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

Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2025
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: One Buccaneer Place, Tampa, FL 33607, 6 PM

1. Call to Order: 6:06 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, Brian Ford, Lee Bercaw, David Dalton, Jim Boyce, Association President Ruth Cate, Foundation Executive Assistant Starla Kuettner, Guests, Ryan Spradlin, Head of Security for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Joe Garcia, Director of Security for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

2. Approval of the minutes: March 5, 2025. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Brooke Harris Wetzork. The second was made by Robert O'Neill. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Committee reports:
    a. Finance report: A written and verbal report was submitted by Foundation Treasurer Mike Kovacsev. A motion to approve the Treasurer's reports was made by Lee Bercaw. The second to approve was made by Robert O'Neill. The Treasurer Reports were unanimously approved.
    b. TBACPA report: Association President Ruth Cate gave a report on the following: There are two Association meetings scheduled for the rest of this year at Busch Gardens. At the invitation of Director Tom Pepin, the Association will vote to move their meetings back to the Pepin Hospitality Center for the next year.
    c. Training updates: Director Lee Bercaw recommended the Foundation memorialize the Leadership Training program currently being funded by the Foundation. The recommendation is for the Foundation to dedicate via the budget future funding for this program.

4. New Business:
    a. IRS update: We are still waiting to hear about the appeal of our 2022 returns.
    b. 2025 Gala: September 6th, 2025, Wyndham Grand, Clearwater Beach .
        i. Starla reported there are 23 tables bought with 20 still available.
        ii. Auction items are still needed and all members are asked to secure.
        iii. President Mertz announced that Richard Gonzmart will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. A video will be needed and Lee Bercaw volunteered

his agency to produce the video. Richard Gonzmart's daughter, Andrea will Narrate the video.

iv. To date the secured vendors are: Alpert Enterprises, Beamworks A.V., Qtego, and Socially Funded.
v. Assistant Chief Mike Kovacsev of the St. Pete PD has confirmed their Police Cadet Program will provide the Gala's Honor Guard.
vi. The singer of the National Anthem is TBD
vii. Award presenters assignments were discussed.

c. President Mertz announced that the 2026 Gala will be held at the Opel Sol on Clearwater Beach on August 29.
d. A pilot public relations program was discussed by President Mertz. There are at least local Police Departments currently interested.

5. Old Business:
   a. The Buccaneers showed a video of their 50th Anniversary year.

6. Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Lee Bercaw. A second to adjourn was made by Robert O'Neill. President Mertz adjourned the meeting at 7:05 PM.

NEXT MEETING
Thursday, December 4, 2025
Tampa Police Department
411 Franklin St. Tampa Florida
6:00 PM