

APPROVED
BY ORANGE COUNTY BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
JAN 9 2007 Jw/Bw

RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

**CREATION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY TASK FORCE
FOR ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM;
SPECIFYING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO SERVE
ON THE TASK FORCE AND THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS;
PROVIDING FOR THE TERM OF MEMBERSHIP; PROVIDING
FOR THE DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE; PROVIDING FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT MATTERS;
AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Resolution No. 2007-M-02

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") hereby creates the Orange County Task Force for Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform (hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force"); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to set forth certain authority regarding the form, functions, duration and funding the activities of the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Board is asking the Task Force to conduct studies, evaluations, research and take testimony relating to the need for local or state regulations to address ethics and campaign finance reform in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, to assure independence of the Task Force and independent identification of problems and issues requiring changes to local or state laws or regulations, and to develop recommendations for changes, the County agrees to fund this Task Force and specified experts who can staff and advise the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Board proposes a Task Force of five (5) to seven (7) members to be appointed by the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board proposes that the Task Force be afforded office space and access to public meeting rooms and the administrative support of County staff to notice meetings,

coordinate use of public meeting areas, and office supplies, including computer services and document reproduction; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes its Purchasing and Contracts Division to offer staff support as is requested to secure the services of retained professionals to support the Task Force in the responsibilities set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Board reserves the option to enact proposals by County ordinance and administrative regulations and to request that the Task Force make consideration of these proposals its first priority before consideration of regulations requiring legislative action, charter revisions, or referendum approval; and further, the Task Force shall use its best efforts to report to the Board within a time period not to exceed three months from February 27, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Board proposes that the Task Force conduct its activities in a period not to exceed six (6) months, beginning February 12, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Board authorizes employment by the Task Force of a professional local director of Task Force activities, staff assistance, and an attorney experienced in state election and campaign finance issues, each such professional and clerical person to be at the choice of the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Board directs that staff members of the Board of County Commissioners offer such assistance to the Task Force and its retained or employed staff as required or requested and as approved by the County Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Board by separate action will authorize sufficient funds to support the activities of the Task Force.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. Premises Incorporated. Each of the foregoing premises are incorporated into this Resolution and become a part hereof.

Section 2. Composition.

A. The Task Force shall consist of five (5) to seven (7) members to be appointed no later than February 9, 2007, by the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in and for Orange County, Florida.

B. No current elected local government official shall be a member of the Task Force.

C. Task Force members shall serve on a voluntary basis and shall not receive any compensation except for reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses, if any, as allowed under Florida law and County rules and regulations.

Section 3. Term of Membership. Each Task Force member shall be appointed to serve until the Task Force is adjourned as provided herein.

Section 4. Duties. The Task Force is empowered to:

A. Conduct a review of proposals submitted to the Task Force by this Board that relate to County Commission ethics and campaign finance reform that may be enacted solely by County ordinance and administrative regulations as priority items and report to the Board on those proposals within three months from February 27, 2007.

B. Conduct a comprehensive review of the current state and local regulations governing ethics of Orange County elected and appointed officials and County employees.

C. Conduct a comprehensive review of the current state, federal and local regulations relating to County Commission elections and Orange County campaign finance.

D. Provide a report to the Board with specific findings and recommendations regarding:

i. problems in Orange County indicating a need to develop new standards of ethics and campaign financing;

ii. regulations in the nature of ordinances, special acts, suggested state legislative changes to resolve problem areas or address issues related to ethics and campaign finance reform; and

iii. review needed changes to the Orange County Charter relating to ethics of public officials and campaign finance reforms.

Section 5. Administrative Matters.

A. *Officers.* The Chief Judge may designate the Chairman of the Task Force. The Task Force shall elect from its members a Vice Chairman. If the Chief Judge does not designate the Chairman, or if the Chairman is no longer able to serve on the Task Force, the Task Force shall designate a successor Chairman from among its members. The Task Force may create such committees as necessary to conduct the business of the Task Force.

B. *Meetings.* The Task Force shall meet as necessary to carry out the business of the Task Force. The Task Force shall hold no fewer than two public hearings prior to presenting its report to the Board, which report shall be presented no later than August 31, 2007. The Task Force may conduct such other public meetings as necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities set forth herein. The first meeting of the Task Force shall be on or before March 15, 2007, in the chambers of the Orange County Board of County Commissioners, located at the Administration Center, 201 S. Rosalind Avenue, Orlando, Florida.

C. *Vacancy.* Any resignation or vacancy occurring during the term of membership shall be filled by new appointments of the Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

D. *Administrative Staff.* Orange County shall pay the reasonable expenses of the Task Force, which shall include, but not be limited to, accommodations for public meetings and hearings, staff assistance and supplies.

E. *County Review.* Within 180 days of the date the report is presented to the County, the Board shall evaluate the recommendation of the Task Force and thereafter hold appropriate

public hearings to obtain citizen input regarding implementation of the Task Force recommendations.

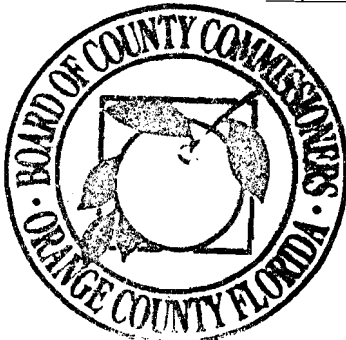
Section 6. Compliance with law. All actions of the Task Force shall be in accordance with applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Florida Public Records Law (Chapter 119, Florida Statutes) and Florida Government-in-the-Sunshine Law (Section 286.011, Florida Statutes).

Section 7. Conflict. This Resolution shall prevail over any other prior County Resolution to the extent of any conflict.

Section 8. Severability. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person, governmental body, or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared severable.

Section 9. Effective date. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption by the Board.

ADOPTED this 9 day of January, 2007.



ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Richard T. Crotty*
Richard T. Crotty
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: *Martha O. Haynie*
Deputy Clerk

S:\RGuthrie\Ordinances\Ethics Ordinance\Task Force Resolution Final.rtf