

Jeremy M. Rodgers
Chair
Jon M. Philipson
Vice Chair
Nicholas X. Duran
Michael H. Hellman
Marty Kerner
Joseph Oglesby
Abbey L. Stewart
Ryan K. Stumphauzer
Joshua C. Webb



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

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

"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

Steven J. Zuilkowski
Deputy Executive Director/
General Counsel

(850) 488-7864 Phone
(850) 488-3077 (FAX)
www.ethics.state.fl.us

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
October 28, 2026

CONTACT PERSON:
Lynn Blais or
Kerrie J. Stillman
850.488.7864

May be accessed online at www.ethics.state.fl.us

TALLAHASSEE—October 28—Meeting in Tallahassee on October 23 in closed session, the Florida Commission on Ethics took action on 71 matters, Chair Jeremy M. Rodgers announced today. Twelve of those matters were probable cause hearings. A finding of probable cause is not a determination that a violation has occurred. Such a determination is made only after a full evidentiary hearing on the allegations.

The Commission considered a complaint against the Mayor of Surfside, **CHARLES W. BURKETT**. The Commission found no probable cause to believe Mr. Burkett misused his position or abused his office for a disproportionate benefit by using his official email address to send emails that included links to a website with a link to his campaign website.

In a complaint filed against **ELCHONON SHAGALOV**, Bay Harbor Islands Town Council Member, the Commission found probable cause on an allegation that he failed to properly disclose income on his 2025 Form 1 Statement of Financial Interests. However, the Commission elected to take no further action based on his amending his disclosures prior to the complaint being filed and the particular circumstances of the matter.

The Commission rejected the recommendation of its advocate and found no probable cause to believe that Lee County Sheriff, **CARMINE MARCENO**, accepted a gift of furniture that exceeded \$100 from a prohibited donor or, as an alternative, that he failed to report the furniture as a gift. No probable cause was found to believe that Sheriff Marceno misused his position or violated the constitutional amendment prohibiting abuse of office to obtain a disproportionate benefit by employing the complainant as a consultant with the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Probable cause was found to believe **LATASHA BLACK**, a State of Florida Notary Public, misused her position to benefit herself or another when she notarized a signature on a document when the signatory was not physically present.

In a complaint filed against Bradfordville County Zoning Director, **RANDY ANDREWS**, no probable cause was found to believe that he misused his position to benefit himself or another person when he misinformed a citizen regarding the minimum size requirement for subdividing a parcel of property and providing contradictory guidance to the new owner of the same property to allow it be subdivided.

In two related complaints, the Commission found no probable cause to believe that **BRIAN JAQUET**, Golf Course Manager at Daytona Beach Golf Club, and **LEONARD MORROW**, Assistant Golf Professional at Daytona Beach Golf Club,

misused their positions to allow city employees and friends to play golf, at a publicly owned golf course, for free or at a discounted rate.

No probable cause was found to believe **TAMMY HARRIS**, Lake City Council Member, was alleged to have solicited or accepted a thing of value in exchange for her official action; accepted a thing of value when she knew or should have known it was given to influence her; misused her public position for her personal benefit or the benefit of another person; or violated the constitutional amendment prohibiting abuse of office for a disproportionate benefit by requesting money to assist with her personal financial difficulties in exchange for sexual favors or by contacting the Police Chief to help get the complainant's impounded vehicle released.

The Commission found no probable cause to believe that **CHRISTOPHER BLACKMON**, Osceola County Sheriff, violated the ethics laws by acting in his official capacity to purchase custom apparel items from his daughter's company

In a complaint filed against Port Malabar Holiday Park Mobile Home Recreation District Board of Trustees, **REBECCA EARNEST**, no probable cause was found that she misused her position to benefit herself or another person when, contrary to stated procedure, she permitted the consideration of a letter submitted only 3 days prior to the meeting regarding the election a prospective Trustee.

In a complaint filed against **KAMELA PATTON**, Alachua County Public Schools Superintendent, the Commission found probable cause on allegations that she failed to file her 2023 Form 1 disclosure timely and/or that she failed to properly disclose an LLC as an intangible personal property on her 2023 and 2024 Form 1 disclosures.

The Commission found no probable cause to believe that **JESSIE BASTOS**, Supervisor for the Broward Soil and Water Conservation District, misused her position

to benefit her candidacy for Broward County School Board by appearing at a public event booth in her capacity as Broward Soil and Water Supervisor, while wearing her campaign button and displaying her campaign materials placed on the table in the booth.

The Commission reviewed 59 complaints for legal sufficiency. These reviews are limited to questions of jurisdiction and determinations as to whether the contents of the complaint are adequate to allege a violation of the Code of Ethics or other laws within the Commission's jurisdiction, and whether the allegations are based on personal knowledge or information other than hearsay. As no factual investigation precedes the reviews, the Commission's conclusions do not reflect on the accuracy of the allegations made in these complaints. The Commission dismissed the following complaints for lack of legal sufficiency: **JOHN BUCHHOLZ**, Wildblue Community Development District Chair; **RICHARD BENNINGTON**, Wildblue Community Development District Vice-Chair; **EMILY HIGDON MICHAELS**, Assistant Attorney General; **BRITTANY REESE**, Leon County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sheriff; **PETER HINSON**, Volusia County Code Enforcement Officer; two complaints against **MICHAEL SUSIC**, Hidden Creek Community Development District Board Member; **FRANK SEBESTYEN**, Vista Lakes Community Development District Chair; **HOWARD KESSLER**, 2nd Judicial Circuit Judicial Examining Committee Member; **RAYMOND "BOZ" BOSSERT**, Sun 'N Lake Residential Improvement District General Manager; **LITERMIN JOSEPH**, Town of Noma Mayor; **SHERILYN PICKELS**, City of Madison County Manager; **VERONICA MILLER**, City of St. Cloud City Manager; three complaints against **JOE WYNKOOP**, Town of Montverde Mayor; **SHERON BROWN**, City Of St. Petersburg Director of Education and Youth; **ROBERT CARROLL**, Bay County Commissioner; two complaints

against **BRIAN GONZALEZ**, St. Lucie County Fire District Assistant Fire Chief; **TAMMY HARRIS**, Lake City Council Member; **CHEVELLA YOUNG**, Lake City Council Member; **MORRIS LEE WEST**, Haines City Commissioner; **ROCKY FORD**, Columbia County Commissioner; **KELLIE MARKS**, Orange City Mayor; **SCOTT DEWAYNE MONLYN**, Calhoun County Commissioner; **CARLA TRICKEY PEACOCK**, Calhoun County Property Appraiser; **GEORGE T. REEVES**, Madison County Attorney; **BARBARA KARGOL**, Hidden Creek Community Development District Assistant Secretary; **CORIN TERESA MALDONADO**, 13th Judicial Circuit Court Reporter; **HEIDI CLAWSON**, Long Lake Ranch Community Development District Chair; **WAYNE RICHARDS**, Port of Palm Beach Commissioner; **BLAIR CIKLIN**, Port of Palm Beach Commission Candidate; **VARISSA LALL DASS**, Port of Palm Beach Commissioner; **DEANDRE POOLE**, Port of Palm Beach Commission Candidate; **WILLIAM VEACH**, Town of Fort Myers Beach Town Council Member; **CARMEN G. MOLINA**, Miami-Dade County School District ADA Chair; **CHERYL MARINELLI**, Town of Astatula Vice Mayor; **ZANE TEETERS**, Town of Astatula Mayor; **JOSHUA FREDRICKSON**, City of Cape Coral Assistant City Attorney; **MARK MCSWAIN**, Orange County Code Enforcement Officer; **LANE STEPHENS**, City of Quincy Mayor Pro Tem; **CHRISTOPHER MASSON**, Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Officer; **SHANNON MARTIN**, City of Port St. Lucie Mayor; **JUSTIN HAZELLIEF**, Okeechobee County Fire Department; **LISA BASS**, Hardee County, Tenth Judicial Circuit Judicial Assistant; **AYESHA SOLOMON**, Alachua County Property Appraiser; **DANIEL (DANNY) T. GLIDEWELL**, Walton County Commissioner; **KEVIN CARRICO**, City Of Jacksonville City Council Member; **NICHOLAS NESTA**, City of Apopka Mayor; **BRYAN NELSON**, City of Apopka Mayor; **KERRY ALAN SMITH**, Santa Rosa County Commissioner; **DALE V.C. HOLNESS**, Broward County Commissioner;

FRANKLIN W. MARTZ, II, City of Altamonte Springs City Manager; **SCOTT WATSON**, Village of Indiantown Planning and Zoning Board Member; **BEVERLY A. NASH**, City of Quincy Former Interim City Manager; **GARY PATTERSON**, University of South Florida School of Business and Finance; **BLAISE INGOGLIA**, State of Florida Chief Financial Officer; and **REBECCA CREWS**, Fourth Judicial Circuit Deputy Clerk.

PUBLIC SESSION

During its public session meeting, the Commission took final action and adopted the Joint Stipulation entered into between the Mayor of Kissimmee, **JACKIE ESPINOSA**, and the Commission Advocate. The Commission found that Mayor Espinosa had an employment or contractual relationship with an entity doing business with her agency when her business accepted grant money from the City. A civil penalty of \$2,000 and public censure and reprimand will be recommended for imposition by the Governor.

The Commission considered a complaint against Kissimmee City Commissioner **JANETTE MARTINEZ**. The Commission found probable cause to believe that Ms. Martinez failed to file a Form 8B, Memorandum of Voting Conflict for County, Municipal, and Other Local Public Officers, after abstaining from a vote on a permit requested by a business associate and friend. The permit affected a food truck location where Ms. Martinez's food truck would occasionally operate. However, based on the circumstances of the matter, the Commission voted to take no further action. No probable cause was found to believe she had a conflicting contractual relationship due to the rental of a home to a friend during the permitting process of the friends business. The probable

cause hearing was held during the public session meeting because Ms. Martinez waived confidentiality.

The Commission adopted a formal opinion concluding that, although a Fire District Commissioner's employment with a telecommunications company providing internet and voice-over-internet (VoIP) services to the District would constitute a facial conflict of interest under Section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, the exemption provided in Section 112.313(12)(c), Florida Statutes, applies to negates the conflict.

The Commission also adopted an opinion provided to a Mayor regarding the ethical boundaries of soliciting investors for a venture capital firm in which the Mayor is a General Partner.

The Commission considered appeals of automatic fines assessed against lobbying firms for failing to timely file executive branch compensation reports during its October 23 public session. To obtain copies of the rulings, contact the Commission's office. (Item VIII of the meeting agenda, available on the Commission's website.)

Appeals of automatic fines assessed against public officers and employees for failing to timely file financial disclosure reports were also considered during the Commission's October 23 public session. To obtain copies of the rulings, contact the Commission's office. (Item IX of the meeting agenda, available on the Commission's website.)

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 fines up to \$20,000 per violation.