




TOWN OF PALM BEACH

People & Culture Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk Blouin, Town Manager 

FROM: Gillian Barth, Director of People & Culture

RE: Reappointment to the Public Employees Relations Commission Panel for PERC Ordinance Appendix "A" Section 1.003.

DATE: March 11, 2024

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Town Council reappoint Mr. J. Patterson Cooper to fill the position of "Employer Member" to the Town of Palm Beach Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Section 447.022 of the Public Employment Relations Act, a part of Chapter 74-100, Laws of Florida, provided for the adoption of an ordinance ([Appendix A -Public Employee Relations](#)) by municipalities in lieu of the requirement of the State Public Employment Relations Act. This allowed the Town of Palm Beach to create and provide administration for the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC.)

The purpose for the establishment of the PERC is to provide implementation of Section 447.603, Florida Statutes, Chapter 77-343, and to provide harmonious and cooperative relationships between the Town and its employees, both collectively and individually. It also provides for protection of the public by assuring the orderly and uninterrupted operations and functions of government.

Adoption of the Ordinance providing for the Town of Palm Beach Public Employees Relations Commission:

1. Grants to Town employees the right to organize and have representation.
2. Requires the Town to negotiate with bargaining agents duly certified to represent public employees; and
3. Recognizes the constitutional prohibition against strikes by public employees and provides for remedies for violation of such prohibitions.

The Public Employees Relations Commission consists of three individuals, appointed by an independent "Blue Ribbon" panel appointed by the Town Council to four-year staggered terms. Members may succeed themselves in office.

The most recent date the Committee was required to meet on its established 'as needed' basis was September 27, 2012.

However, to meet the requirements of the Ordinance, new members have been appointed or reappointed in the years following.

On October 31, 2023, the current four-year term of the Employer Member, held by J. Patterson Cooper, of the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) expired.

Mr. Cooper, who has served since November 2019, has indicated his interest in seeking another four-year term.

As this is not a new appointment to the Commission, the Blue-Ribbon Panel has not been assembled to (re)recommend these appointments.

Attached you will find a bio for Mr. Cooper, in addition to a list of current PERC members.

FUNDING/FISCAL IMPACT

There is no funding impact to the Town of Palm Beach regarding this issue.

Attachments