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: Wednesday, March 4, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Zoom

1. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by President Greg Mertz.
Attendees: President Greg Mertz, Vice President Brooke Wetzork, Treasurer Mike Kovacsev Directors Ken Albano, Lee Bercaw, David Romine, Jim Boyce, Jeff Young, Elizabeth Frazier, Dave Dalton, Brian Ford, Executive Assistant Starla Kuettner and Guests, Ryan Spradlin, Buccaneers Chief of Security, and TBACPA President Jeff Peake.

2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the December 12, 2025, meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Motion to approve was made by Director Albano and seconded by Director Frazier. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Committee Reports

A. Finance Report:

i. Treasurer Mike Kovacsev presented the Treasurer's Report. The Foundation currently holds approximately $746,000 in total assets including funds in checking, savings, and Raymond James investment accounts. The savings account was transitioned to a high-yield account at Truist, generating approximately $500 per month in interest.

ii. Recent expenses included the Wix website renewal, the St. Petersburg College Leadership Program ($15,378), and donations to RISE Tampa, Special Olympics, and other charitable initiatives.

iii. The Foundation's tax filings and SunBiz filings have been completed and are current. The Treasurer's Report was approved with a minor date correction noted.

B. TBACPA Report: Jeff Peake provided an update on association training programs

i. FBI Leadership Training, the upcoming Leadership Academy beginning March 20 with 22 participants

ii. Emotional Survival training with Dr. Gil Martin, an upcoming FBI briefing on AI threats and crime, and additional leadership training opportunities.

4. New Business

a. IRS Update: President Mertz provided an update regarding previously unfiled tax returns. Two of the three years have been resolved. The remaining year (2021) is still pending review, though no adverse action is expected.

B. Board of Directors Update: Jim Previtera has accepted a new position with the New York State Horse Racing Association and will no longer serve on the board. Bob Passwaters resigned due to health concerns. The board will consider possible replacements in the future.

C. Gala Planning Update: Starla Kuettner provided an update following

ii. a site visit to the Opal Sol Resort. The venue offers a significantly larger reception space and a ballroom capable of seating approximately 552 guests including head tables. The Gala will utilize 8-top tables.

ii. Sponsorship materials are being updated and a website feature will allow donors to submit auction item donations online.

iii. The negotiated hotel room rate is approximately $269 per night, available for up to three nights before and after the event.

iiii. The board discussed sending Save-the-Date announcements soon, followed by formal invitations once the updated website and sponsorship details are finalized.

5. Old Business

No additional old business was discussed.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:21 PM.

Next Meeting

July 14, 2026

Location: HSI Tampa

2203 N. Lois Ave, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33607