



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

**CITIZEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION
2017 REPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF 20.058 F.S.**

Citizen Support Organization (CSO) Name: Friends of Our Florida Reefs, Inc (FOFR).

Mailing Address: 527 NE 16th St, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Legal Address: c/o Divers Direct 180 Gulf Stream Way, Dania, Florida 33004

Telephone: 310-741-7617 Website Address: www.floridareef.org Email: info@floridareef.org

Statutory Authority:

Section 20.2551, F.S., Citizen support organizations; use of property; audit; public records; partnerships.

In summary, the statute specifies the organizational requirements, operational parameters, duties of a CSO to support the Department of Environmental Protection (Department), or individual units of the Department, use of Department property, audit requirements, public records requirements, and authorizes public-private partnerships to enhance lands managed by the Department.

Brief Description of the CSO's Mission:

Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR) is a registered 501c3 nonprofit citizen support organization dedicated to conserving and protecting over 100 miles of vital coral reefs directly offshore between Miami-Dade and Martin Counties in SE Florida by enhancing and complementing the critical efforts and programs of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program (FDEP CRCP).

Brief Description of the CSO's Results Obtained:

Year 2016 marked FOFR's first full year as an incorporated NPO/NGO/CSO working closely with the FDEP CRCP. As in the year before in which FOFR was initially incorporated and launched, 2016 was primarily focused on building general capacity and support with several board director meetings, fundraising and grant writing. FOFR amply assisted the FDEP CRCP with regional outreach and education, as well as helping the agency with known budget gaps, in-kind needs, and rapid response. FOFR was key in assisting the FDEP CRCP to coordinate and hold the the first in-water SEAFAN Bleachwatch training in September 2016 in Broward County with the intent for the trainings to be expanded in summer 2017.

Brief Description of the CSO's Plans for Next Three Fiscal Years:

FOFR's plan for the next three years is to maintain and increase a significant reserve to assist the FDEP CRCP with its known and unknown needs and budget gaps – long term (projects in discussion), short term, rapid response. FOFR will strive to build reserves of at least \$15,000 while also providing mutually approved programs/activities and FDEP CRCP requested funding/support. FOFR plans to develop its own programs and activities that directly benefit the FDEP CRCP and the resource in cooperation of the agency and various partners/stakeholders.

- Copy of the CSO's Code of Ethics attached - YES**
- Certify the CSO has completed and provided to the Department the organization's most recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-N/Annual Financial Statement –
Please see FOFR's Tax Year 2016 990 Postcard Receipt**

FRIENDS OF OUR FLORIDA REEFS, INC.
CODE OF ETHICS

PREAMBLE

- (1) It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of Friends of Our Florida Reefs, Inc. (herein “CSO”) that its board members, officers, and employees be independent and impartial and that their position not be used for private gain. Therefore, the Florida Legislature in Section 112.3251, Florida Statute (Fla. Stat.), requires that the law protect against any conflict of interest and establish standards for the conduct of CSO board members, officers, and employees in situations where conflicts may exist.

- (2) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state that no CSO board member, officer, or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or incur any obligation of any nature which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of his or her duties for the CSO. To implement this policy and strengthen the faith and confidence of the people in Citizen Support Organizations, there is enacted a code of ethics setting forth standards of conduct required of Friends of Our Florida Reefs, Inc. board members, officers, and employees in the performance of their official duties.

STANDARDS

The following standards of conduct are enumerated in Chapter 112, Fla. Stat., and are required by Section 112.3251, Fla. Stat., to be observed by CSO board members, officers, and employees.

1. Prohibition of Solicitation or Acceptance of Gifts

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall solicit or accept anything of value to the recipient, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the vote, official action, or judgment of the CSO board member, officer, or employee would be influenced thereby.

2. Prohibition of Accepting Compensation Given to Influence a Vote

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall accept any compensation, payment, or thing of value when the person knows, or, with reasonable care, should know that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the CSO board member, officer, or employee was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

3. Salary and Expenses

No CSO board member or officer shall be prohibited from voting on a matter affecting his or her salary, expenses, or other compensation as a CSO board member or officer, as provided by law.

4. Prohibition of Misuse of Position

A CSO board member, officer, or employee shall not corruptly use or attempt to use one's official position or any property or resource which may be within one's trust, or perform official duties, to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption.

5. Prohibition of Misuse of Privileged Information

No CSO board member, officer, or employee shall disclose or use information not available to members of the general public and gained by reason of one's official position for one's own personal gain or benefit or for the personal gain or benefit of any other person or business entity.

6. Post-Office/Employment Restrictions

A person who has been elected to any CSO board or office or who is employed by a CSO may not personally represent another person or entity for compensation before the governing body of the CSO of which he or she was a board member, officer, or employee for a period of two years after he or she vacates that office or employment position.

7. Prohibition of Employees Holding Office

No person may be, at one time, both a CSO employee and a CSO board member at the same time.

8. Requirements to Abstain From Voting

A CSO board member or officer shall not vote in official capacity upon any measure which would affect his or her special private gain or loss, or which he or she knows would affect the special gain or any principal by whom the board member or officer is retained. When abstaining, the CSO board member or officer, prior to the vote being taken, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the CSO board member or officer to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

9. Failure to Observe CSO Code of Ethics

Failure of a CSO board member, officer, or employee to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the removal of that person from their position. Further, failure of the CSO to observe the Code of Ethics may result in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection terminating its Agreement with the CSO.

June 10, 2015

Form **990-N****Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)**

OMB No. 1545-2085

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**for Tax-Exempt Organization not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ****2016**

Open to Public Inspection

A For the **2016** Calendar year, or tax year beginning **2016-01-01** and ending **2016-12-31****B** Check if available **Terminated for Business** **Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less****C** Name of Organization: **FRIENDS OF OUR FLORIDA REEFS****180 Gulf Stream Way, Dania****Beach, FL, US, 33004****D** Employee IdentificationNumber **47-3822204****E** Website:**www.floridareef.org****F** Name of Principal Officer: **Scott Sheckman****527 NE 16th Street, Fort****Lauderdale, FL, US, 33304**

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice: We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws.

The organization is not required to provide information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. The rules governing the confidentiality of the Form 990-N is covered in code section 6104.

The time needed to complete and file this form and related schedules will vary depending on the individual circumstances. The estimated average times is 15 minutes.

Note: This image is provided for your records only. Do Not mail this page to the IRS. The IRS will not accept this filing via paper. You must file your Form 990-N (e-Postcard) electronically.