

RESOLUTION NO. 14-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, FINDING THAT THE ETHICS COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS AGAINST COMMISSIONER TRANTALIS AROSE OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES WHILE SERVING A PUBLIC PURPOSE AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$780.00 TO MESSER CAPARELLO, P.A., INCURRED BY COMMISSIONER TRANTALIS IN DEFENDING AGAINST THE COMPLAINT.

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WHEREAS, a complaint was filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics against Commissioner Trantalis by William Scherer on November 19, 2013 alleging violations of the State Code of Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Commission on Ethics subsequently dismissed the complaint against Commissioner Trantalis finding no probable cause regarding the allegations; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Trantalis retained Messer Caparello, P.A. to represent him with regard to his ethics complaint and is now seeking payment of such legal costs from the City in the amount of \$780.00; and

WHEREAS, section 2-42(b) of the Code of Ordinances provides for the City to pay for such expenses incurred by reason of such official being a city official to the extent allowed by state law; and

WHEREAS, state law provides that public officials are entitled to representation at the public's expense when the proceedings arise out of or in connection with performance of their official duties and serve a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2014, the City Commission made a determination that Commissioner Trantalis' ethics complaint arose out of or in connection with performance of the Commissioner's official duties and serve a public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City Commission hereby finds that the ethics complaint filed with the Florida Commission on Ethics against Commissioner Trantalis arose out of or in connection with the performance of his official duties while serving a public purpose and hereby authorizes payment of his legal fees in the amount of \$780.00 to the firm of Messer Caparello, P.A., incurred as a result of defending against such complaint.

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon and after its passage.

ADOPTED this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

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Mayor  
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

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City Clerk  
JONDA K. JOSEPH