

# Temple Terrace Won't Review Chillura Ethics

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TEMPLE TERRACE - The Temple Terrace City Council cleared the air Tuesday night with a discussion about a member's real estate holdings and questions about law and ethics boundaries.

The council will not ask the Florida Commission on Ethics to review the conduct of Councilman Frank Chillura. He has voted on 28 general matters concerning the city's community redevelopment area while owning two properties there, according to city clerk records. Members of the council expressed their opinions on the matter during an open discussion at a council meeting at Temple Terrace City Hall.

"I have been the subject of an ethics investigation," Councilwoman Glenda Venable said. "It is a painful process, and I do not want to put Frank through that."

Venable raised ethics concerns about Chillura's real estate ventures and sought advice from City Attorney Ted Taub after attending a course at the Institute for Elected Municipal Officials in January. She acknowledged Tuesday that "gossip" about Chillura's involvement with an unnamed developer's project left her thinking "something smelled bad."

During the council discussion, Venable fell in line with the others in commending Chillura's personal character. Councilmen Ken Halloway and Ron Govin praised Chillura for his performance and integrity.

Grant Rimbey, a constituent who spoke during a public comment period, asked the council to have the ethics commission weigh in for clarity and to preserve the integrity of the city's ongoing redevelopment effort.

Councilwoman Linda Shattles, who sells real estate in Temple Terrace, said she sought Taub's advice after having her own concerns about how her business would be viewed in light of her city council obligations. Chillura said he has done the same thing.

Before Tuesday's meeting, Chillura had abstained six times from votes directly related to properties adjacent to his own. He followed that practice again Tuesday by abstaining from a council vote and discussion about changes to the development codes for properties in the redevelopment area.

Mayor Joe Affronti said he considers the matter closed and wants the city to move on to more important matters.