

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2021E-02

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Florida, by constitutional amendment, have declared that a public office is a public trust and the people have a right to secure and sustain that trust against abuse; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Commission on Ethics has been created to assure that public officers and employees do not abuse the trust placed in them; and

WHEREAS, Charles C. Pesano is at all times material hereto a former Executive Director of the Florida State Fair Authority, and as such was subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics; and

WHEREAS, in the Final Order and Public Report No. 19-080 rendered on July 31, 2019, the Commission on Ethics found that Charles C. Pesano violated section 112.313(3), Florida Statutes, by using his official position to authorize contracts renting fairground vendor space to his family-owned business; violated section 112.313(4), Florida Statutes, by accepting and/or his spouse accepting things of value when he knew or should have known that they were given to influence official action on his part; violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by corruptly using or attempting to use the Florida State Fair Authority's property and/or resources and/or performing his official duties to secure special privileges and benefits for himself and others; violated section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, by having a contractual relationship with an exclusive vendor of his agency; violated section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by failing to file accurate CE Form 1s,

“Statement of Financial Interests,” for calendar years 2012-2014; and violated section 112.3148(4), Florida Statutes, by directly or indirectly accepting gifts from vendors; and

WHEREAS, the Governor accepts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission on Ethics Final Order and Public Report No. 19-080.

NOW THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue this Executive Order, effective immediately, declaring that:

1. Charles C. Pesano violated section 112.313(3), Florida Statutes, by using his official position to authorize contracts renting fairground vendor space to his family-owned business; violated section 112.313(4), Florida Statutes, by accepting and/or his spouse accepting things of value when he knew or should have known that they were given to influence official action on his part; violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by corruptly using or attempting to use the Florida State Fair Authority’s property and/or resources and/or performing his official duties to secure special privileges and benefits for himself and others; violated section 112.313(7)(a), Florida Statutes, by having a contractual relationship with an exclusive vendor of his agency; violated section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by failing to file accurate CF Form 1s, “Statement of Financial Interests,” for calendar years 2012-2014; and violated section 112.3148(4), Florida Statutes, by directly or indirectly accepting gifts from vendors.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$7,500 for the violation of sections 112.313(3), 112.313(4), 112.313(6), 112.313(7)(a), 112.3145 and 112.3148(4), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed against Pesano, which shall be satisfied within thirty (30) days of the date of this order. Payment must be submitted with a written statement under oath by Pesano that the penalty amount was not paid with public funds and will not be reimbursed with public funds.

4. Charles C. Pesano is hereby publicly censured and reprimanded.



Ron DeSantis

GOVERNOR

DATE: January 28, 2021

By:

Handwritten signature of James Uthmeier.

James Uthmeier

ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL

On behalf of and by the authority of Governor Ron DeSantis

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Laurel M. Lee.

Laurel M. Lee

SECRETARY OF STATE

2021 JAN 28 PM 4: 24
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

FILED