

**BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**In re: Omari Hardy,
Respondent.**

**Complaint Nos.: 20-165 & 20-184
(Consolidated)**

JOINT STIPULATION OF FACT, LAW, AND RECOMMENDED ORDER

Respondent, Omari Hardy, and the Advocate for the Florida Commission on Ethics enter into this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order with respect to the above-styled Complaint. Subject to acceptance by the Commission on Ethics, the parties agree to enter into this stipulated settlement in lieu of further hearings in this cause. The parties stipulate as follows:

STIPULATED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent served as a member of the Lake Worth City Commission and as a candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, and as such was subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.
2. On August 27, 2020 and September 11, 2020, sworn Complaints were filed with the Commission on Ethics alleging a violation of the Code of Ethics.
3. Pursuant to Section 112.322, Florida Statutes, the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics found that the Complaint was legally sufficient and ordered a Preliminary Investigation for a Probable Cause Determination into whether Respondent had violated the Code of Ethics.
4. The Report of Investigation was released on November 4, 2021.

5. On March 9, 2022, the Commission on Ethics entered an Order Finding Probable Cause to believe Respondent violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate 2019 CE Form 6, "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests."

6. Respondent admits the facts as set forth in the Report of Investigation which is incorporated by reference in this Joint Stipulation.

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

7. Respondent is subject to the provisions of Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

8. The Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction over the Complaint filed in this proceeding and over Respondent.

9. Respondent admits the facts as set forth in the Stipulated Findings of Fact above.

10. Respondent violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate 2019 CE Form 6, "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests."

STIPULATED RECOMMENDED ORDER

13. The Advocate accepts Respondent's stipulation in this proceeding.

14. The Advocate and Respondent have entered into this Joint Stipulation and urge the Commission on Ethics to approve it in lieu of further hearings in this cause.

15. Therefore, the Advocate recommends that:

(a) The Commission on Ethics approve this Joint Stipulation, embodying the stipulations, admissions, and recommendations of the parties; and

(b) The Commission on Ethics enter a Final Order and Public Report consistent with this Joint Stipulation finding that Respondent violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, and recommending:

- (1) Public censure and reprimand of Respondent; and
- (2) A civil penalty of:
\$1000 for the year 2019.

(c) The Commission on Ethics enter a Final Order and Public Report consistent with this Joint Stipulation finding that Respondent violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, and refer the matter to the Speaker of the House for action consistent with Section 112.324(8)(e), Florida Statutes.

FURTHER STIPULATIONS

17. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate and covenant that they have freely and voluntarily entered into this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order with full knowledge and understanding of its contents. Respondent and the Advocate further stipulate and covenant that this Joint Stipulation constitutes the full agreement of the parties and that there are no oral or written understandings between the parties other than those contained in this Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order.

18. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate and covenant that, in consideration of the provisions of this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order, Respondent and the Advocate accept and will comply with the above-referenced Final Order and Public Report of the Commission on Ethics.

19. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate that this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order is submitted to the Commission on Ethics for its consideration and

ratification. In the event that it is not approved by the Commission on Ethics as written, this document shall be of no purpose and effect and shall not be deemed an admission by Respondent.

20. Respondent enters into this Joint Stipulation with the understanding of the seriousness of the allegations and gives his assurance that this proceeding has affected the manner in which he conducts himself as a public official in a positive way.

21. Effective upon approval of this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order by the Commission on Ethics, Respondent waives all time, notice, and hearing rights, requirements, and entitlements, as to all subsequent hearings in this proceeding.

Signed, dated, and entered into:

this 13th day of May, 2022.



MELODY A. HADLEY
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on Ethics
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Signed, dated, and entered into:

this ___ day of _____, 2022.



OMARI HARDY
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