

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re FREDDIE FIGGERS,)	Financial Disclosure Appeal No. FD 22-019
)	
Appellant.)	Final Order No.
_____)	

FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the Commission on Ethics, meeting in public session on March 8, 2024, on the timely appeal of Appellant, pursuant to Section 112.3145(8)(f), Florida Statutes, which assesses an automatic fine of \$25 per day on a person who fails to timely file a required CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. The Commission may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown, based on "unusual circumstances" surrounding the failure to file by the designated date. There are no matters in dispute. Appellant has not requested a hearing before the Commission.

Findings of Fact

1. Appellant serves as a Commissioner of the State of Florida Commission on Ethics. In 2021, Appellant served as a member of the Board of Directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc., a position requiring the filing of a CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, for the year 2021. The designated due date for submitting a 2021 CE Form 1 annual filing was July 1, 2022, with a grace period ending on September 1, 2022.

2. On May 17, 2022, the Commission on Ethics sent Appellant a 2021 CE Form 1. The notice was sent to Appellant at 3810 Inverrary Blvd. Ste. 401, Lauderhill, FL, which is the address for several business entities with which Appellant is associated.

3. On July 29, 2022, the Commission on Ethics sent Appellant a Notice of Delinquency by certified mail. The notice was sent to Appellant at the Lauderhill address. U. S. Postal Service records indicate that the mailing was signed for and delivered, though it is unclear from the record who signed for it.

4. On August 9, 2022, Commission staff emailed Appellant a copy of his 2020 CE Form 1 filing (the prior-year form) and a blank 2021 CE Form 1. This email was also addressed to Katie Richardson.

5. Katie Richardson was, according to Appellant, an employee at Enterprise Florida who coordinated matters for the members of the Board of Directors, including Appellant. Historically, according to Appellant, she would coordinate with members and assist them with filing their financial disclosure forms with the Commission on Ethics.

6. On August 18, 2022, the Commission on Ethics mailed Appellant a postcard intended as a reminder of the obligation to file a 2021 CE Form 1. The Commission mailed the postcard to the Lauderhill address.

7. On September 13, 2022, the Commission sent Appellant a courtesy notice indicating that fines were beginning to accrue as the 2021 CE Form 1 had not been received. The notice was sent to the Lauderhill address.

8. On September 19, 2022, Appellant emailed Katie Richardson. The entire text of the email was: "Hello, Katie, I hope all is well. I thought this was taken care of? Freddie Figgers."

9. Later that day, Katie Richardson emailed Emily Prine, an employee of the Commission's Financial Disclosure Unit, with the following message: "Emily, I hope you had a nice weekend! Will you please let Freddie and I know what we're missing on this. We both thought this was taken care of."

10. On September 21, 2022, Kimberly Holmes, Program Administrator of the Commission's Financial Disclosure Unit, left Katie Richardson a voicemail requesting a call back.

11. On October 3, 2022, Kimberly Holmes emailed Katie Richardson to alert her that the Commission had not yet received Appellant's 2021 CE Form 1 filing. The email included instructions for filing the 2021 CE Form 1.

12. On December 8, 2022, Emily Prine emailed Appellant to notify him that the maximum automatic fine of \$1,500 had accrued. The email included instructions for filing the 2021 CE Form 1, which had not yet been received.

13. On December 12, 2022, Appellant emailed both Emily Prine and Katie Richardson with the following message: "Hello, I am following up on this was taken care of?"

14. Later that day, Emily Prine responded by email that Appellant's 2021 CE Form 1 had not yet been received. Immediately after the email, Emily Prine and Appellant shared a phone call on the status of the 2021 CE Form 1.

15. On July 28, 2023, Appellant submitted the 2021 CE Form 1 to the Commission on Ethics in person.

16. On November 30, 2023, the Commission sent by certified mail a Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine to Appellant at the Lauderhill address. This mailing indicated the total of Appellant's accrued automatic fine and included a notice of the right to appeal the fine, stating that the appeal had to be received by the Commission by January 2, 2024.

17. On December 29, 2023, Appellant emailed his appeal to the Commission. Because the Commission office was subject to an administrative closure that day, the appeal was deemed filed on the next business day, January 2, 2024. The Commission received hard copy of the appeal by mail on January 3, 2024.

18. In the appeal, Appellant stated he had relied on the administrative staff of Enterprise Florida and their "longstanding practice of efficient and error-free administrative support." Appellant informed Commission staff, in the processing of this appeal, that he remembered signing a financial disclosure form and giving it to administrative staff at Enterprise Florida for processing, as he had done in years past. Additionally, Appellant states in his appeal that he did not receive the July 29, 2022 mailing sent by certified mail. Appellant does not know who signed for the certified mailing.

19. The total amount of the automatic fine levied against Appellant was \$1,500.

Conclusions of Law

20. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding pursuant to Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes.

21. Financial disclosure is required of public officials and employees because it enables the public to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, deters corruption, and increases public confidence in government.

22. Section 112.3145(8)(g), Florida Statutes, states:

Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in writing and received by the commission within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unusual circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail account or failure to receive notice if the person has not notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail address.

23. Here, Appellant states he completed a 2021 CE Form 1 timely and gave it to administrative staff at Enterprise Florida for processing, as had been the usual practice there in years past. In In re Alexander Patterson Johns, Financial Disclosure Appeal No. FD 19-053, Final Order No. 20-072, we found a similar explanation to provide an unusual circumstance warranting the waiver of an assessed fine. In Johns, the appellant filled out his financial disclosure form and gave it to another person to mail, but the financial form did not arrive at the Commission. Here, as was true in Johns, Appellant's explanation is credible and undisputed by any evidence available to the Commission on Ethics. Appellant's assertion that he timely filled out the 2021 CE Form 1 is consistent with the emails he sent September 19, 2022 and December 12, 2022, indicating that he thought the matter had been "taken care of," and is consistent with Ms. Richardson's assertion in her September 19, 2022 email to the Commission that she also thought it had been "taken care of."

24. For these reasons, it appears Appellant's basis for the appeal of the fine constitutes an "unusual circumstance" that justifies waiving the \$1,500 fine.

Order

Based on the foregoing facts and conclusions of law, the Commission hereby waives the assessed fine of \$1,500.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on
Friday, March 8, 2024.

Date Rendered

Ashley Lukis
Chair, Florida Commission on Ethics

THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES FINAL AGENCY ACTION. ANY PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER HAS THE RIGHT TO SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW UNDER SECTION 120.68, AND SECTION 112.3241, FLORIDA STATUTES, BY FILING A NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL PURSUANT TO RULE 9.110 FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE, WITH THE CLERK OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS, AT EITHER 325 JOHN KNOX ROAD, BUILDING E, SUITE 200, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32303 OR P.O. DRAWER 15709, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-5709; AND BY FILING A COPY OF THE NOTICE OF APPEAL ATTACHED TO WHICH IS A CONFORMED COPY OF THE ORDER DESIGNATED IN THE NOTICE OF APPEAL ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPLICABLE FILING FEES WITH THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL. THE NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE THIS ORDER IS RENDERED.

AL:sjz

Mr. Freddie Figgers
3810 Inverrary Blvd. Ste. 401
Lauderhill, FL 32319

Zuilkowski, Steven

From: Freddie Figgers <freddie@figgers.com>
Sent: Friday, December 29, 2023 10:39 AM
To: Stillman, Kerrie
Cc: Zuilkowski, Steven
Subject: Re: Notice of shipment
Attachments: Outlook-CEO; Outlook-Figgers Wj; Outlook-icon; Outlook-icon; Outlook-icon; Outlook-icon; Outlook-image; Appeal.pdf

FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
JAN 02 2024
RECEIVED

You don't often get email from freddie@figgers.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning, Ms Stillman and Mr. Zuilkowski,

Please see the attached.



Freddie Figgers
Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.
Toll Free: 1-800-223-5435 Ext:201,
Fax: 1-800-281-3149
Freddie@Figgers.com
3810 Inverrary Blvd, Suite: 401
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319
Figgers.com



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From: Stillman, Kerrie <STILLMAN.KERRIE@leg.state.fl.us>
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2023 5:11 PM
To: Freddie Figgers <freddie@figgers.com>
Cc: Zuilkowski, Steven <ZUILKOWSKI.STEVEN@leg.state.fl.us>; Stillman, Kerrie <STILLMAN.KERRIE@leg.state.fl.us>
Subject: Notice of shipment

Commissioner Figgers,

Good afternoon. I tried to reach you by phone today but was unable to reach you through your assistant. I received an email notification that you are shipping something to the Commission with an anticipated delivery date of tomorrow. The Commission's office will be closed tomorrow and Monday. If the shipment is your financial disclosure appeal, I would ask that you please go ahead and email it to us so that we are sure to receive it, just in case the shipment gets delayed or returned to you because the office is closed when they attempt delivery.

Respectfully,

Kerrie



STATE OF FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Telephone: (850) 488-7864
Fax: (850) 488-3077
Email: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us

APPEAL OF AUTOMATIC FINE FOR FORM YEAR 2021

DIRECTIONS: The information you provide in this form is critical for processing your appeal in a timely manner.

In Part A, please provide current contact information. If your contact information changes while your appeal is being processed, please notify us.

In Part B, please check any boxes that specify the general reason(s) for your appeal.

In Part C, please explain in detail the reason(s) for your appeal. In addition to your written explanation in Part C, you may attach any documents that support your appeal.

IMPORTANT: TO PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL, THIS FORM OR OTHER WRITTEN APPEAL (AND ANY ATTACHMENTS) MUST BE FILED WITH (RECEIVED BY) THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE THE NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF AUTOMATIC FINE WAS MAILED TO YOU.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Mailing Address: Commission on Ethics
P.O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709

Physical Address: Commission on Ethics
325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Fax: (850) 488-3077

Email: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us

PART A: YOUR INFORMATION

Name: Freddie Figgers

Address: 3810 Inverray Blvd City: Fort Lauderdale State: FL Zip: 33319

Daytime Tel.: 800-223-5435 Cell: 786-716-1883

Email: Freddie@figgers.com Filer ID# (if known): _____

Public Employer: _____

Public Position: _____

CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE

PART B: GENERAL REASON(S) FOR YOUR APPEAL

Please choose any/all reasons that apply to your appeal.

I hereby appeal the Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine on the following basis:

- a. **Sickness or injury** (Explain in Part C and attach a statement from attending physician, including dates and nature of illness or injury)
- b. **Lack of notification – Failure to receive notice** (Explain in Part C and provide documentation that supports your assertion that you never received certified mail delinquency notice: for example, incorrect address; misdelivered mail; change in employment; extended absence from home, etc.)
- c. **Claim of timely filing of financial disclosure** (Explain in Part C and provide copy of certified mail receipt and/or copy of completed form which had been previously filed, along with a sworn notarized statement that you filed prior to the deadline)
- d. **Left public position prior to December 31, 2021** (Explain in Part C and provide confirmation from agency that your office-holding/employment ended before 12/31/2021)
- e. **Other unusual circumstance** (Explain in Part C and provide documentation explaining uncommon, rare, or sudden occurrence that prevented timely filing prior to deadline)
- f. **Not required to file** (Explain in Part C and provide documentation that supports reason for not required to file)

PART C: DETAILED EXPLANATION OF YOUR APPEAL

Please provide a detailed explanation of your appeal, including why each option you selected in Part B is applicable to you. You may use the space provided and/or attach additional pages.

Please see Attached

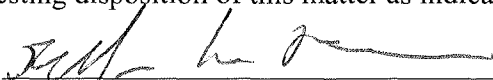
OPTIONAL REQUEST FOR HEARING

In addition to this written appeal, I specifically request to appear before the Commission in a hearing pursuant to Section 112.3144(8)(f)3 or Section 112.3145(8)(g)3, Florida Statutes. Commission meetings occur in Tallahassee.

SIGNATURE

I have received and read the Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine and its instructions on How to Appeal and I understand my options. I am requesting disposition of this matter as indicated.

12-20-2023
DATE


SIGNATURE



Tuesday, December 19, 2023

The Florida Commission on Ethics

325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Subject: Detailed Appeal Concerning Non-Receipt of Form 1 Statement of Financial Interests for the Year 2021

Honorable Members of the Florida Commission on Ethics,

I write to you with a deep sense of responsibility and urgency regarding the recent notice of non-receipt of my Form 1 Statement of Financial Interests for the year 2021. As a committed board member of Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), and a public servant appointed to the prestigious Florida Commission on Ethics, I have always endeavored to uphold the highest standards of transparency and integrity. This letter aims to provide an exhaustive explanation, shedding light on the series of events and circumstances that have led to the current situation.

Introduction to the Circumstances:

Upon receiving the notice concerning the non-receipt of the required financial disclosure, I was both surprised and deeply concerned. Historically, the process of completing and submitting these forms has been managed by the administrative staff at EFI, a protocol I trusted and relied upon throughout my term. My role as a board member, and subsequently as vice chair, was marked by active and conscientious participation in EFI's mission-driven activities, always with a keen awareness of the ethical obligations it entailed.

1. Historical Reliance on Established Protocols:

My tenure on the EFI Board began on June 9, 2021, and concluded on May 31, 2023. Throughout this period, the administrative handling of financial disclosures was a well-established process, managed by staff members whose primary responsibility included ensuring compliance with such requirements. My involvement in EFI's affairs was extensive and proactive, with a particular emphasis on contributing to Florida's economic growth and participating in strategic decision-making. The trust placed in EFI's internal processes was based on a historical precedent of accuracy and reliability. There are annual dues with Enterprise Florida business members. My commitment and active engagement with EFI's mission was to bring attention along with thriving businesses to Florida to support the economy.



1-800-223-5435



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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319



2. Administrative and Communication Challenges:

The reliance on EFI staff for the submission of the Form 1 Statement was based on a longstanding practice of efficient and error-free administrative support. The attached email correspondence from EFI staff implied that my financial disclosure for 2021 had been properly filed. This belief was shared and reinforced by the absence of any indication or communication to the contrary until the recent notice. Such unexpected administrative oversights point to a breakdown in communication and procedural follow-through, which, while unintentional, had serious implications for me, unbeknownst. I only found out when I was appointed to the Florida Commission on Ethics during the first meeting. As soon as I was informed, I met with the general counsel after the first commission meeting and immediately submitted the form and requested an appeal.

3. Complications in Document Reception:

The reception of important documents was further complicated by the unique challenges presented by the shared mailroom at the address associated with my business entities. The certified letter, allegedly delivered and signed by an unknown individual, highlights the vulnerabilities in the mail reception process. This incident is not isolated but part of a pattern of mail-related issues at this location, raising legitimate concerns about the security and reliability of receipt of critical communications. I did not receive notifications nor phone calls; the correspondents were going to Enterprise Florida staff. A fact unknown to me. Once EFI staff was notified of job security, staff was limited, and communication was broken.

4. Organizational Transitions and Legislative Impacts:

The enactment of House Bill 5 introduced significant changes within EFI, mandating a transition of duties and functions to the Department of Commerce. This legislative shift led to a period of organizational upheaval, marked by the resignation of key personnel and a general atmosphere of transition. It is within this context of change and uncertainty that the oversight regarding my financial disclosure likely occurred. Please see the attached.

5. My Commitment to Ethical Service:

My appointment to the Florida Commission on Ethics reflects my unwavering commitment to serving with integrity and honor. This role is not merely a position but a solemn responsibility that I hold in the highest regard. As the founder of Figgers Communication and the Figgers Foundation, my professional and philanthropic endeavors have always been guided by a strong ethical compass. The notion of inadvertently failing to comply with financial disclosure requirements is contrary to everything I stand for and have worked towards.



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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319





6. Moving Forward with Resolution:

Understanding the critical importance of financial disclosures and management of it, myself, as well in maintaining public trust and ensuring transparency, I am fully committed to rectifying this situation. I seek to engage with the Commission proactively and transparently to resolve any discrepancies and ensure complete compliance going forward.

Conclusion:

In presenting this detailed account, I intend to provide the Commission with a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances leading to the current situation. I respectfully request a thorough review and consideration of this appeal, considering the complex interplay of factors that have contributed to this unfortunate oversight.

I deeply appreciate the Commission's attention to this matter and the critical role it plays in upholding ethical standards within our State. Our work is fundamental to the integrity of our public service in Florida, and I am committed to fully supporting and cooperating with the Commission's processes.

Thank you for considering my appeal. I eagerly await your guidance and am hopeful for a resolution that acknowledges the unique circumstances of this case while reinforcing our shared commitment to ethics and transparency.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Freddie Figgers'.

FREDDIE FIGGERS
President & CEO



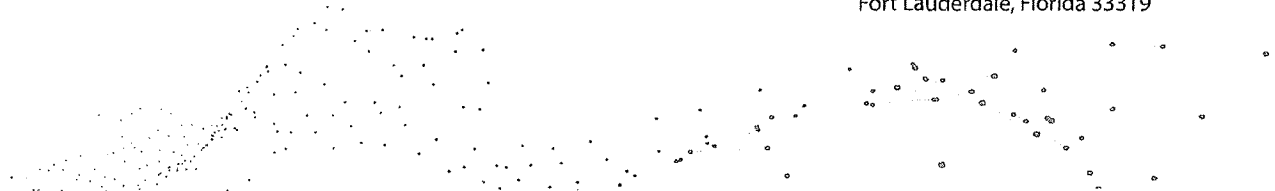
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NEWS / BUSINESS

State lawmakers take aim at Enterprise Florida

A bill filed Monday proposes shifting Enterprise Florida's funding to the state Department of Economic Opportunity.



House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, called for the elimination of the public-private agency as he discussed priorities for the session. [Photo illustration| Times]

By News Service of Florida

Published March 8 | Updated March 8

TALLAHASSEE — Enterprise Florida, the state's business-recruitment agency, once again found itself in the crosshairs of the Florida House as the 2023 legislative session opened Tuesday.

House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, called for the elimination of the state agency as he discussed priorities for the session.

Renner said he would "jealously guard taxpayers' money, ensuring it's not spent on programs or agencies that have outlived their usefulness," Renner said. "Enterprise Florida has overpromised and underdelivered for years and drains funds from higher priorities. If this were Washington, D.C., it would live on forever, unchanged and unchallenged, but the Florida way requires us to retain only what works and eliminate what does not."

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A bill filed Monday, HB 5, proposes shifting Enterprise Florida's funding to the state Department of Economic Opportunity.

Renner later told reporters that some adjustments will be made to the bill, but people and businesses have come to the state without incentives from Enterprise Florida. He said \$13 million in funding this year for Enterprise Florida could be better used in other areas.

"The idea that it has delivered on its promises I think, in my opinion, is just not the case," Renner said. "Do we really need a separate board, with people who are there, or can we more streamline what we're doing and really not waste taxpayer dollars?"

House leaders targeted the agency in the past, including during high-profile clashes with then-Gov. Rick Scott over economic incentives.

Former House Speaker Richard Corcoran repeatedly referred to incentives offered directly to companies as "corporate welfare." Corcoran's successor as speaker, Jose Oliva, described incentive deals as going against the free market and favoring large corporations.

Enterprise Florida survived but with less funding.

Also, as a compromise with Scott, lawmakers created the Job Growth Grant Fund. The governor can distribute money from that fund to regional infrastructure and job-training programs.

Gov Ron DeSantis has requested \$100 million for the Job Growth Grant Fund next fiscal year, up from \$50 million in the current year.

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With the Job Growth Grant Fund in hand, DeSantis has shown less interest than Scott in Enterprise Florida.

In February, the Enterprise Florida Board of Directors elevated Laura DiBella as head of the agency.

Renner took aim at Enterprise Florida as he and Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, outlined priorities on the opening day of the session. Both also praised DeSantis, who is widely expected to run for president in 2024.

Defended our conservative values, challenged the individuals and groups who pose threats to others and introduced innovative solutions to the state. It is often said that states are laboratories for democracy,"

Passidomo said. "Under the leadership of Gov. DeSantis, Florida is more than a laboratory — we are the model."

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Passidomo promoted legislation on issues such as storm hardening and resiliency, border security, school choice and allowing people to carry guns without concealed weapons licenses.

Passidomo said the full Senate this week will take up bills to address affordable housing and a state wildlife corridor, two of her top priorities.

“With this legislation, all of the families, workers, law enforcement officers, teachers and so many others who are flocking to Florida from high-tax, lockdown states can live conveniently close to the communities they serve,” Passidomo said of the housing bill (SB 102). “I am confident this legislation will pass tomorrow with overwhelming support.”

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Renner supported the housing proposal, which is called the Live Local Act.

The bill would provide incentives for private investment in affordable housing, encourage mixed-use development in struggling commercial areas, preempt local-government rules on density and building heights in certain circumstances and bar local rent controls.

By Jim Turner

UP NEXT: [Toni Says: Is it too late to buy a long-term care policy?](#)

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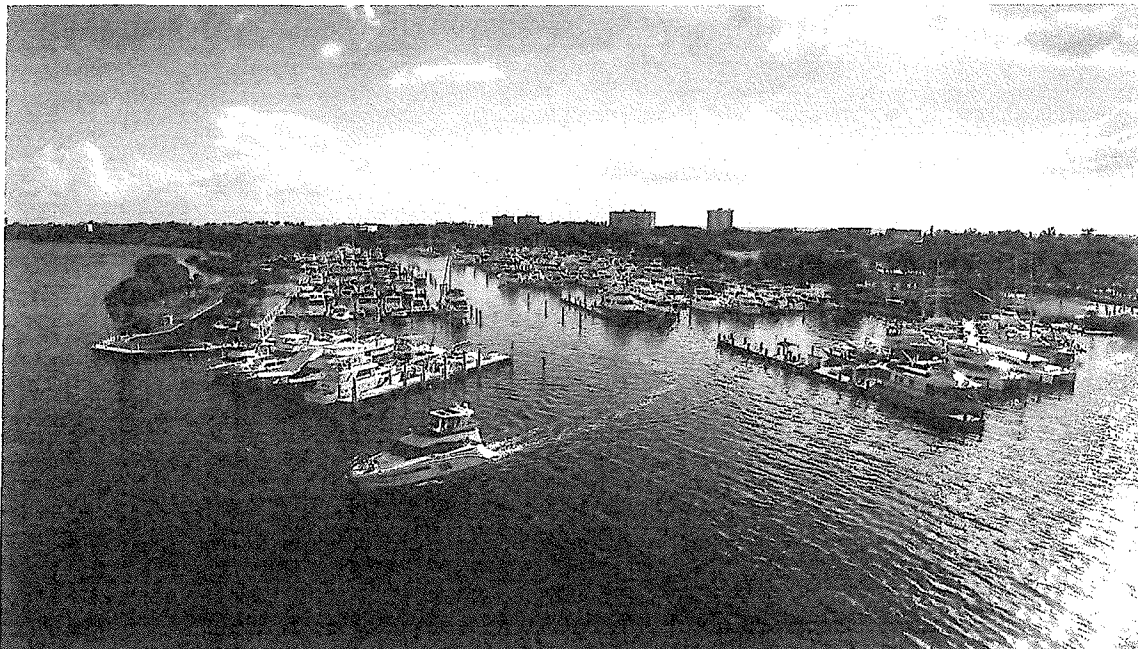
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The Life and Death of Enterprise Florida

For three decades, Florida looked to EFI to lead economic development. What went wrong?



Sarasota Marina is emblematic of the coastal lifestyle that people think of when they think of Florida. Will it be enough to keep lucrative economic development flowing to the Sunshine State?

Photo courtesy of Sarasota County Economic Development Corp.

by **RON STARNER**

The grand experiment that was Enterprise Florida officially came to an end on May 31 when Gov. Ron DeSantis signed into law a bill terminating the organization's three-decade-long run as the state's chief economic development agency.

House Speaker Paul Renner, a Palm Coast Republican, championed HB 5 that shifts economic development contracts and 20-plus state programs to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, which will now go by the name of Florida Department of Commerce.

Although the momentum to dismantle Enterprise Florida grew quickly once Renner passed his bill on April 28, the effort to undo the agency had been in the works for more than a decade.

It began in April 2012 when a government watchdog group known as Integrity Florida released a report critical of Enterprise Florida (EFI). That report cited a number of "corruption risk indicators" that it said included: EFI's emphasis on confidentiality; the fact that board members could be eligible to receive incentives; secret meetings; and selling seats on the board for \$50,000

each.

The pro-union group Good Jobs First followed up that report with a highly critical report of its own on October 23, 2013, blasting not just EFI but a number of private statewide organizations leading economic development efforts around the country. The report by GJF and In the Public Interest was titled "Creating Scandals Instead of Jobs: The Failures of Privatized State Economic Development Agencies."

That report took aim at EFI and other more recent efforts to privatize economic development in Indiana, Ohio, Arizona, Wisconsin and Rhode Island. The report also cited an earlier report by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity — for which EFI was a vendor — that said only about one-third of the incentive deals signed by EFI over the previous decade had delivered their promised results in job creation.

The effort to dismantle EFI, however, did not pick up steam in earnest until four years later, when then-House Speaker Richard Corcoran spearheaded an effort to kill both Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida. He called them both ineffective organizations that had outlived their original intent.

How Pitbull Played a Role

Visit Florida gained notoriety when it was revealed that the organization had paid pop star Pitbull a million-dollar contract to promote the state as a tourist destination. That move ultimately cost the executive director of Visit Florida his job in 2017.

Corcoran's larger effort to kill both agencies failed, however, when then-Gov. Rick Scott went to bat for the two beleaguered agencies and saved them during the spring 2017 Florida legislative session. EFI, though, had been mortally wounded.

According to people interviewed for this article, the effort to kill off Enterprise Florida never fully went away. Instead, it quietly gained momentum as elements of the Republican Party drifted rightward and began to paint all economic development incentives as "corporate welfare," often couched in the terminology of "government picking winners and losers."

In that context, what happened this spring could be seen as almost inevitable. House Speaker Renner essentially summed it up when he said, "Florida's economy is the envy of the nation. Economic incentives and corporate welfare are nowhere near the top reasons why people and companies are choosing Florida over 49 other states. Jobs, capital and families are coming to Florida because we have a great business climate, excellent schools and a roaring economy, not because of Enterprise Florida." That same day, the House voted to pass HB 5.

When Governor and now presidential candidate Ron DeSantis signed it into law on May 31, he said, "Florida continues to be the nation's top destination for new businesses, workforce development and tourism, and streamlining our economic development programs in the Florida Department of Commerce will further support Florida's thriving economy."

"I hope that by this action, economic development in Florida will no longer be caught in the crosshairs. I hope that the state can now move forward as a collaborative unit for economic development." – Laura DiBella, outgoing Enterprise Florida CEO and Florida Commerce Secretary

For now, DeSantis has named his chief of staff, J. Alex Kelly, as the new Florida Department of Commerce secretary, replacing the outgoing Laura DiBella just four months after her appointment.



Outgoing Florida Commerce Secretary and Enterprise Florida CEO Laura DiBella speaks at a recent BAE Systems groundbreaking event in Jacksonville.

Photo courtesy of Enterprise Florida

John A Boyd Jr., principal of The Boyd Company Inc., a prominent site selection consulting firm with offices in Princeton, New Jersey and Boca Raton, Florida, said the move to consolidate the state's economic development efforts under one state agency umbrella could actually strengthen Florida's long-term position.

"Moving from Enterprise Florida — a state/private sector combination — to the new Florida Department of Commerce consolidates power within state government, and further enables Governor DeSantis — along with future governors — to more fully put their stamp on the program," Boyd says. "Moves to a public/private template have been a trend in recent years by a number of state and local economic development organizations, largely as a means to raise larger promotional war chests and

have more flexibility in how those funds are spent. In the case of Florida, with its winning track record and positive business climate — and where economic development is embraced by the state Legislature and the office of the governor — raising sufficient funds to compete with other high-powered winning states should not be a problem. The additional oversight coming with being a state agency will also reduce the risk of controversial missteps like the [contract] with Pitbull.”

Where Does Florida Go from Here?

Others see the closure of Enterprise Florida as part of a wider political effort to limit the influence of economic developers on business. Jeff Finkle, former longtime president of the International Economic Development Council, says that “some of the conservative members of the Florida Legislature just don’t like the notion of helping businesses. This has been an ongoing refrain. Previously, there was legislation proposed to limit the amount of money paid to economic developers. The thing that states always have to worry about is: Have they politicized their economic development agencies? When they have had turnover, have they tried to get the very best or did they become an agency that lost its mission focus?”

Gray Swoope, who served as Enterprise Florida CEO from 2011 to 2015, says, “There has been a shift in public trust in government and its ability to get things done. These same issues are being raised in other states. It is not uncommon.”



Gray Swoope served as CEO of Enterprise Florida from 2011 to 2015. Today, he leads Vision First Advisors, a site selection and economic development consulting firm in Tallahassee.

Photo courtesy of Vision First Advisors

Swoope says the recent legislation continues a trend of dismantling economic development tools in Florida. “Florida’s Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI) went away two years ago,” he says. “That was one of the most lucrative deal-closing funds the state ever had. Florida has not unilaterally disarmed, but it has lost one of its best deal-making tools.”

Outgoing Commerce Secretary and EFI President DiBella says, “I am hopeful that this move will give us the ability to form a stronger economic development organization for Florida.” She also says it’s a relief to finally have the battles over EFI’s fate settled.

“There has been a shift in public trust in government and its ability to get things done. These same issues are being raised in other states. It is not uncommon.” – Gray Swoope, Founder and CEO, Vision First

Advisors

“I hope that by this action, economic development in Florida will no longer be caught in the crosshairs,” she says. “I hope that the state can now move forward as a collaborative unit for economic development.”

Finkle says it will be imperative for economic development leaders at the regional and local level in Florida to step up. “Florida has strong people at the local and regional level. Everybody else is going to have to take on some of what EFI did,” he adds.

Swoope, who now runs Vision First Advisors, a site selection and economic development consulting firm in Tallahassee, says the choice to put Alex Kelly in charge of the new Florida Department of Commerce is a good one. “He has a background in education. Florida is leading with education and workforce. That makes a strong case,” Swoope says. “He was the chief of staff for Richard Corcoran when Corcoran was the Florida education secretary. He also worked for Jeb Bush.”

For now, about 85 EFI employees will go from being privately employed to being state workers if they choose to remain in their jobs. What happens after that remains to be seen.

Ron Starner

Executive Vice President of Conway, Inc.

Ron Starner is Executive Vice President of Conway Data, Inc. He has been with Conway Data for 22 years and serves as a writer and editor for both Site Selection and the company's Custom Content publishing division. His Twitter handle is [@RonStarner](#).



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DeSantis Signs Enterprise Florida Elimination

By The News Service of Florida on June 2, 2023 · 6 Comments



By *The News Service of Florida*


Gov. Ron DeSantis on Wednesday signed a bill that will eliminate Enterprise Florida, the state's business-recruitment agency, and announced that J. Alex Kelly will serve as the new commerce secretary. The bill (HB 5), a priority of House Speaker Paul Renner, R-Palm Coast, will shift contracts and more than 20 programs to the Department of Economic Opportunity, which will be renamed the Department of Commerce.

A news release from DeSantis' office described the changes as an effort "to streamline and modernize Florida's economic development agencies." Kelly, who has served as a deputy chief of staff to DeSantis, will lead the revamped Department of Commerce. Kelly has worked in DeSantis' office since April 2021, after a little more than two years as chief of staff at the Florida Department of Education.

Meredith Ivey has been acting secretary of the Department of Economic Opportunity since Dane Eagle stepped down on Dec. 30. Ivey had been chief of staff at the department, following stints as deputy director of communications for DeSantis and the Republican Party of Florida.

The bill signed Wednesday also will repeal numerous incentive-related programs, including the Office of Film and Entertainment. The renamed Department of Commerce will pick up 20 positions and \$10 million a year as part of the shift. The bill also will designate the Visit Florida tourism-marketing agency and the Florida Sports Foundation as "direct-support organizations"

under the Department of Commerce. The two agencies will have to enter agreements with the department to continue existing programs.

 *DeSantis Signs Enterprise Florida Elimination added by The News Service of Florida on June 2, 2023*

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Enterprise Florida officially eliminated, functions merged with Department of Economic Opportunity

by Caden DeLisa | Jun 1, 2023



-
- **Gov. Ron DeSantis signed House Bill 5, dissolving Enterprise Florida and transferring its functions to the Department of Economic Opportunity.**
 - **The legislation renames the Department of Economic Opportunity as the Department of Commerce, with J. Alex Kelly becoming the new Commerce Secretary.**
 - **According to Rep. Tiffany Esposito, expunging Enterprise Florida and its associated tax programs will save the state approximately \$100 million dollars.**

Gov. **Ron DeSantis** signed House Bill 5 into law this week, effectively dissolving Enterprise Florida, the state's business-recruitment agency.

The measure consolidates the agency's functions with those of the Department of Economic Opportunity, optimizes the state's economic development system, and removes certain programs and incentives.

Under the legislation, the Department of Economic Opportunity will also be renamed as the Department of Commerce, with **J. Alex Kelly**, who previously served as deputy chief of staff to DeSantis, becoming the new Commerce Secretary.

Lawmakers moved to initiate the dissolution of Enterprise Florida during budget negotiations last month, curbing \$12 million in funding while laying the groundwork to transfer some of the agency's operations to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

The business recruitment agency was thrust to the centerfold of the larger state budget discussions after House Speaker **Paul Renner** called for its elimination, stating that it "over-promised and under-delivered for years and drains funds from higher priorities."

Rep. **Tiffany Esposito** told the House Ways and Means Committee in April that expunging Enterprise Florida and its associated tax programs would save the state approximately \$100 million dollars.

"About half of the programs are either expired or have never been used, or have minimum applications; and when I say minimal, I mean one application," said Esposito. "This bill is cleaning up a lot of statutes that needed to be cleaned up anyways. This is estimated to save the state about \$100 million dollars."

Esposito explained that 90 percent of the tax credits granted within the Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Program — the program facing the highest level of scrutiny over a potential dissolution — were distributed to just ten companies. Though she didn't mention the companies by name, Esposito stated that they were each large businesses operating within the state and that one single large company accounted for 54 percent of all tax credits received.

Another program, the Capital Investment Tax Credit, yielded a negative .58 percent return on investment for the state, leading to its inclusion in the list of axed initiatives. Similarly, the New Markets Development Program yielded a negative .98 return on investment.

Following the analysis, conservative political advocacy group Americans For Prosperity – Florida (AFP-FL) publicly backed the bill.

"Enterprise Florida has long failed to live up to its founding mission of encouraging private sector job growth and promoting Florida's overall economic health," said AFP-FL State Director **Skylar Zander**. "It's about time this ineffective, unnecessary organization is eliminated and its funding placed within the better-equipped Department of Economic Opportunity.

Senate President **Kathleen Passidomo** lent support to the shuttering efforts, suggesting that aspects of the agency could be folded into the Department of Economic Opportunity, such as trade missions, but that the public-private agency overall "just doesn't seem to be as effective as we would like."

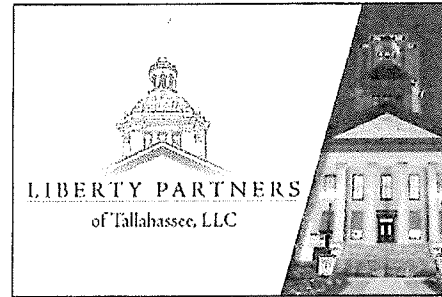
The decision to dismantle Enterprise Florida has not gone without criticism. Some individuals, including **Donald Trump**, have raised concerns regarding the transfer of recurring expenses to taxpayers. The former President has specifically taken aim at DeSantis, citing the governor's frequent travels outside of Florida for fundraising and business trips, such as a recent trade mission to Japan, South Korea, Israel, and the United Kingdom.

"The "Consultants" are sending [DeSantis], and demanding he go immediately, on an emergency Round the World tour of U.S representative population countries, like South Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom, and Israel," said Trump in a Truth Social post. "Perhaps he can, and perhaps he can't, who really knows, but he'll have plenty of time to think as he sits alone, on his taxpayer-funded airplane."

A News Service of Florida report shows that taxpayers footed more than \$100,000 for a six-day trip to Israel in 2019 embarked upon by DeSantis and members of the state Cabinet.

“Florida taxpayers, however, were hit with a tab of more than \$131,000 to cover lodging, airfare, and other travel costs for Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried, three of her aides, Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis’ chief of staff, Attorney General Ashley Moody’s general counsel, three staffers with the governor’s office and security provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement,” reads the article.

0 Comments



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House advances bill to eliminate Enterprise Florida



Gray Rohrer

March 30, 2023

4 min

Anna Eskamani

Enterprise Florida

Florida House HB 5

Mike Caruso

Tiffany Esposito

'It often becomes a structure where cities and states are competing with one another not based on quality of life but just based on incentives.'

A bill that would eliminate Enterprise Florida (**EFI**), a public-private group that recruits businesses to expand or move to the state, passed through a House committee despite concerns over the bill's constitutionality, the ability of a state agency to handle its work and a tax break for the film industry that would also be axed.

"The bill reduces government waste and streamlines the economic development efforts of the entire state," said Rep. **Tiffany Esposito**, a Fort Myers Republican and sponsor of **HB 5**.

The bill passed on a 16-6 vote, with Rep. **Anna Eskamani** of Orlando the only Democrat to join Republicans in favor of it.

But some Republicans who voted for it said they had issues about whether the bill is unconstitutional because some of the tax

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credit programs it eliminates could constitute a tax increase, and the state constitution requires any tax increase to be a standalone bill.

Some also expressed skepticism that the Department of Economic Opportunity, the agency that oversees EFI, could handle the duties being transferred directly under them as part of the measure.



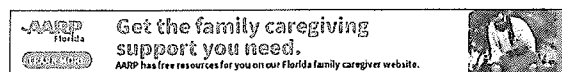
"I'm wondering if (DEO) can really handle the job," said **Mike Caruso**, a Delray Beach Republican. "I'm also concerned about the constitutionality of the way the bill is presented today. I'm surprised that it's coming here before us in this fashion."

Esposito said some of the tax credit programs would be taken out of the bill at the next committee hearing.

Democrats voiced similar concerns but also focused on the bill's elimination of a program giving entertainment industry productions — films, television, music videos and others — a break on sales taxes on goods related to the production.

Supporters of the bill, however, said it was a good step toward removing incentive programs that were already defunct, offer a negative return on investment for the state or just weren't working to bring in businesses, who were already attracted by Florida's low tax, business friendly environment.

"It often becomes a structure where cities and states are competing with one another not based on quality of life but just based on incentives," Eskamani said.



The bill next heads to the House Appropriations Committee. It doesn't have a Senate companion measure but Esposito said

she's hopeful a bill will emerge from that chamber in the next two weeks.



Gray Rohrer

PREVIOUS

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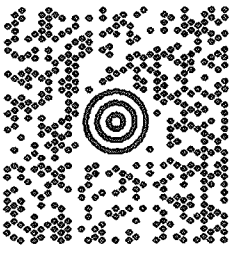
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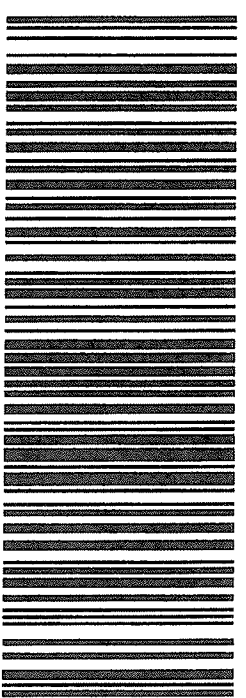
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**BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re **Freddie Figgers**
Board Member
Board of Directors
Enterprise Florida, Inc

PID#: 290281

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF AUTOMATIC FINE

The Commission on Ethics hereby gives notice of an assessment of a fine against you pursuant to Section 112.3145(8)(f), Florida Statutes, due to your failure to timely file your 2021 CE Form 1, Statement Of Financial Interests. Under the law, your 2021 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, was due by July 1, 2022. The law provided for a penalty-free grace period extending the due date to September 1, 2022. After that date, you accrued fines of \$25.00 per day for each day your financial disclosure was late, pursuant to Section 112.3145(8)(f), Florida Statutes.

Inasmuch as your 2021 CE Form 1 was filed July 28, 2023 with the Commission on Ethics, you are fined the amount of \$1500.00 (\$25.00 per day for 330 day(s) late). This fine must be paid to the Commission on Ethics within 30 days of the date of this notice unless you appeal the fine to the Commission. The Commission has the authority to consider the appeal and waive the fine in whole or in part if your failure to file on time was due to "unusual circumstances" surrounding the failure to file. Unless the fine is successfully appealed, the Commission is required to investigate public officers and employees who receive the maximum \$1,500 fine, to determine whether their failure to file was willful. The penalty for willfully failing to file disclosure is removal from public office or employment.

HOW TO APPEAL

1. Read these instructions carefully before submitting your appeal.
2. **LEGAL AUTHORITY:** Appeals are governed by Section 112.3145(8)(f)2., Florida Statutes, and Commission Rule 34-8.215, Florida Administrative Code.
3. **FORMAT:** Your appeal must be in writing and mailed to Florida Commission on Ethics, P. O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709, or delivered to Florida Commission on Ethics, 325 John Knox Road, Building E, Suite 200, Tallahassee, FL 32303. The appeal may take the form of a letter or you may use the appeal form included in this mailing. The appeal form also is available at the Commission's website: www.ethics.state.fl.us. Click on "Financial Disclosure" and then the link to the sample appeal form.
4. **DUE DATE:** Your appeal must be received by the Commission on Ethics on or before **January 2, 2024**. **NOTE:** Failure to timely file an appeal will constitute a waiver of your right to appeal and will result in the entry of a default order against you.
5. **UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES:** An appeal must demonstrate that you submitted your CE Form 1 after the extended due date because of "unusual circumstances." "Unusual circumstances" is defined in Commission Rule 34-8.215(4), Florida Administrative Code, as "uncommon, rare, or sudden events over which the reporting individual had no control and which directly result in the failure to act in accordance with the filing requirements." Therefore, circumstances that allowed for time to take steps necessary to file on time do not constitute "unusual circumstances" that will allow the Commission to waive the fine. You have the burden to establish "unusual circumstances." Your appeal must specifically state the circumstances that led to your not filing by September 1, 2022, and must include any documentation or evidence supporting your appeal, such as:
 - a. **SICKNESS/INJURY:** a statement from attending physician, including dates and nature of the illness or injury;
 - b. **LACK OF NOTICE (WRONG ADDRESS):** documentation that you did not reside at the address to which notice was sent;

- c. **LACK OF NOTICE (ABSENCE FROM HOME):** documentation establishing the period of time of your absence covering the notification period;
- d. **CLAIM OF TIMELY FILING OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:** (1) an affidavit from you attesting under oath or affirmation that you filed your financial disclosure and your recollection of when and how you filed and (2) a copy of a certified mail receipt and/or a copy of the completed form which was filed. If you have witnesses to your filing, we also will need an affidavit from each witness. NOTE: A claim of having filed the CE Form 1F for the current year does not satisfy the CE Form 1 filing requirement or excuse a late filing;
- e. **LEFT PUBLIC POSITION BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2021:** confirmation of your last date of office or employment by your former agency, showing the last date to be before December 31, 2021; or
- f. **UNCLAIMED CERTIFIED MAIL:** if delinquency notice was addressed correctly but not received, you must explain why.
6. **YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING:** You have the right to have your appeal heard by the Commission and to appear before the Commission at the hearing, but, to exercise this right, you must specifically request a hearing in your appeal. If you do not request a hearing, you will waive your right to a hearing, the Commission will determine the outcome of your appeal based upon the written record (including the documentation you provide and any documentation in your case file), and you will receive no further notice until after the Commission decides your appeal.

FAILURE TO PAY FINE OR FILE APPEAL WITHIN 30 DAYS

If you do not timely file an appeal or pay the assessed fine within 30 days of this Notice, a default order will be entered against you and the Commission will take the steps provided by law to collect the fine, including:

- Referral to the CFO of the Department of Financial Services, if you are a salaried state officer or employee, for withholding of a portion of your salary until the fine is satisfied; or
- Referral to your agency's governing body for withholding of a portion of your salary until the fine is satisfied;
- Referral to a collection agency, which can seek garnishment of your wages; and/or
- An additional civil penalty, not limited by this automatic fine, may be imposed if your disclosure statement is filed more than 60 days late and a complaint is filed against you pursuant to Section 112.324, Florida Statutes.

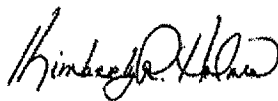
Please contact our office if you have any questions about this matter.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine was furnished to:

**Freddie Figgers
5260 Whisper Drive
Coral Springs, FL 33067**

by Certified Mail on this Thursday, November 30, 2023.



KIMBERLY R. HOLMES
Program Administrator

Florida Commission on Ethics
P. O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709

-or-

Florida Commission on Ethics
325 John Knox Road, Building E, Ste. 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tel.: (850) 488-7864
Fax: (850) 488-3077
Email: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us

FORM 1

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS

2021

Please print or type your name, mailing address, agency name, and position below:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

LAST NAME -- FIRST NAME -- MIDDLE NAME :

Fissers Freddie Lee

HAND DELIVERED

MAILING ADDRESS :

5260 Whisper Drive Coral Springs, FL 33067

FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

JUL 28 2023

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Coral Spring 33067 Broward

CITY: ZIP: COUNTY:

Enterprise Florida

NAME OF AGENCY :

Board Member

NAME OF OFFICE OR POSITION HELD OR SOUGHT :

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CHECK ONLY IF [] CANDIDATE OR [] NEW EMPLOYEE OR APPOINTEE

**** THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED ****

DISCLOSURE PERIOD:

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2021.

MANNER OF CALCULATING REPORTABLE INTERESTS:

FILERS HAVE THE OPTION OF USING REPORTING THRESHOLDS THAT ARE ABSOLUTE DOLLAR VALUES, WHICH REQUIRES FEWER CALCULATIONS, OR USING COMPARATIVE THRESHOLDS, WHICH ARE USUALLY BASED ON PERCENTAGE VALUES (see instructions for further details). CHECK THE ONE YOU ARE USING (must check one):

[X] COMPARATIVE (PERCENTAGE) THRESHOLDS OR [] DOLLAR VALUE THRESHOLDS

PART A -- PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME [Major sources of income to the reporting person - See instructions] (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Table with 3 columns: NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME, SOURCE'S ADDRESS, DESCRIPTION OF THE SOURCE'S PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY. Rows include Fissers Commitech, Fiss Health, and Fissers Enterprise.

PART B -- SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME [Major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses owned by the reporting person - See instructions] (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Table with 4 columns: NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY, NAME OF MAJOR SOURCES OF BUSINESS' INCOME, ADDRESS OF SOURCE, PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF SOURCE. Row includes Fissers Commitech, MCR Health, 500 8th Ave Palm Beach, FL 33421, Health.

PART C -- REAL PROPERTY [Land, buildings owned by the reporting person - See instructions] (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

See Attachment

You are not limited to the space on the lines on this form. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

FILING INSTRUCTIONS for when and where to file this form are located at the bottom of page 2.

INSTRUCTIONS on who must file this form and how to fill it out begin on page 3.

PART D — INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY [Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc. - See instructions]
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

TYPE OF INTANGIBLE	BUSINESS ENTITY TO WHICH THE PROPERTY RELATES
Stock	Figgers Communications
Stock	Figs Health

PART E — LIABILITIES [Major debts - See instructions]
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

NAME OF CREDITOR	ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

PART F — INTERESTS IN SPECIFIED BUSINESSES [Ownership or positions in certain types of businesses - See instructions]
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY	BUSINESS ENTITY # 1	BUSINESS ENTITY # 2
	ADDRESS OF BUSINESS ENTITY	N/A
PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY		
POSITION HELD WITH ENTITY		
I OWN MORE THAN A 5% INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS		
NATURE OF MY OWNERSHIP INTEREST		

PART G — TRAINING For elected municipal officers, appointed school superintendents, and commissioners of a community redevelopment agency created under Part III, Chapter 163 required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to section 112.3142, F.S.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIRED TRAINING.

IF ANY OF PARTS A THROUGH G ARE CONTINUED ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE CHECK HERE

SIGNATURE OF FILER:

Signature:

Franklin L. Figger

Date Signed:

July 28, 2023

CPA or ATTORNEY SIGNATURE ONLY

If a certified public accountant licensed under Chapter 473, or attorney in good standing with the Florida Bar prepared this form for you, he or she must complete the following statement:

I, _____, prepared the CE Form 1 in accordance with Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, and the instructions to the form. Upon my reasonable knowledge and belief, the disclosure herein is true and correct.

CPA/Attorney Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

If you were mailed the form by the Commission on Ethics or a County Supervisor of Elections for your annual disclosure filing, return the form to that location. To determine what category your position falls under, see page 3 of instructions.

Local officers/employees file with the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which they permanently reside. (If you do not permanently reside in Florida, file with the Supervisor of the county where your agency has its headquarters.) Form 1 filers who file with the Supervisor of Elections may file by mail or email. Contact your Supervisor of Elections for the mailing address or email address to use. Do not email your form to the Commission on Ethics. It will be returned.

State officers or specified state employees who file with the Commission on Ethics may file by mail or email. To file by mail, send the completed form to P.O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709; physical address: 325 John Knox Rd, Bldg E, Ste 200, Tallahassee, FL 32303. To file with the Commission by email, scan your completed form and any attachments as a pdf (do not use any other format), send it to CEForm1@leg.state.fl.us and retain a copy for your records. Do not file by both mail and email. Choose only one filing method. Form 6s will not be accepted via email.

Candidates file this form together with their filing papers.

MULTIPLE FILING UNNECESSARY: A candidate who files a Form 1 with a qualifying officer is not required to file with the Commission or Supervisor of Elections.

WHEN TO FILE: Initially, each local officer/employee, state officer, and specified state employee must file **within 30 days** of the date of his or her appointment or of the beginning of employment. Appointees who must be confirmed by the Senate must file prior to confirmation, even if that is less than 30 days from the date of their appointment.

Candidates must file at the same time they file their qualifying papers.

Thereafter, file by July 1 following each calendar year in which they hold their positions.

Finally, file a final disclosure form (Form 1F) within 60 days of leaving office or employment. Filing a CE Form 1F (Final Statement of Financial Interests) does not relieve the filer of filing a CE Form 1 if the filer was in his or her position on December 31, 2021.

Part C Real Property

2348 Hartsfield way, Tallahassee, FL

2346

2344

2342

2403 Apt 602 Hartsfield way

2738 West Harper St APT 801 Tallahassee, FL

10866 eypress glenn drive Coral Springs FL

413 South 11th St Quincy, FL 32351

424 South 11th Street Quincy, FL 32351

Mail Piece Details **Print this page****Recipient Address**

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LAUDERHILL, FL 33319-4381

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290281

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COMMISSION ON ETHICS
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TALLAHASSEE, FL 32317-5709

Entry Point ZIP:
32317

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Pre-Shipment Info Sent Usps Awaits Item, July 29, 2022, 08:51:00 AM, TALLAHASSEE,FL 32317

Accepted At Usps Origin Facility, July 29, 2022, 10:30:00 PM, TALLAHASSEE,FL 32317

Arrived At Usps Regional Origin Facility, July 29, 2022, 11:45:00 PM

Departed Usps Regional Facility, July 30, 2022, 08:13:00 AM

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August 1, 2022

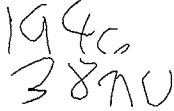

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Extra Services: Certified Mail™
Return Receipt Electronic
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Recipient Signature

Signature of Recipient:	
Address of Recipient:	

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Sincerely,
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475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

The customer reference information shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

Reference ID: 92148901066154000177749869
290281
FREDDIE FIGGERS
3810 Inverrary Blvd Ste 401
Lauderhill, FL 33319-4381
2021



Financial Disclosure Management System
THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS

Filer - Fines and Appeals - PID 290281 - Freddie Figgers

Filer Information

Org Membership

Forms

Communications

Fines and Appeals >

View All

Filer Flags

- [2000](#) [2001](#) [2002](#) [2003](#) [2004](#)
- [2005](#) [2006](#) [2007](#) [2008](#) [2009](#)
- [2010](#) [2011](#) [2012](#) [2013](#) [2014](#)
- [2015](#) [2016](#) [2017](#) [2018](#) [2019](#)
- [2020](#) [2021\(\\$\)](#) [2022](#) [2023](#)

<<2023 Form Year

Status

Filing: ACTIVE
Fine: No Fine

Flags

Public Address
Filing Extensions
Indefinite: None
Temporary:
None
Eligible for Fines

The filer has fines for: [2022 \(Appeal\)](#)

2022 Fines and Appeals

Form Year 2021 Filed Forms						
Received Date	Form Type	Form Signed	Filed by Email	Filing Location	Updated	Comments
07/28/23	Form 1	Yes	No	COE	holmesk on 07/28/2023	Hand Delivered

2022 Fine Information					Update Fine Information		
					Assign Agency Contact		
Fine Balance	Fine Status	Fine Date	Original Assessment	Fine Amount	Last Payment Date	Payment Plan Start Date	Payment Plan Amount
\$1,500.00	Appeal	11/30/2023	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			
Fine Address 5260 Whisper Drive Coral Springs FL 33067 Org/Suborg Enterprise Florida, Inc-Board of Directors							

2022 Fine Payment History					
Date Posted	Description	Amount	Method	Payment ID	Comments
11/30/2023	Fine Levied	+ \$1,500.00			Fined \$1500.00
Current Balance: \$1,500.00					

2022 Fine Year Event

Chronology

Invalidate Transaction

Date Type Description Reference

 Add a New Filer

 Jump To A Filer

PID:

 Quick Filer Search

First Name:

Last Name:

05/17/2022 Letter Sent Form 1 Official List - Form 1 Official Filers List Print Queue: 5/17/2022 1:36 PM

1:36 PM

Printing

Confirmed:

5/17/2022

1:36 PM

Letter Sent To:
Freddie Figgers
3810 Inverrary Blvd Ste 401
Lauderhill, FL 33319 -4381

07/29/2022 Letter Sent Certified Letter Sent Print Queue: 7/29/2022

7/29/2022

Printing

Confirmed:

7/29/2022

Letter Sent To:
Freddie Figgers
3810 Inverrary Blvd Ste 401
Lauderhill, FL 33319 -4381

08/9/2022 Filer Communication: Email Emily Prine

From: Prine.Emily
Sent: Tuesday, August 09, 2022 8:23 AM
To: 'freddie@figgers.com' <freddie@figgers.com>
Cc: 'Katie Richardson' <krichardson@enterprise-florida.com>
Subject: RE: ERI Financial Disclosure
Importance: High

Mr. Figgers,

Attached is a copy of the Form 1 2020 you filed last year.

A Form 1 2021 is also attached for completion. You can return to me via email as PDF once completed.

Thank you both!

Sincerely,

08/10/2022 Filer

Communication:
Email

From: Prine.Emily

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022
4:00 PM

To: 'Katie Richardson'

<krichardson@enterprise-florida.com>;

'Freddie Figgers'

<freddie@figgers.com>

Subject: RE: ERI Financial Disclosure

Forgot to mention I had attached the Form 1 2021 as well.

Let me know if any problems opening either form.

Sincerely,

Emily E. Prine

Program Specialist/Financial Disclosure

850-488-7864

Florida Commission on Ethics

Post Office Drawer 15709

Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709

From: Prine.Emily

Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022

3:58 PM

To: 'Katie Richardson' <

08/18/2022 Postcard Sent Courtesy Postcard Reminder

Print Queue:

8/18/2022

Printing

Confirmed:

8/18/2022

Letter Sent To:

Freddie Figgers

3810 Inverrary Blvd Ste 401

Lauderhill, FL 33319 -4381

09/13/2022 Letter Sent Courtesy Notice of Fines Accruing

Print Queue:

9/13/2022

Printing

Confirmed:

9/13/2022

Letter Sent To:

Freddie Figgers

3810 Inverrary Blvd Ste 401

Lauderhill, FL 33319 -4381

09/21/2022 Filer -----Original Message----- From: Katie Kimberly

Communication: Richardson Sent: Monday, September Holmes

Email 19, 2022 11:01 AM To: Prine.Emily

Cc: Freddie Figgers Subject: FW:

Importance: High Emily, I hope you had a nice weekend! Will you please let Freddie and I know what we're missing on this. We both thought this was taken care of. Thank you! Katie -

---Original Message----- From: Freddie Figgers Sent: Monday, September 19, 2022 10:58 AM To: Katie Richardson Subject: FW: Hello Katie, I hope all is well. I thought this was taken care of ? Freddie Figgers Chief Executive Officer Figgers Communication Inc. Toll Free: 1-800-223-5435 Ext:201, Fax: 1-800-281-3149 Freddie@Figgers.com 3810 Inverrary Blvd, Suite: 401 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33319 Figgers.com

09/21/2022	Filer Communication: Phone	Left Katie Richardson an voicemail message regarding email she sent regarding Mr. Figgers. Ask that she contact me.	Kimberly Holmes
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10/3/2022	Filer Communication: Email	From: Holmes, Kim Sent: Monday, October 03, 2022 5:32 PM To: 'krichardson@enterprise-florida.com' Subject: Financial Disclosure- Enterprise Florida, Inc-Board of Directors (Non-Filers) Importance: High Good afternoon, Katie. According to our records, the board members listed below have not filed the 2021 Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, and are accruing a fine: 290281 2021 Figgers, Freddie • Enterprise Inc-Board of Directors Form 1 with COE Form Receipt Not Recorded Pursuant to State law, an automatic fine of \$25.00 per day for each day late (\$1,500 maximum fine) is being assessed for failure to timely file Form 1. In addition, the law	Kimberly Holmes
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you! Sincerely, Emily E. Prine
Program Specialist/Financial
Disclosure 850-488-7864 Florida
Commission on Ethics Post Office
Drawer 15709 Tallahassee, FL 32317-
5709 -----Original Message----- From:
Freddie Figgers Sent: Monday,
September 19, 2022 12:20 PM To:
Katie Richardson ; Prine.Emily
Subject: RE: Importance: High Thank
you.

12/12/2022 Filer -----Original Message----- From: Emily Prine
Communication: Prine.Emily Sent: Monday, December
Email 12, 2022 2:30 PM To: 'Freddie

Figgers' ; Katie Richardson Subject:
RE: Importance: High Mr. Figgers, No,
we did not receive your Form 1 2021
filing, a fine of \$1500.00 has been
imposed. Attached is the required
form for completion, you can
complete and return to me as PDF. I
have also attached the appeal form if
you would like to complete and
return as well. Thank you! Sincerely,
Emily E. Prine Program
Specialist/Financial Disclosure 850-
488-7864 Florida Commission on
Ethics Post Office Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709 -----
Original Message----- From: Freddie
Figgers Sent: Monday, December 12,
2022 2:27 PM To: Katie Richardson ;
Prine.Emily Subject: RE: Importance:
High Hello, I am following up on this
was this taken care of ? Freddie
Figgers Chief Executive Officer
Figgers Communication Inc.

12/12/2022 Filer -----Original Message----- From: Emily Prine
Communication: Prine.Emily Sent: Monday, December
Email 12, 2022 2:44 PM To: 'Freddie
Figgers' ; Katie Richardson Subject:

RE: Filing last year Mr. Figgers,
 Pleasure speaking with you. Attached
 is a copy of the form you filed last
 year. As I mentioned I will be on
 vacation starting Wednesday and will
 not return until 12/27/22. You can
 send both the Form 1 2021 and the
 appeal form to
 disclosure@leg.state.fl.us Thank you!
 In my absence, the forms can still be
 processed accordingly. Thank you!
 Sincerely, Emily E. Prine Program
 Specialist/Financial Disclosure 850-
 488-7864 Florida Commission on
 Ethics Post Office Drawer 15709
 Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709 -----
 Original Message----- From: Freddie
 Figgers Sent: Monday, December 12,
 2022 2:37 PM To: Prine.Emily ; Katie
 Richardson Subject: RE: Importance:
 High Oh no, @Katie Richardson Can
 you give me a call when you get a
 chance.

12/12/2022 Filer Spoke with filer some confusion about Emily Prine
 Communication: this years filing.
 Phone

 07/28/2023 Form Received Form 1 Received, Signed

Form Received By:
Filing Location: COE
Record Created By: Kimberly Holmes on 07/28/2023

11/30/2023 Fine Levied	Fined \$1500.00	Journal: <u>11/30/2023</u> 4:58 PM
11/30/2023 Notice of Assessed Fine	Initial Fine Notice	Journal: <u>11/30/2023</u> 4:58 PM
11/30/2023 Alternate Fine Mailing Address		Journal: <u>11/30/2023</u> 5:42 PM

11/30/2023 Letter Sent Notice of Assessed Fine - Filer 1st Print Queue:
 Fine Letter 11/30/2023
 Printing
 Confirmed:
 11/30/2023

Letter Sent To:
 Freddie Figgers
 3810 Inverrary Blvd Ste 401
 Lauderhill, FL 33319 -4381

01/5/2024 Fine Appeal FD 22-019 Journal:
 1/5/2024
 6:05 PM

01/5/2024 Letter Sent Fine Appeal Print Queue:
 1/5/2024
 Printing
 Confirmed:
 1/5/2024

Letter Sent To:
 Freddie Figgers
 3810 Inverrary Blvd
 STE 401
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319

2022 Fine Appeal – FD 22-019	<input type="button" value="Update Appeal"/>	<input type="button" value="Withdraw Appeal"/>
	<input type="button" value="Assign Attorney"/>	<input type="button" value="Request More Info"/>
	<input type="button" value="Record Appeal Outcome"/>	

Appeal Status: Active Appeal Receipt Date: 01/02/2024 Timely Filed: Yes Print Appeal Letter: Yes Hearing Requested: No Appeal Reason: Lack of Notification, Other	No Hearing Requested
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Appeal Notes: Appeal Number: FD 22-019 Appeal Analyst Assigned: Final Order Number: Final Order Date:

3. On July 24, 2019, the Commission on Ethics sent Appellant a Notice of Delinquency by certified mail. The notice was sent to Appellant at the 1765 S. Tucker Ridge Road address.

4. On August 20, 2019, the Commission on Ethics mailed Appellant a postcard intended as a reminder of the obligation to file a 2018 CE Form 1. The Commission mailed the postcard to the 1765 S. Tucker Ridge Road address. It is unknown if Appellant received this mailing.

5. On September 6, 2019, the Commission sent Appellant a courtesy notice indicating that fines were beginning to accrue as the 2018 CE Form 1 had not been received. The notice was sent to the 1765 S. Tucker Ridge Road address.

6. On September 17, 2019, Commission staff emailed personnel at the Florida State Fair Authority in an effort to reach Appellant. On September 20, 2019, after a series of emails, a staffer of the Florida State Fair Authority emailed Commission staff to confirm that the form had been mailed in August.

7. On September 20, 2019, Appellant submitted the 2018 CE Form 1 to the Commission on Ethics.

8. On February 10, 2020, the Commission sent a Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine to the 1765 S. Tucker Ridge Road, by certified mail. This mailing indicated the total of Appellant's accrued automatic fine and included a notice of the right to appeal the fine, stating that the appeal had to be received by the Commission by March 11, 2020.

9. The total amount of the automatic fine levied against Appellant was \$425.

10. On March 11, 2020, the Commission received Appellant's appeal of the automatic fine. In the appeal, Appellant claimed he mailed his financial disclosure form to the Commission

in August 2019. In support of his claims, Appellant also supplied a statement from the person who assisted him in completing and mailing his CE Form 1.

Conclusions of Law

11. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding pursuant to Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes.

12. Financial disclosure is required of public officials and employees because it enables the public to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, deters corruption, and increases public confidence in government.

13. Section 112.3145(8)(g), Florida Statutes, states:

Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in writing and received by the commission within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unusual circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail account or failure to receive notice if the person has not notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail address.

14. Here, Appellant's statement that he did mail his completed CE Form 1 to the Commission in August 2019 is credible and is supported by a statement from the person who mailed the form for him. There is no evidence to dispute Appellant's claims. For these reasons, it appears Appellant's basis for the appeal of the fine constitutes an "unusual circumstance" that justifies waiving the \$425 fine.

Order

Based on the foregoing facts and conclusions of law, the Commission hereby waives the assessed fine of \$425.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on Friday, June 5, 2020.

10 June 2020

Date Rendered

Kimberly B. Rezanka

Kimberly B. Rezanka
Chair, Florida Commission on Ethics

THIS ORDER CONSTITUTES FINAL AGENCY ACTION. ANY PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS ORDER HAS THE RIGHT TO SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW UNDER SECTION 120.68, AND SECTION 112.3241, FLORIDA STATUTES, BY FILING A NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL PURSUANT TO RULE 9.110 FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE, WITH THE CLERK OF THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS, AT EITHER 325 JOHN KNOX ROAD, BUILDING E, SUITE 200, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32303 OR P.O. DRAWER 15709, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32317-5709; AND BY FILING A COPY OF THE NOTICE OF APPEAL ATTACHED TO WHICH IS A CONFORMED COPY OF THE ORDER DESIGNATED IN THE NOTICE OF APPEAL ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPLICABLE FILING FEES WITH THE APPROPRIATE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL. THE NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE THIS ORDER IS RENDERED.

KBR:sjz

Mr. John Patrick Walsh
1765 S. Tucker Ridge Road
Okeechobee, FL 34974-2820