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Ethics Commission tosses out Jackson's complaints over deferred compensation

By TaMaryn Waters • DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER
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An ethics complaint filed by Tallahassee City Commission candidate Erwin Jackson has been dismissed by the Florida Commission on Ethics for "legal insufficiency."

Jackson, who is running against Commissioner Gil Ziffer this fall, believed the city's former policy on deferred compensation for elected officials was unethical since up to \$22,000 was taken from the city's general budget for the elected officials' retirement instead of their salaries. The policy was set in 2005 but the commission voted to end the practice for elected officials earlier this year.

Despite the ruling, Jackson believes the policy was "wrong."

"I personally felt it was unethical," Jackson said, noting he believes the policy violated the city's charter on pay for elected officials.

Commissioner Andrew Gillum has publicly chided Jackson for his allegations. He said he was offended by Jackson's claims that the commission tried to "defraud" taxpayers.

"I think it was unfortunate that the commission and its reputation had to be slandered and drug through the mud with false accusations and false claims," Gillum said.

Mayor John Marks said Jackson has wasted taxpayers' money since legal fees were spent to represent each official.

Marks said, "I knew and was confident of the outcome."



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