING

TO

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

UNDOCKETED

ISSUED: February 12, 2016

NOTICE is hereby given that the Florida Public Service Commission will conduct a meeting at the following time and place:

Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
Immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Internal Affairs Meeting  
Gunter Building, Room 105  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850


The purpose of this meeting is to provide ethics training for Commissioners pursuant to Section 350.041(3), Florida Statutes. The subject of the meeting will be the Commissioners' standard of conduct and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees in regards to gifts. A copy of the agenda for the meeting is attached.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate at this meeting should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the meeting at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, via 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD), Florida Relay Service.

One or more of the Commissioners of the Florida Public Service Commission may attend and participate in the meeting.

NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING  
UNDOCKETED  
PAGE 2

By DIRECTION of the Florida Public Service Commission this 12th day of February,  
2016.

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hong Wang  
Chief Deputy Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 413-6770  
[www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com)

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

AEH

NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING  
UNDOCKETED  
PAGE 3

**A G E N D A**

**FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF MEETING**

**UNDOCKETED**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2016, immediately following the 9:30 am Internal Affairs Meeting  
Gunter Building, Room 105  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida**

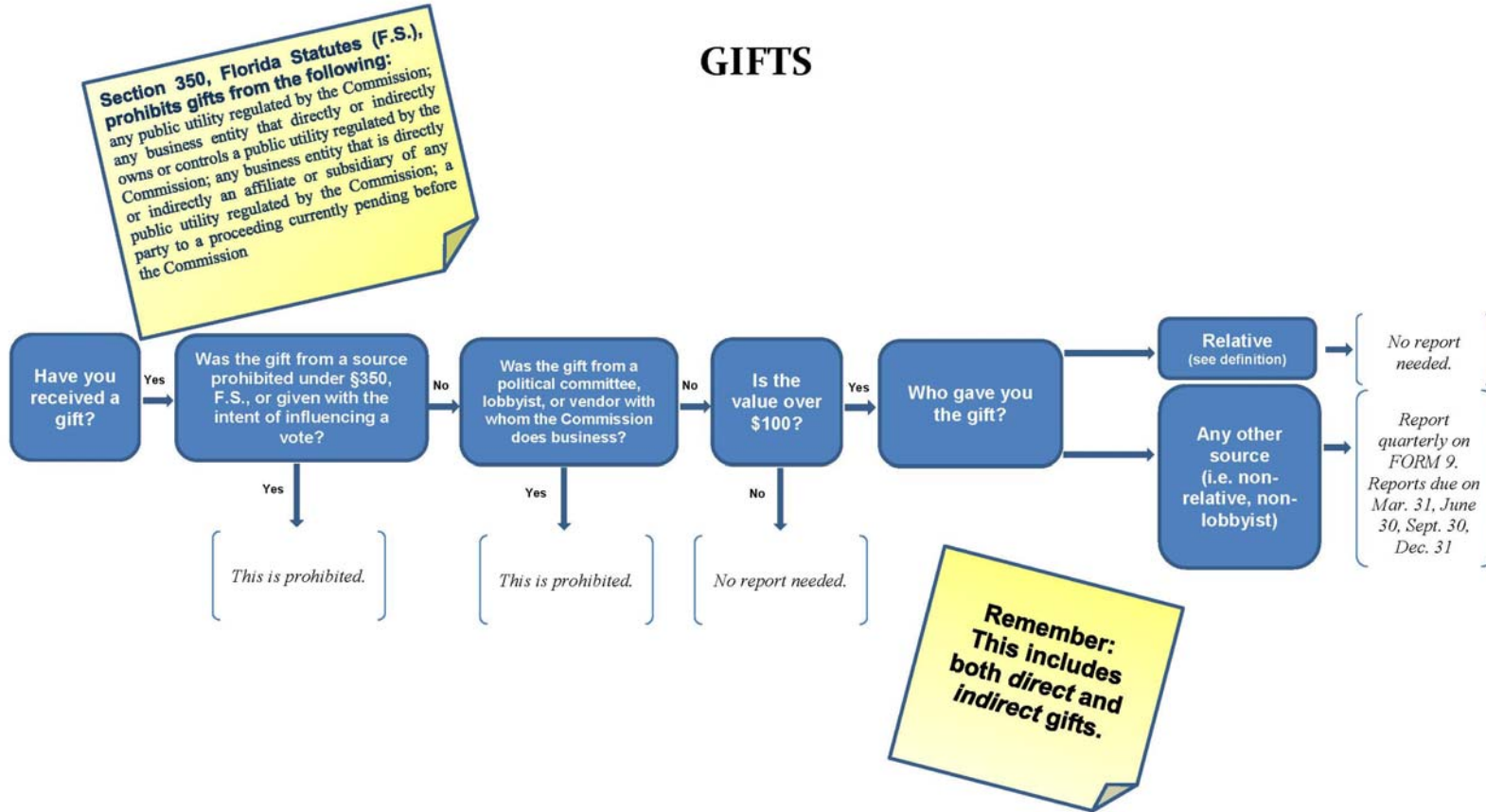
Presentation by Staff of Commissioners' standard of conduct and the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees in regards to gifts to Commissioners

Adjourn

Attachment

**CONSISTENT WITH COMMISSION POLICY,  
THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## GIFTS



NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING  
UNDOCKETED  
PAGE 5

**The conduct of Commissioners is governed by the standards set forth in Chapter 350 and part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The standards presented in Chapter 350 for Commissioners exceed the standards imposed on Commission employees by Chapter 112, F.S. In event of a conflict between Section 350.041, F.S., and part III of Chapter 112, F.S., the more restrictive provision applies.**

**CHAPTER 350, FLORIDA STATUTES**

Prohibition Against the Acceptance of Gifts by Commissioners, Section 350.041(2)(a) and (d), F.S.

A Commissioner may not accept *anything* from:

- any public utility regulated by the Commission;
- any business entity that directly or indirectly owns or controls a public utility regulated by the Commission;
- any business entity that is directly or indirectly an affiliate or subsidiary of any public utility regulated by the Commission;
- a party to a proceeding currently pending before the Commission

If the Commission on Ethics ("COE") determines that a party to a proceeding currently pending before the Commission gave or provided a prohibited gift to a Commissioner, the person may not appear before the Commission or otherwise represent anyone before the Commission for a period of 2 years.

Prohibition Against Solicitation of Gifts by Commissioners, Section 350.041(2)(i) F.S.

A Commissioner may not directly or indirectly, through staff or other means, solicit *anything* of value from:

- any public utility regulation by the Commission;
- any business entity that, whether directly or indirectly, is an affiliate or subsidiary of any public utility regulated by the Commission; or
- any party appearing in a proceeding considered by the Commission in the last 2 years.

**CHAPTER 112, FLORIDA STATUTES**

Definition of gifts under Ch. 112, F.S.: A gift is anything of value accepted or given, directly or indirectly, for which nothing of equal or greater value is given in return.

A gift includes:

- real property or its use;
- tangible or intangible personal property or its use;
- a preferential rate or terms on a debt, loan, goods, or services which rate is below the customary rate and is not available to similarly situated persons;
- forgiveness of an indebtedness;
- transportation (other than that provided to a public officer or employee by a defined agency in relation to officially sponsored governmental business), lodging, or parking;
- food or beverage;
- membership dues;
- entrance fees, admission fees, or tickets to events, performances, or facilities; however, the value of a gift of an admission ticket does not include that portion of the cost which represents a charitable contribution, if the admission ticket is provided by the charitable organization;
- plants, flowers, or floral arrangements;
- services provided by persons pursuant to a professional license or certificate;
- other personal services for which a fee is normally charged by the person providing the services; and
- any other similar service or thing having an attributable value.

You (and your employees, spouses, and children) are prohibited from soliciting and/or accepting compensation, payment, or a thing of value that you know, or with the exercise of reasonable care should have known, was given with the expectation of influencing your vote or other action in your official capacity.

- You may not knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, gifts having a value in excess of \$100 from members of the prohibited class.
- "Prohibited class" means a lobbyist or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist; or a political committee. This also includes any vendor with which the Commission does business pursuant to Chapter 120, F.S.

Prohibition Against Acceptance of Honoraria for "Reporting Individuals" and "Procurement Employees" (RIPE)

Definition of "Honorarium," Section 112.3149(1)(a), F.S.: "Honorarium" means a payment of money or anything of value, directly or indirectly, to a reporting individual or procurement employee, or to any other person on his or her behalf, as consideration for:

- A speech, address, oration, or other oral presentation by the reporting individual or procurement employee, regardless of whether presented in person, recorded, or broadcast over the media; or
- A writing by the reporting individual or procurement employee, other than a book, which has been or is intended to be published.

"Honorarium" Does NOT Include:

- Any ordinary payment or salary received pursuant to one's public duties;
- A campaign contribution reported pursuant to Chapter 106, F.S.; or
- The payment or provision of actual and reasonable transportation, lodging, and food, and beverage expenses related to an honorarium event, including any event or meeting registration fee.

Honorarium Solicitation Prohibited, Section 112.3149(2), F.S.: A RIPE is prohibited from soliciting an honorarium which is related to his or her public office or duties.

Honorarium Acceptance Prohibitions, Section 112.3149(3), F.S.: A RIPE is prohibited from knowingly accepting an honorarium from the following:

- A political committee or committee of continuous existence, as defined in Section 106.011, F.S.;
- A lobbyist as defined in Section 112.3149(1)(d), F.S.; or
- The employer, principal, partner, or firm of a lobbyist.