

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re RANDALL MERRITT,

Respondent.

Complaint No. 20-120

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ORDER FINDING PROBABLE CAUSE

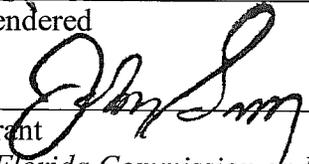
Based on the preliminary investigation of this complaint and on the recommendation of the Commission's Advocate, the Commission on Ethics finds that there is probable cause to believe that Respondent, as a member of the Wakulla County Commission for District 2, violated Section 112.3143(3)(a), Florida Statutes, by voting on an October 3, 2016, measure that he knew would have inured to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom he was retained, and finds that there is 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." Therefore, the Commission orders a public hearing as to whether the Respondent violated Sections 112.3143(3)(a), Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes.

A formal notice of hearing of the matter on which probable cause has been found will be prepared and sent to the Respondent and to the Advocate. Under Commission Rule 34-5.020, Florida Administrative Code, the Commission may resolve a complaint proceeding through a stipulation, settlement or consent order entered into by the Respondent and the Commission's Advocate and approved by the Commission. If the Respondent wishes to pursue a settlement of

this case, he should contact the Commission's Advocate at (850) 414-3300 to discuss the terms of a possible settlement.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in executive session on Friday, September 10, 2021.

September 15, 2021
Date Rendered



John Grant
Chair, Florida Commission on Ethics

JG/cmck

cc: Mr. Mark Herron, Attorney for Respondent
Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate
Ms. Meaghan Allen, Complainant