Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 20081, Tampa, FL 33622

President
Gregory J. Mertz
Retired U.S. Secret Service

Vice President
Brooke Wetzork
Retired Defense Criminal Investigative Service

Treasurer
Michael Kovacsev
St. Petersburg Police Department

Secretary
David Romine
Retired, Chief of Police

Minutes

Date: Thursday, December 4,2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Tampa Police Department, 411 N Franklin Street, Tampa, FL 33602, 6 PM

1. Call to Order: 6:08 PM by President Greg Mertz
   a. Board members present: President Greg Mertz, Vice President Brooke Harris Wetzork, Treasurer Mike Kovacsev, Secretary David Romine, Directors: Robert O'Neill, John Wilson, Jeff Young, Anthony Holloway, David Dalton, Kenneth Albano, Tom Pepin, Association President Ruth Cate, Incoming Association President Jeff Peake, Foundation Executive Assistant Starla Kuettner

2. Approval of the Minutes: July 17, 2025: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Pepin. A second was made by Ken Albano. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Committee reports:
   a. Finance report:
      i. Treasurer Mike Kovacsev submitted a written and a verbal financial report. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Jeff Young. A second to approve was made by Anthony Holloway. The financial report was unanimously approved.
      ii. Treasurer Mike Kovacsev submitted a written 2026 TBACOPF Budget (Estimated). A motion to increase Executive Assistant Starla Kuettner's annual salary from $12,000 to $18,000 ($6,000 increase) was made by Robert O'Neill. The second was made by David Dalton. The motion was unanimously approved.
      iii. A motion was made to approve the 2026 (estimated) budget by Robert O'Neill. A second was made by Brooke Harris Wetzork. The budget (estimated) was unanimously approved.

   b. TBACOPA Report:
      i. President Greg Mertz advised that the Association would be moving its meeting locations from Busch Gardens to the TPepin Hospitality Center. The cost of the meetings was discussed. Director Tom Pepin advised that there would be zero sum cost. A motion to approve was made by Anthony Holloway. A second to approve was made by David Daalton. The motion was unanimously approved. President Mertz will sign a contract for this move on behalf of the Foundation.

   c. Training updates:

i. Association President Ruth Cate gave a synopsis of the Tampa Police Department Leadership Academy. There were 24 graduates.

ii. Major Jeff Peake, Pasco County S.O., the Training Coordinator for the Association and the incoming Association President, gave a review of the training programs.

iii. Major Peake advised that the FBI NA Leadership classes will start in January of 2026. The cost for each student will be $550. For every 8 students there will be one free. The Foundation will sponsor 24 students at a cost of $75,000. This cost has been approved in the Foundation budget.

4. New Business:

   a. Foundation salaries were discussed. The Executive Assistant's salary increase was previously approved.
   b. 2026 Gala
      i. Per President Mertz, the location for the 2026 Gala has been moved to the Opal Sol resort on Clearwater Beach. This resort will accommodate 700 people. A site review /visit will be conducted in early January 2026.
      ii. President Mertz has proposed some program changes for the Gala: A review of the seating arrangements, shorten the program time, and maybe forgo the Unsung Hero Award. Also an opportunity for sponsors to review the Gala and venue were discussed.
   c. A report of the PR Pilot Program, via the Catalyst Communications Group, was given. Results so far: Stories secured - 139, Audience / Impressions - 315.87 million, Advertising Value Equivalent / Publicity - $3.34 million. President Mertz encouraged they also push out the Gala.

5. Old Business:
   a. IRS update. President Mertz advised that all issues with the IRS have been resolved except for 2021 which are still pending.

NEXT MEETING
March 4, 2026
1 Buccaneer Place
Tampa, FL 33607
6PM