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TALLAHASSEE—November 19—During a public Zoom meeting on November 14, the Florida Commission on Ethics took action on four matters, Chair Jon M. Philipson announced today.

The Commission took final action and adopted the Joint Stipulation entered into between a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners for Cedar Hammock Fire Control District, **JOHN STEVENS**, and the Commission Advocate. The Commission found Mr. Stevens misused the official resources of his office while campaigning for re-election. A civil penalty of \$1,000 will be recommended for imposition by the Governor.

The Commission considered a complaint filed against **SUSAN HAYNIE**, former Boca Raton Mayor. The Commission determined that the public interest would not be

served by proceeding further on certain allegations in the complaint because it could not be determined from the complaint whether those allegations were based on personal knowledge or information other than hearsay, as required by Section 112.324(1)(a), F.S. Other allegations in the complaint will move forward with a public hearing or stipulation.

Based on additional and clarifying information obtained during preparation for the public hearing at the Division of Administrative Hearings, the Commission voted to grant the Advocate's Motion to Dismiss a complaint filed against **LORI CUNNINGHAM**, former Polk County School Board Member.

The Commission adopted a formal opinion that a former State Attorney would not be prohibited by Florida's post-office holding laws from representing criminal defendants in cases prosecuted by the State Attorney's Office where he previously served, as long as the cases were initiated after he left office.

The Florida Commission on Ethics is an independent nine-member commission formed in 1974 to review complaints filed under the statutory Code of Ethics and to answer questions from public officials about potential conflicts of interest through its issuance of advisory opinions.

If the Ethics Commission believes a violation of the law may have occurred, it may decide to hold a public hearing. If it concludes a violation has been committed, it may recommend civil penalties including removal from office or employment and civil penalties of up to \$20,000 per violation.