



FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW & PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

The Council is required to operate under Florida's open government laws, commonly referred to as the Government in the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Act, which are found in Section 286.011, Florida Statutes and Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, respectively. Generally speaking, there are three basic requirements under the Sunshine Law: (1) meetings of public boards or commissions must be open to the public; (2) reasonable notice of these meetings must be given; and (3) minutes of the meetings must be taken and made available to the public. Likewise, under the Public Records Act, the general requirement is that any document or record, in whatever form, that is made or received pursuant to law or in connection with the transaction of official business, is open for inspection by any person. These laws are to be given a liberal construction, and it is thus the Council's policy to err on the side of caution – if an activity or record is arguably subject to Florida's open government laws, it should be treated as though covered.

All meetings, telephone calls, or conference call between two or more Council and/or task force resource members, at which official business or acts of the Council, Committee or task force are to be taken or at which discussion of any such official acts is to take place, are subject to the Florida Sunshine Law requirements.