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 Harris
Retired Defense Criminal Investigative Service

Treasurer
Michael Kovacsev
St. Petersburg Police Department

Secretary
David Romine
Retired, Chief of Police

Agenda

Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: TVT Fox 13 News, 3213 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609

1. Call to Order: 6:20 PM by President Greg Mertz
   a. Board members present: President Greg Mertz, Vice President Brooke Harris Wetzork, Treasurer Mike Kovacsev, Secretary Dave Romine, Directors: Bobby O'Neill, Bob Passwaters, Julie Weintraub (via speaker phone), John Wilson, Lee Bercaw, Anthony Holloway, David Dalton, Ken Albano, Dan Slaughter, Association President Bob Ura, Association Vice President, Ruth Cate.

2. Approval of the minutes: September 28, 2024. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Director Lee Bercaw. A second to approve was made by Director Bobby O'Neill. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Committee reports:

   a. Finance report: Treasurer Mike Kovacsev submitted a written financial report and gave a verbal overview. It was noted that the 2024 Gala was a positive gain overall of $226,000.00. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports was made by Ken Albano. A second to approve was made by Tony Holloway. The Treasurer's Reports were unanimously approved.

      Treasurer Mike Kovacsev submitted a written 2025 TBACOP Budget (Estimated). Director Ken Albano led a discussion on future expenses V revenue. Director Wilson made a motion to approve the 2025 estimated budget as submitted. Director Albano seconded the motion. The 2025 budget was unanimously approved.

      As part of the budget discussion President Mertz brought up a request from Pasco County for a training request of funding for 4 students at $6,600 per student to St. Leo College's Command School. After discussion no vote was taken on this issue.

      A discussion was held on the possible change of venue for the 2026 Gala. A suggestion of possibly Higgins Hall was made. No decision was made at this time. All board members were asked to review and make suggestions.

b. TBACPA report: President Ura gave a brief update on the Association status.

c. Training Updates: Assistant Chief Ruth Cate, Tampa PD (incoming Association President), submitted a course agenda for a proposed TBACPA Leadership Academy. The Academy would start Jan. 2025 and run through Nov. 2025. Every graduate of this program would receive 16 hours of continuing education units from the FDLE. The course was recommended for 50 students, two per agency, at $10,000 per student. An excellent overview of the program was made by Chief Cate. A motion to approve this training program was made by Director Lee Bercaw. A second to approve was made by Director Bobby O'Neill. The motion passed unanimously.

4. New Business:

a. IRS Update: IRS update. President Mertz advised that the IRS has fined us (The Foundation) $10,000. We are appealing.

b. 2025 Gala: The 2025 Gala has been set for September 6, 2025, at the Wyndham Grand, Clearwater Beach. A request for recommendations to improve the Gala was made. The only recommendation was to try to get a / some celebrities to attend. A few suggestions such as: John Gruden, Rob Gronkoski, Titus O'Neil, David Wells, Fred McGriff, were made. It was noted that the Tampa Bay Area had a lot of potential VIP's that might be available and good choices.

5. Old Business: none

6. Adjourn: President Mertz adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM

NEXT MEETING
March 5, 2025
One Buccaneer Place
Tampa, FL 33607
6 PM