

FEB 10 2026

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

CONFIDENTIAL

In re Jackie Espinosa,)
)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

Complaint No. 26-034

DETERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION
AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE

UPON REVIEW of this complaint, I find as follows:

1. This complaint was filed by Claudia Zuco of Kissimmee, Florida.
2. The Respondent, Jackie Espinosa, allegedly serves as the Mayor of Kissimmee.
3. The complaint and included amendment allege that Respondent engaged in an employment or contractual relationship with a business entity doing business with the City, her agency. Respondent's businesses allegedly received \$50,000.00 (\$20,000.00 to Adanse, LLC, \$15,000, to Kissimmee Diner, and \$15,000.00 to the Real Estate Gallery, LLC). The money was awarded through a grant program, "Business Boost 2.0," that is allegedly funded by the City and administered by City of Kissimmee staff. This indicates a possible violation of Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes.
4. The Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction to investigate only those allegations "based upon personal knowledge or information other than hearsay." See Chapter 2024-53, Laws of Florida (amending Section 112.324(1)(a), Florida Statutes, to require an allegation to be "based upon personal knowledge or information other than hearsay" to be sufficient for investigation). Here, it appears that the allegations are based on personal knowledge or information other than hearsay. The complaint contains Respondent's Form 6, Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests, in which Respondent claims an ownership interest in the

businesses listed in the complaint. This is a public record and the statements made by Respondent are subject to an exception to the hearsay rules. Other public records are also included that show Respondent is associated with the three businesses. The complaint also contains a spreadsheet that is alleged to be an official city record showing the companies as recipients of the grant funds. Finally, the complaint contains a "hardship letter," allegedly written by one of the businesses as part of the grant application. While the letter would be hearsay if it were being offered to prove the truth of the asserted statements (that the business experienced hardship) it is being offered to support the allegation that one of the businesses applied for the grant, and is therefore not being used to prove the truth of the matter asserted, and therefore is not hearsay.

5. The remaining allegations in the complaint do not form a basis for investigation.¹

WHEREFORE staff of the Commission on Ethics shall conduct a preliminary investigation of this complaint for use in a probable cause determination of whether the Respondent has violated 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, as set forth above.

February 10, 2020

Date

Kerrie J. Stillman

Kerrie J. Stillman

Executive Director

KJS/mdt

¹ The complaint also alleges that Respondent violated Section 112.313(3), Florida Statutes, by selling services to her agency as related to the grant award, but this is not supported by the complaint. Further, the complaint alleges that Respondent violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes by using the influence of her official position to change the methodology and awarding body of the grant to benefit herself, but this appears to be speculative. The included amendment alleges a voting conflict but fails to include a factual reference to any vote. As such, the allegation is not presented in a factual, nonconclusory manner and cannot form the basis to initiate an investigation by the Commission on Ethics.