

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2021E-19

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, Wanda Range is at all times material hereto a former Mayor and former member of the City Council for the City of Midway, 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, a Recommended Order of an Administrative Law Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings was rendered on November 8, 2019, recommending Wanda Range receive a civil penalty of \$1.00 for violation of Section 112.3135, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, in the Final Order and Public Report No. 20-001 rendered on January 29, 2020, the Commission on Ethics found that Wanda Range violated Section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, by voting on the appointment and/or advocating for the appointment of her relative to a position within her agency and/or her agency voting to appoint and/or advance her relative; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2020, the Respondent, Wanda Range, appealed the Commission on Ethics findings to the First District Court of Appeal, and on December 3, 2020, the First District Court of Appeal affirmed the Commission on Ethics' findings and a mandate was issued.

WHEREAS, the Governor accepts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission on Ethics Final Order and Public Report No. 20-001.

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. Wanda Range violated Section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, by voting on the appointment and/or advocating for the appointment of her relative to a position within her agency and/or her agency voting to appoint and/or advance her relative.
2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$1,500 for the violation of Section 112.3135, Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed against Range, 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 Range that the penalty amount was not paid with public funds and will not be reimbursed with public funds.
3. Wanda Range is hereby publicly censured and reprimanded.



Ron DeSantis

GOVERNOR

DATE: January 28, 2021

By:

James Uthmeier

James Uthmeier

ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL

On behalf of and by the authority of Governor Ron DeSantis

ATTEST:

Laurel M. Lee

Laurel M. Lee

SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

2021 JAN 28 PM 4:26

FILED