

City Commission Presentation January 27, 2010

Let me understand your vote tonight. "You agree you stole \$500,000 from the citizens of Tallahassee and you agree not to steal anymore – but you refuse to give back the money previously stolen?" I have now lost what little respect I had for you. Now I am simply embarrassed for you.

If the citizens of Tallahassee place me on this city commission, I promise the first order of business will be to work with the new commission to direct that legal actions be taken against any current or ex city commissioner who has refused to return every illicit "deferred comp" dollar taken plus interest. We the people cannot allow our public officials to use our city treasury as their personal piggy bank.

Many people ask what my "political philosophy" is. Basically, it is similar to my "business philosophy". I insist that my employees never lie to me or steal from me. I expect the same from elected officials at a minimum. Unfortunately, I believe this commission has lied to the public and has stolen over \$500,000 in bogus deferred compensation claims and millions in inflated future retirement benefits.

Mr. Ziffer, I refuse to call you commissioner because you were never elected by the public. You were anointed by this commission. Your presence on this commission only reminds voters of the back room deals and political pay off that resulted in your receiving Commission Seat 5 as a gift!

The Florida Commission on Ethics voted on July 29, 2009 that Alan Katz is ethically challenged and violated Section 112.313(7), Florida Statutes, by having a conflicting contractual relationship when his law firm was retained by a company that was doing business with the city. He quickly departed the City Commission and asked his two puppets (Mayor Marks and Commissioner Gillum) to change our City Charter, prevent the public from voting and anoint you – Mr. Ziffer, his personal friend, to the City Commission. It was widely discussed on the radio weeks in advance of your applying for the appointment that a back room deal was made and you would be accepted into this "private club". Mr. Ziffer, you have continued Katz's tradition of increasing your personal wealth with city funds while giving our citizens higher taxes, outsourcing city employee jobs and reducing their wages.

During our 2010 budget hearings, I asked that you eliminate the "deferred comp" and other outrageous perks given to the mayor and city commissioners. Mr. Ziffer, you and this commission refused to listen. In September, October, November, and December I requested from this podium that you seek an Attorney General opinion to determine if your actions were ethical and legal. Mr. Ziffer you and this commission refused to seek an independent opinion and preferred to continue stuffing your pockets with this unprecedented money grab.

The veil of secrecy over this “deferred comp” scam began to be removed as television, radio, newspaper, and internet got involved. As the community pressure mounted and after taking this money for five months, on January 15, 2010 you stated publically that you were “shocked and surprised” by the deferred compensation. How could you be “shocked and surprised” when you were all too eager to join your fellow commissioners in a self serving feeding frenzy at the public trough. The citizens of Tallahassee are too smart to believe this story.

Only the truth spoken from this podium and the outcry from the public caused you to pause and consider whether it would be politically wise to continue taking this illicit money. Your concern for your political future caused you to notify city officials on January 12, 2010 to stop depositing money into your “deferred comp” account – not the fact that such action was unethical and in violation of the City Charter.

Mr. Ziffer - I believe your failure to tell the truth, your willingness to be used as a pawn to gain an illegal appointment, and willingness to accept tainted money disqualifies you from holding a seat on this commission.

Working for you,
Erwin Jackson, PhD
Office: (850) 574-8683
Erwin@ErwinJackson.com

"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have" -Thomas Jefferson

Must See Video: Jackson Exposes Commission Scam - City Commission Meeting on December 2, 2009 www.ErwinJackson.com

Must See Video: "City Commissioners' \$22,000 Money Grab." City Commission Meeting on April 13,2005 www.ErwinJackson.com

Please join me on Facebook at www.facebook.com/erwinjackson to keep up with all the news on **OUR** Campaign for City Commission Seat 5.

City Commissioner Comments

(Tallahassee Democrat 1/15/10)

Question: Was taking “deferred comp” fiscally responsible?

Mr. Marks: “I can’t make that determination at this point because we haven’t gone through the budgetary process”.

Mr. Ziffer: I was “shocked and surprised” by the compensation.

Mr. Gillum: The city commission did nothing “legally wrong”.

Ms. Lightsey & Mr. Katz: Did not return a call from the Tallahassee Democrat.

City Attorney Jim English: “...the compensation (\$22,000) is a benefit not related to salary”.