

Don Gaetz  
*Vice Chair*  
Michelle Anchors  
William P. Cervone  
Freddie Figgers  
Ashley Lukis  
Ed H. Moore  
Wengay M. Newton, Sr.  
Jim Waldman



Kerrie J. Stillman  
*Executive Director*

Steven J. Zuilkowski  
*Deputy Executive Director/  
General Counsel*

State of Florida  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS  
P.O. Drawer 15709  
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709

(850) 488-7864 Phone  
(850) 488-3077 (FAX)  
[www.ethics.state.fl.us](http://www.ethics.state.fl.us)

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

*"A Public Office is a Public Trust"*

---

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Commission on Ethics  
FROM: Steven J. Zuilkowski, Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel  
SUBJECT: Complaint No. 21-229, In re EDDIE MARTINEZ  
DATE: August 24, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Zuilkowski", is written over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

Accompanying this memorandum, please find a draft Final Order and Public Report prepared by your staff. The draft is intended to assist you and to serve as a working document for your use at your public meeting on September 8, 2023, as you consider the Motion to Schedule Matter, Adopt ALJ's Findings, Recommend Penalty, and Render Final Order (Motion) submitted by Commission Advocate, Melody A. Hadley, in the above-referenced matter. The Motion and related documents also have been provided to you and to the Respondent, Eddie Martinez. No Commission member has participated in drafting this document or otherwise expressed an opinion as to its contents, and you are not bound by staff's draft Final Order and Public Report.

Copy (with draft order) to:

Mr. Eddie Martinez, Respondent  
Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate  
Mr. Jeffrey L. Johnson, Complainant

**AUG 23 2023**

BEFORE THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

**COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In re EDDIE MARTINEZ,	)	Complaint No. 21-229
	)	DOAH Case No. 23-2119EC
Respondent.	)	Final Order No.
_____	)	

FINAL ORDER AND PUBLIC REPORT

This matter came before the State of Florida Commission on Ethics (Commission), meeting in public session on September 8, 2023, pursuant to the Advocate's Motion to Schedule Matter, Adopt ALJ's Findings, Recommend Penalty, and Render Final Order.<sup>1</sup> The Respondent (Eddie Martinez) was provided written notice of the date, time, and place of the Commission's consideration of this matter referenced above, and the notice apprised him of his ability to respond in writing to the Motion and to be heard before the Commission on the matter at the Commission's September 8, 2023, meeting.

Background

By order rendered June 8, 2022, the Commission on Ethics found probable cause to believe that the Respondent, who served as a member of the Monroe County Commission, violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate 2020 CE Form 6, "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests." Thereafter, the matter was sent to the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH) for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). On June 12, 2023, the Advocate served on Respondent a First Request for Admissions, First Set of Interrogatories, and Request for Production of Documents. Respondent

---

<sup>1</sup> Due to the posture of this matter and its history at DOAH, there is no "Recommended Order" before the Commission.

failed to participate in any discovery. Therefore, on July 20, 2023, the Advocate filed a "Motion to Deem Matters Admitted and to Relinquish Jurisdiction Pursuant to Section 120.57(1)(i), Florida Statutes." The ALJ issued an Order to Show Cause taking the motion under advisement and directing the Respondent, by a certain date and time, to fully respond to the request for admissions and file a notice of compliance, including a copy of all responses or objections, with DOAH. Thereafter, the Respondent did not respond to the ALJ's Order to Show Cause, and the ALJ issued an order deeming admitted the Advocate's request for admissions. The ALJ's order also cancelled the final hearing in the matter, relinquished jurisdiction to the Commission on Ethics, and closed the file on DOAH Case No. 23-2119EC.

Having reviewed the record materials provided to it, having heard the arguments, if any, of the Respondent and the Advocate, and having been fully advised, the Commission makes the following findings, conclusions, and disposition:

#### Findings of Fact

The Commission on Ethics accepts and incorporates into this Final Order and Public Report the facts as deemed admitted and shown via the proceedings, filings, and orders from the DOAH/ALJ proceedings, which show that the Respondent, while serving as a member of the Monroe County Commission, violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate 2020 CE Form 6, "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests."

#### Conclusions of Law

The Commission on Ethics accepts and incorporates into this Final Order and Public Report the conclusions of law deemed admitted and shown via the proceedings, filings, and orders from the DOAH/ALJ proceedings. Further, the Commission concludes and finds the facts deemed

admitted constitute a violation of Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, as described above.

Disposition and Recommended Penalty

Accordingly, having accepted jurisdiction back from the ALJ, having considered the issues and conducted the proceeding as aforesaid, and having accepted the deemed admitted facts and made the legal conclusions as set forth above, the Commission on Ethics finds that the Respondent, while serving as a member of the Monroe County Commission, violated Article II, Section 8, Florida Constitution, and Section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate 2020 CE Form 6, "Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests," and recommends that the Governor publicly censure and reprimand the Respondent, and impose a civil penalty upon him in the amount of \$5,000.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on September 8, 2023.

---

Date Rendered

---

XXXXX

*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.

cc: Mr. Eddie Martinez, Respondent  
Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate  
Mr. Jeffrey L. Johnson, Complainant