

**CITY OF JACKSONVILLE ETHICS COMMISSION**

117 W. Duval Street, Suite 450

Jacksonville, FL 32202

(904) 255-5510

[ethicscommission@coj.net](mailto:ethicscommission@coj.net)

**COMPLAINT FORM**

**PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, YOU SHOULD CALL THE ETHICS HOTLINE AT (904) 630-1015.**

**1. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT (Complainant):**

Name: Ali Samiian

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Jacksonville County: Duval State: FL Zip: 32246

Contact Information (e-mail; phone #s): [REDACTED]

**2. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS MADE (Respondent):**

State the name, address and contact information of the person whom you believe may have violated the City of Jacksonville Code of Ethics

**\*\*Per Complaint Procedures Rule 5(b), only one (1) person/Respondent may be named in each Complaint**

Name: Terrance Freeman

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Jacksonville County: Duval State: FL Zip: 32244

City position or title: Lobbyist, Ygrene

Contact Information (e-mail; phone #s): [REDACTED]

Have you also filed this complaint with the State Attorney's Office, law enforcement or any other agency? ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, please list all agencies (on separate sheet of paper attached).

**3. ALLEGED VIOLATION(S):**

The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction to address only violations of Chapter 602, the Jacksonville Ethics Code. The Ethics Commission cannot address general complaints of unethical behavior. Your Complaint must allege a specific violation of the Jacksonville Ethics Code that you believe was violated by a specific person. You can review Chapter 602, the Jacksonville Ethics Code, on the Ethics Office webpage using the following link: [http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-office/ethics-code-\(current\).aspx](http://www.coj.net/departments/ethics-office/ethics-code-(current).aspx).

## CITY OF JACKSONVILLE ETHICS COMMISSION

In a separate attachment, please describe in detail each alleged offense, including the following information:

- √ The provision(s) of the Jacksonville Ethics Code (Section 602) that you believe the person named above may have violated;
- √ The facts and action(s) that you believe support the violation(s) you allege, including the dates when the action(s) occurred;
- √ The names and contact information (e-mail address and telephone numbers) of persons you believe may be witnesses to the facts;
- √ A copy of the documents you mention in your statement or would assist in the investigation of this complaint; and
- √ Other evidence that supports your allegations.

### 4. OATH

State of Florida

County of Duval

I swear or affirm that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of  
May, 20 19

**This complaint alleges that Terrance Freeman lobbied members of City Council without registering as required by City ordinance 602.801.**

Freeman worked as a Government Relations Representative for Ygrene, a company that provides loans to homeowners for energy improvements through the PACE Loan program. In order for them to pursue this business, governments must establish the PACE framework in ordinance. Mr. Freeman was employed by Ygrene for the express purpose of lobbying governments to set up these programs in ordinance so that they could sell their products within that governmental boundary.

According to Mr. Freeman's LinkedIn page he was first employed by Ygrene in July 2017.

In a recent article in FloridaPolitics (attached and quote below), two emails from Mr. Freeman from June of 2018 to Councilmen Love and Wilson's assistants are referenced for the purpose of setting up a meeting with the Councilmen to discuss the PACE Loan program.

*Freeman did contact Council members Jim Love and Scott Wilson on business while working for Ygrene Energy, via emails obtained by Florida Politics.*

*"I am requesting to meet with Councilman Love for 30 minutes regarding PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy). My supervisor will be in Jacksonville on the 15th of June and I was wondering if he was taking meetings that mid-morning? If no times are available on the 15th can you check the 18th or 19th as well," Freeman wrote to Love's assistant Freeman wrote similarly to Wilson's assistant.*

*FloridaPolitics article 4/29/19*

The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors opposes the provision in ordinance for the PACE Loan program. Their lobbyist has registered for that issue. (Registration form attached)

JAX

# 'Lobbyist' charge cuts both ways in Jacksonville City Council race

Both candidates have been lobbyists in the past.



By **A.G. Gancarski** on April 30, 2019



With early voting beginning Monday in Jacksonville, at-large Democratic City Council hopeful **Lisa King** charged her opponent with lobbying the Council just before becoming a member.

While his name is not in the official lobbyist registry, emails obtained by Florida Politics (detailed below) suggest that Republican **Terrance Freeman**, appointed in 2018 to the Council, was in fact lobbying future members months before his appointment.

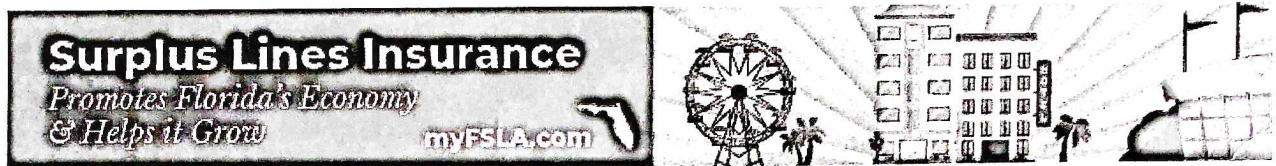
In a statement, King (a former lobbyist herself, per records likewise detailed below) lambasted "lobbyist" Freeman.

What this illustrates: the very inside baseball nature of this race between two



connected serial candidates.

King ran for Council in 2015, and ran for state Democratic Party chair after that; Freeman ran for state House in 2016. Expect that the loser of this race runs for something else, sooner than later.



King, a former chair of the Duval Democrats, said Freeman “was lobbying the City Council at the exact same time he was applying for a City Council seat representing a district he didn’t even live in.”

King’s “lobbyist” charge did not meet one burden of proof.

The Councilman is not listed on the city’s lobbyist page as ever having registered to lobby the city. Nor did he lobby the state on any issues in 2018.

King’s assertion that Freeman was a lobbyist was based on a report from the Florida Times-Union last year upon his appointment.

“For reasons he said he legally cannot speak about, Freeman recently left his job as a lobbyist for a company that loans money for home improvement projects,” wrote City Hall/Outdoors reporter **Chris Hong**.



The T-U article never said which government Freeman was lobbying, and King seems to have drawn an inference that isn’t rooted in the registry.

A Freeman spokesperson noted that “Mr. Freeman was not lobbying the City Council of Jacksonville last year .... she is not entitled to make things up and lie to voters.”

However, though not registered as a lobbyist, Freeman quite arguably was lobbying ... or something close to it.

Freeman did contact Council members Jim Love and Scott Wilson on business while working for Ygrene Energy, via emails obtained by **Florida Politics**.

“I am requesting to meet with Councilman Love for 30 minutes regarding PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy). My supervisor will be in Jacksonville on the 15th of June and I was

wondering if he was taking meetings that mid-morning? If no times are available on the 15th can you check the 18th or 19th as well,” Freeman wrote to Love’s assistant.

Freeman wrote similarly to Wilson’s assistant.

While he wasn’t registered as a lobbyist, the emails were business emails to discuss an issue with what would eventually be future colleagues.

Some may call that lobbying.

Freeman, a former Council assistant, knew how the building worked, and was well-positioned to make a case to those he formerly worked with in a different capacity.

However, as Florida Politics learned Tuesday, King herself has lobbied over the years, representing the city of Orlando starting in 2008 and over a dozen regional Goodwill thrift store companies in front of the Florida Senate starting in 2001.

In other words, one former lobbyist is attacking another former lobbyist for having lobbied, an illustration of the inside baseball at the heart of this race.

King and Freeman have not always been at odds.

Freeman was political affairs manager for the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, during the 2015 campaign cycle.



Ironically, the Chamber endorsed King over Republican **Al Ferraro**.

"King has experience on the Planning Commission and as a local small business executive, as well as a strong understanding of the issues facing our city," read the rave.



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Written By

## A.G. Gancarski

A.G. Gancarski has been a working journalist for over two decades, with bylines in national and local publications alike on subjects ranging from pop music to national and global politics. Gancarski has been a correspondent for FloridaPolitics.com since 2014, and has held a column in Jacksonville, Florida's Folio Weekly for two decades. In 2018, he was a finalist for an Association of Alternative Newsweeklies "best political column." Gancarski is a frequent presence on Jacksonville television and radio, including fill-in slots on WJCT-FM's award-winning talk show "First Coast Connect." He can be reached at [a.g.gancarski@gmail.com](mailto:a.g.gancarski@gmail.com).

 5 COMMENTS

## Lobbyist Details

Garcia Nancy **Active**

**Address**

7801 Deercreek Club Road

**City**

Jacksonville

**State**

FL

**Zip**

32256

**Email Address**

ngarcia@nefar.org

**Primary Phone**

(904) 394-9138

**Initial Registration Date**

3/7/2016 1:44:06 PM

**Latest Renewal Date**

11/15/2018 12:59:26 PM

## Clients

Client	Individual or Business	Business Type	Number of Issues
Northeast Florida Association of Realtors	Business	Trade Association	4

## Issues

Issue	Client	Issue Status
Temporary Directional Signs	Northeast Florida Association of Realtors	Approved



Government Relations

Northeast Florida Association of Realtors

Approved

PACE Loan Program

Northeast Florida Association of Realtors

Approved

Short Term Rentals

Northeast Florida Association of Realtors

Approved