BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re TIMOTHY ABRAMS, ) Financial Disclosure Appeal No. FD 18-071
 ) Final Order No.
Appellant.)

FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the Commission on Ethics, meeting in public session on October 25, 2019, on the timely appeal of Appellant, pursuant to Section 112.3145(8)(g), Florida Statutes, (formerly, Section 112.3145(7)(f)), which assesses an automatic fine of $25 per day on a person who fails to timely file a required CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. The Commission may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown, based on "unusual circumstances" surrounding the failure to file by the designated date. There are no matters in dispute. Appellant did not request a hearing before the Commission.

Findings of Fact

1. According to information provided to the Commission, Appellant served as the principal of a school in the Palm Beach County School District, a position that requires the filing of a CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, for the year 2017. In 2018, the designated due date for submitting a 2017 CE Form 1 annual filing was July 2, 2018, with a grace period ending on September 4, 2018.

2. No later than June 1, 2018, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections sent Appellant a 2017 CE Form 1.

3. No later than July 31, 2018, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections sent Appellant a Notice of Delinquency by certified mail. The Notice was sent to 6707 Traveler Road,
West Palm Beach, Florida. On August 2, 2018, the Notice was delivered and signed for by "Timothy Abrams, Jr."

4. On August 16, 2018, the Commission mailed Appellant a postcard intended to remind him of his obligation to file a 2017 CE Form 1. The Commission mailed the postcard to the 6706 Traveler Road address.

5. On September 6, 2018, a courtesy notice was sent by the Commission to Appellant indicating that fines were beginning to accrue as his 2017 CE Form 1 had not been received. The notice was sent to the 6706 Traveler Road address.

6. On September 11, 2018, the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections received Appellant's 2017 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests.

7. On April 17, 2019, an automatically accrued fine was levied against Appellant due to his failure to timely file his 2017 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests. On that same date, the Commission sent Appellant a Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine. The mailing was sent to the 6706 Traveler Road address. The mailing indicated the total of Appellant's accrued automatic fine, and included a notice of the right to appeal the fine, stating that the appeal had to be received by the Commission by May 17, 2019, to be considered timely. The Notice was delivered on April 23, 2019, and signed for by an unidentified individual.

8. The total amount of the automatic fine levied against Appellant was $175.

9. On April 22, 2019, Appellant called the Commission, advising that the school where he had been serving as principal had closed down and he had subsequently been relocated. Appellant claimed that because of the closing of his school and its subsequent relocation, he was unaware that he had to file a 2017 CE Form 1. Appellant advised the Commission that he would contact the Palm Beach County Coordinator to ask about his filing requirement, and stated he
planned to appeal his fine. The Commission advised Appellant that his appeal must be filed no later than May 17, 2019.

10. On May 13, 2019, the Commission received Appellant's appeal. In part A of his appeal form, Appellant listed his mailing address as: 6706 Traveler Road, P.O. Box #213331, West Palm Beach, Florida 33411. Appellant claimed in the appeal that he did not receive notice of his filing obligation and also indicated he had timely filed his financial disclosure. In particular, Appellant claimed that because the Gold Coast School of Choice, where he presumably had been serving, was closing, he was "under the impression that [he] did not need to complete the form." He indicated as well that he had turned his 2017 CE Form 1 in to his Supervisor of Elections and was told "she would take care of the misunderstanding."

Conclusions of Law

11. The Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding pursuant to Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes.

12. Financial disclosure is required of public officials and employees because it enables the public to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, deters corruption, and increases public confidence in government.

13. Section 112.3145(8)(g)3., Florida Statutes, states:

    Any reporting person may appeal or dispute a fine, based upon unusual circumstances surrounding the failure to file on the designated due date, and may request and is entitled to a hearing before the commission, which may waive the fine in whole or in part for good cause shown. Any such request must be in writing and received by the commission within 30 days after the notice of payment due is transmitted. In such a case, the reporting person must, within the 30-day period, notify the person designated to review the timeliness of reports in writing of his or her intention to bring the matter before the commission. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "unusual circumstances" does not include the failure to monitor an e-mail account or failure to receive notice
if the person has not notified the commission of a change in his or her e-mail address.

14. Appellant's basis for the appeal of his fine is that, because his school was closing, he mistakenly believed he had no obligation to file the 2017 CE Form 1. However, records indicate he received at least three notices of his filing obligation prior to the expiration of the grace period, including a certified mailing for which a member of his household signed, and that these notices were delivered to the same address listed on his notice of appeal. Despite receiving these mailings, it does not appear Appellant took immediate steps to clarify whether he still had to file the 2017 CE Form 1. While we are sympathetic to Appellant's confusion concerning whether he had a filing obligation, because clear notice of his filing obligation was provided and received, we decline to find "unusual circumstances" to justify waiving the imposed fine.

Order

Based on the foregoing facts and conclusions of law, the Commission hereby finds that unusual circumstances for failure to file have not been demonstrated. We therefore affirm the assessed fine of $175. The fine shall be paid to the Commission on Ethics, P.O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709, within 30 days of the date this order is rendered, unless other payment arrangements are made by contacting Kimberly Holmes, Financial Disclosure Coordinator, at the address above or by telephone at (850) 488-7864.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on Friday, October 25, 2019.

________________________________________
Date Rendered

________________________________________
Kimberly B. Rezanka
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.

KBR: gps
Timothy J. Abrams
6706 Traveler Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33411
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Telephone: (850) 488-7864
Fax: (850) 488-3077
Email: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us

APPEAL OF AUTOMATIC FINE FOR FORM YEAR 2017

DIRECTIONS: The information you provide in this form is critical for processing your appeal in a timely manner.

In Part A, please provide current contact information. If your contact information changes while your appeal is being processed, please notify us.

In Part B, please check any boxes that specify the general reason(s) for your appeal.

In Part C, please explain in detail the reason(s) for your appeal. In addition to your written explanation in Part C, you may attach any documents that support your appeal.

IMPORTANT: TO PRESERVE YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL, THIS FORM OR OTHER WRITTEN APPEAL (AND ANY ATTACHMENTS) MUST BE FILED WITH (RECEIVED BY) THE COMMISSION ON ETHICS WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF THE DATE THE NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF AUTOMATIC FINE WAS MAILED TO YOU.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
Mailing Address: Commission on Ethics
P.O. Drawer 15709
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709

Physical Address: Commission on Ethics
325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Fax: (850) 488-3077
Email: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART A: YOUR INFORMATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Timothy D. Abrams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address: 6704 Traveler Rd PO Box 21331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City: West Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State: FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip: 33411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daytime Tel.: 561-352-8108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell: 561-352-8108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:t-abrams50@outlook.com">t-abrams50@outlook.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filer ID# (if known):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Employer: Palm Beach County School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Position: Principal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE
**PART B: GENERAL REASON(S) FOR YOUR APPEAL**

Please choose any/all reasons that apply to your appeal.

I hereby appeal the Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine on the following basis:

a. [ ] **Sickness or injury** (Explain in Part C and attach a statement from attending physician, including dates and nature of illness or injury)

b. [ ] **Lack of notification – Failure to receive notice** (Explain in Part C and provide documentation that supports your assertion that you never received certified mail delinquency notice: for example, incorrect address; misdelivered mail; change in employment; extended absence from home, etc.)

c. [ ] **Claim of timely filing of financial disclosure** (Explain in Part C and provide copy of certified mail receipt and/or copy of completed form which had been previously filed, along with a sworn notarized statement that you filed prior to the deadline)

d. [ ] **Left public position prior to December 31, 2017** (Explain in Part C and provide confirmation from agency that your office-holding/employment ended before 12/31/2017)

e. [ ] **Other unusual circumstance** (Explain in Part C and provide documentation explaining uncommon, rare, or sudden occurrence that prevented timely filing prior to deadline)

f. [ ] **Not required to file** (Explain in Part C and provide documentation that supports reason for not required to file)

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**PART C: DETAILED EXPLANATION OF YOUR APPEAL**

Please provide a detailed explanation of your appeal, including why each option you selected in Part B is applicable to you. You may use the space provided and/or attach additional pages.

Due to the fact that Gold Coast School of Choice was a voting site in the past and we were closing all of a sudden, I was under the impression that I did not need to complete the form. I turned in the form to the supervisor of elections and I was informed that she would take of the misunderstanding.

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**OPTIONAL REQUEST FOR HEARING**

[ ] In addition to this written appeal, I specifically request to appear before the Commission in a hearing pursuant to Section 112.3144(5)(e)3 or Section 112.3145(7)(f)3, Florida Statutes. Commission meetings occur in Tallahassee.

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**SIGNATURE**

I have received and read the Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine and its instructions on How to Appeal and I understand my options. I am requesting disposition of this matter as indicated.

May 23, 2019  
Signature
I, Susan Bucher, the Supervisor of Elections of Palm Beach County, hereby certify that each person whose ID number, name, agency, and position appears above or on the attached list:

(1) was sent a notice of the July 2, 2018 financial disclosure deadline and a blank Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, not later than June 1, 2018;

(2) was determined to be delinquent in filing a Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, by July 2, 2018;

(3) was sent a delinquency notice by certified mail not later than July 31, 2018 advising him or her of the grace period in effect until September 4, 2018; and of the penalties that could be imposed as provided in Section 112.3145(7)(c), Florida Statutes; and

(4) did not file a Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, until the date shown or, had not filed a Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests by November 3, 2018; and further

(5) that the date of filing shown is based upon the earliest of the following:
   (a) when the Form 1 was actually received by my office;
   (b) when the Form 1 was postmarked;
   (c) when the certificate of mailing (if any) was dated; or
   (d) when the receipt (if any) from an established courier company was dated.

Signed

Susan Bucher

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
Palm Beach County

Florida Commission on Ethics
Financial Disclosure Notification System
2018 Delinquency Certification
Reported 11/05/2018

This is a list of all delinquent Palm Beach County filers. The date indicated in the "Form Receipt Date" column is the date the form was received. Any persons with no form receipt date indicated have not filed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Number</th>
<th>Form Receipt Date</th>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Filer Flags</th>
<th>Filing County</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>09/11/2018</td>
<td>273611</td>
<td>Timothy J Abrams</td>
<td>Palm Beach County School Board</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>.60</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I, Susan Bucher, the Supervisor of Elections of Palm Beach County, hereby certify that each person whose PID number, name, agency, and position appears above or on the attached list:

1. was sent a notice of the July 2, 2018 financial disclosure deadline and a blank Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, not later than June 1, 2018;

2. was determined to be delinquent in filing a Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, by July 2, 2018;

3. was sent a delinquency notice by certified mail not later than July 31, 2018 advising him or her of the grace period in effect until September 4, 2018; and of the penalties that could be imposed as provided in Section 112.3145(7)(c), Florida Statutes; and

4. did not file a Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, until the date shown or, had not filed a Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests by November 3, 2018; and further

5. that the date of filing shown is based upon the earliest of the following:
   a. when the Form 1 was actually received by my office;
b. when the Form 1 was postmarked;
c. when the certificate of mailing (if any) was dated; or
d. when the receipt (if any) from an established courier company was dated.

Signed ________________________________

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
Certified Mail service provides the following benefits:

- A record (this portion of the Certified Mail label).
- A unique identifier for your mailpiece.
- Electronic verification of delivery to attempted delivery.
- A record of delivery (including the recipient's signature) that must be retained for this Mailbox Service.
- For an electronic return receipt, use a retail associate for assistance. To receive a duplicate return receipt for no additional fee, present this USPS®-postmarked Certified Mail receipt to the retail associate.
- Restricted delivery service, which requires a signature or type.

Important

Your

P.O.

Box

 interpolated

Date

of

Inter

Your

with

a

C.O.

Date

certain Priority Mail items.

For an additional fee, and with a proper endorsement on the mailpiece, you may request the following services:
- Return receipt service, which provides a record of delivery (including the recipient's signature). You can request a facsimile return receipt or an electronic version. For a facsimile return receipt, complete PS Form 3811, Facsimile Return Receipt, attach PS Form 3811 to your mailpiece.

IMPORTANT: Save this receipt for your records.

PS Form 3800, April 2015 (Rev. 2015) PSN 7530-02-900-9037

U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT
Domestic Mail Only

For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com.

Official Use

Certified Mail Fee

Postage

Total

Paid

273611

Timothy J Abrams
Palm Beach County School - Principal
6706 Traveler Rd
West Palm Beach FL 33411

PS Form 3811, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-900-9037 See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

Timothy J Abrams
Palm Beach County School - Principal
6706 Traveler Rd
West Palm Beach FL 33411

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7015 J520 0003 4036 0519

PS Form 3811, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-900-9037

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

Agent

Addressee

B. Received By

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1?

Yes

No

3. Service Type

- Adult Signature
- Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- Certified Mail
- Collect on Delivery
- Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery
- Mail Restricted Delivery
- Priority Mail Express®
- Registered Mail
- Recorded Mail Restricted Delivery
- Return Receipt for Merchandise
- Signature Confirmation
- Signature Continuation

Domestic Return Receipt
Tracking Number: 70151520000340360519

Your item was delivered to an individual at the address at 5:24 pm on August 2, 2018 in WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33411.

☑ Delivered
August 2, 2018 at 5:24 pm
Delivered, Left with Individual
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33411

Tracking History

August 2, 2018, 5:24 pm
Delivered, Left with Individual
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33411
Your item was delivered to an individual at the address at 5:24 pm on August 2, 2018 in WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33411.

August 2, 2018
In Transit to Next Facility

July 31, 2018, 10:59 pm
Departed USPS Regional Facility
WEST PALM BEACH FL DISTRIBUTION CENTER
Can’t find what you’re looking for?

Go to our FAQs section to find answers to your tracking questions.

FAQs
FORM 1
STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL INTERESTS
2017
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

LAST NAME -- FIRST NAME -- MIDDLE NAME :

MAILING ADDRESS :

Timothy J Abrams
Palm Beach County School - Principal
6706 Traveler Rd
West Palm Beach FL 33411

NAME OF OFFICE OR POSITION HELD OR SOUGHT :

You are not limited to the space on the lines on this form. Attach additional sheets, if necessary
CHECK ONLY IF  ☑ CANDIDATE OR  ☑ NEW EMPLOYEE OR APPOINTEE

**** BOTH PARTS OF THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED ****

DISCLOSURE PERIOD:
THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS FOR THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR, WHETHER BASED ON A CALENDAR YEAR OR ON A FISCAL YEAR. PLEASE STATE BELOW WHETHER THIS STATEMENT IS FOR THE PRECEDING TAX YEAR ENDING EITHER (must check one):
☑ DECEMBER 31, 2017 OR  ☑ SPECIFY TAX YEAR IF OTHER THAN THE CALENDAR YEAR:

MANNER OF CALCULATING REPORTABLE INTERESTS:
FILERS HAVE THE OPTION OF USING REPORTING THRESHOLDS THAT ARE ABSOLUTE DOLLAR VALUES, WHICH REQUIRES FEWER CALCULATIONS, OR USING COMPARATIVE THRESHOLDS, WHICH ARE USUALLY BASED ON PERCENTAGE VALUES (see instructions for further details). CHECK THE ONE YOU ARE USING (must check one):
☑ COMPARATIVE (PERCENTAGE) THRESHOLDS OR  ☑ DOLLAR VALUE THRESHOLDS

PART A -- PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME [Major sources of income to the reporting person - See Instructions]
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF SOURCE OF INCOME</th>
<th>SOURCE'S ADDRESS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION OF THE SOURCE'S PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm Beach County School District</td>
<td>3300 Foresthill Blvd WPB FL</td>
<td>Salary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART B -- SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME
[Major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses owned by the reporting person - See instructions]
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY</th>
<th>NAME OF MAJOR SOURCES OF BUSINESS' INCOME</th>
<th>ADDRESS OF SOURCE</th>
<th>PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY OF SOURCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n/A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART C -- REAL PROPERTY [Land, buildings owned by the reporting person - See Instructions]
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

n/A

FILING INSTRUCTIONS for when and where to file this form are located at the bottom of page 2.
INSTRUCTIONS on who must file this form and how to fill it out begin on page 3.
PART D — INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY [Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc. - See instructions]
(if you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

TYPE OF INTANGIBLE

BUSINESS ENTITY TO WHICH THE PROPERTY RELATES

n/a

PART E — LIABILITIES [Major debts - See instructions]
(if you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

NAME OF CREDITOR

MortgageCar

ADDRESS OF CREDITOR

Santander USA

20115 Collins Ave

Miami Beach, FL 33140

PART F — INTERESTS IN SPECIFIED BUSINESSES [Ownership or positions in certain types of businesses - See instructions]
(if you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

NAME OF BUSINESS ENTITY

ADDRESS OF BUSINESS ENTITY

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY

n/a

POSITION HELD WITH ENTITY

OWN MORE THAN A 5% INTEREST IN THE BUSINESS

NATURE OF MY OWNERSHIP INTEREST

n/a

PART G — TRAINING
For elected municipal officers required to complete annual ethics training pursuant to section 112.3142, F.S.

☐ I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIRED TRAINING.

IF ANY OF PARTS A THROUGH G ARE CONTINUED ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE CHECK HERE ☐

SIGNATURE OF FILER:

Signature: 

Date Signed: 9/11/18

CPA or ATTORNEY SIGNATURE ONLY

If a certified public accountant licensed under Chapter 473, or attorney in good standing with the Florida Bar prepared this form for you, he or she must complete the following statement:

I, ____________________________, prepared the CE Form 1 in accordance with Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, and the instructions to the form. Upon my reasonable knowledge and belief, the disclosure herein is true and correct.

CPA/Attorney Signature: ____________________________

Date Signed: ____________________________

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:

If you were mailed the form by the Commission on Ethics or a County Supervisor of Elections for your annual disclosure filing, return the form to that location. To determine what category your position falls under, see page 3 of instructions.

Local officers/employees file with the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which they permanently reside. If you do not permanently reside in Florida, file with the Supervisor of the county where your agency has its headquarters. Form 1 filers who file with the Supervisor of Elections may file by mail or email. Contact your Supervisor of Elections for the mailing address or email address to use. Do not email your form to the Commission on Ethics. It will be returned.

State officers or specified state employees who file with the Commission on Ethics may file by mail or email. To file by mail, send the completed form to P.O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709; physical address: 325 John Knox Rd, Bldg E, Ste 200, Tallahassee, FL 32303. To file with the Commission by email, scan your completed form and any attachments as a pdf (do not use any other format) and send it to CEForm1@leg.state.fl.us. Do not file by both mail and email. Choose only one filing method. Form 6s will not be accepted via email.

Candidates file this form together with their filing papers.

MULTIPLE FILING UNNECESSARY: A candidate who files a Form 1 with a qualifying officer is not required to file with the Commission or Supervisor of Elections.

WHEN TO FILE: Initially, each local officer/employee, state officer, and specified state employee must file within 30 days of the date of his or her appointment or of the beginning of employment. A candidate who files a Form 1 must file prior to confirmation, even if that is less than 30 days from the date of their appointment.

Candidates must file at the same time they file their qualifying papers.

Thereafter, file by July 1 following each calendar year in which they hold their positions.

Finally, file a final disclosure form (Form 1F) within 60 days of leaving office or employment. Filing a CE Form 1F (Final Statement of Financial Interests) does not relieve the filer of filing a CE Form 1 if the filer was in his or her position on December 31, 2017.
BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re Timothy J Abrams  
Principal Employees Palm Beach County School Board

PID#: 273611

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF AUTOMATIC FINE

The Commission on Ethics hereby gives notice of an assessment of a fine against you pursuant to Section 112.3145(7)(f), Florida Statutes, due to your failure to timely file your 2017 CE Form 1, Statement Of Financial Interests. Under the law, your 2017 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, was due by July 2, 2018. The law provided for a penalty-free grace period extending the due date to September 4, 2018. After that date, you accrued fines of $25.00 per day for each day your financial disclosure was late, pursuant to Section 112.3145(7)(f), Florida Statutes.

Inasmuch as your 2017 CE Form 1 was filed September 11, 2018 with the Supervisor of Elections for Palm Beach County, you are fined the amount of $175.00 ($25.00 per day for 7 day(s) late). This fine must be paid to the Commission on Ethics within 30 days of the date of this notice unless you appeal the fine to the Commission. The Commission has the authority to consider the appeal and waive the fine in whole or in part if your failure to file on time was due to "unusual circumstances" surrounding the failure to file.

HOW TO APPEAL

1. Read these instructions carefully before submitting your appeal.

2. LEGAL AUTHORITY: Appeals are governed by Section 112.3145(7)(f)3., Florida Statutes, and Commission Rule 34-8.215, Florida Administrative Code.

3. FORMAT: Your appeal must be in writing and mailed to Florida Commission on Ethics, P. O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709, or delivered to Florida Commission on Ethics, 325 John Knox Road, Building E, Suite 200, Tallahassee, FL 32303. The appeal may take the form of a letter or you may use the appeal form included in this mailing. The appeal form also is available at the Commission's website: www.ethics.state.fl.us. Click on "Financial Disclosure" and then the link to the sample appeal form.

4. DUE DATE: Your appeal must be received by the Commission on Ethics on or before May 17, 2019. NOTE: Failure to timely file an appeal will constitute a waiver of your right to appeal and will result in the entry of a default order against you.

5. UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES: An appeal must demonstrate that you submitted your CE Form 1 after the extended due date because of "unusual circumstances." "Unusual circumstances" is defined in Commission Rule 34-8.215(4), Florida Administrative Code, as "uncommon, rare, or sudden events over which the reporting individual had no control and which directly result in the failure to act in accordance with the filing requirements." Therefore, circumstances that allowed for time to take steps necessary to file on time do not constitute "unusual circumstances" that will allow the Commission to waive the fine. You have the burden to establish "unusual circumstances." Your appeal must specifically state the circumstances that led to your non-filing by September 4, 2018, and must include any documentation or evidence supporting your appeal, such as:
   a. SICKNESS/INJURY: a statement from attending physician, including dates and nature of the illness or injury;
   b. LACK OF NOTICE (WRONG ADDRESS): documentation that you did not reside at the address to which notice was sent;
c. **LACK OF NOTICE (ABSENCE FROM HOME):** documentation establishing the period of time of your absence covering the notification period;

d. **CLAIM OF TIMELY FILING OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:** (1) an affidavit from you attesting under oath or affirmation that you filed your financial disclosure and your recollection of when and how you filed and (2) a copy of a certified mail receipt and/or a copy of the completed form which was filed. If you have witnesses to your filing, we also will need an affidavit from each witness. **NOTE:** A claim of having filed the CE Form 1F for the current year does not satisfy the CE Form 1 filing requirement or excuse a late filing;

e. **LEFT PUBLIC POSITION BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2017:** confirmation of your last date of office or employment by your former agency, showing the last date to be before December 31, 2017; or

f. **UNCLAIMED CERTIFIED MAIL:** if delinquency notice was addressed correctly but not received, you must explain why.

6. **YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING:** You have the right to have your appeal heard by the Commission and to appear before the Commission at the hearing, but, to exercise this right, **you must specifically request a hearing in your appeal.** If you do not request a hearing, you will waive your right to a hearing, the Commission will determine the outcome of your appeal based upon the written record (including the documentation you provide and any documentation in your case file), and you will receive no further notice until after the Commission decides your appeal.

**FAILURE TO PAY FINE OR FILE APPEAL WITHIN 30 DAYS**

If you do not timely file an appeal or pay the assessed fine within 30 days of this Notice, a default order will be entered against you and the Commission will take the steps provided by law to collect the fine, including:

- Referral to the CFO of the Department of Financial Services, if you are a salaried state officer or employee, for withholding of a portion of you salary until the fine is satisfied; or
- Referral to your agency’s governing body for withholding of a portion of your salary until the fine is satisfied;
- Referral to a collection agency, which can seek garnishment of your wages; and/or
- An additional civil penalty, not limited by this automatic fine, may be imposed if your disclosure statement is filed more than 60 days late and a complaint is filed against you pursuant to Section 112.324, Florida Statutes.

Please contact our office if you have any questions about this matter.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice of Assessment of Automatic Fine was furnished to:

Timothy J Abrams  
6706 Traveler Rd  
West Palm Bch, FL 33411 -6430

by Certified Mail on this Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

[Signature]

KIMBERLY R. HOLMES  
Program Administrator

Florida Commission on Ethics  
P. O. Drawer 15709  
Tallahassee, FL 32317-5709

Florida Commission on Ethics  
325 John Knox Road, Building E, Ste. 200  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Tel.: (850) 488-7864  
Fax: (850) 488-3077  
Email: disclosure@leg.state.fl.us
273611
TIMOTHY J. ABRAMS
6705 TRAVELER RD.
WEST PALM BCH, FL 33411-6430

URGENT - Open
Immediately!
April 24, 2019

Dear MAIL MAIL:

The following is in response to your request for proof of delivery on your item with the tracking number: 9214 8901 0661 5400 0137 2470 77.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status Date / Time:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Postal Product:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extra Services:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recipient Name:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Signature of Recipient:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Scanned image may reflect a different destination address due to Intended Recipient’s delivery instructions on file.

Thank you for selecting the United States Postal Service® for your mailing needs. If you require additional assistance, please contact your local Post Office™ or a Postal representative at 1-800-222-1811.

Sincerely,
United States Postal Service®
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260-0004

The customer reference information shown below is not validated or endorsed by the United States Postal Service. It is solely for customer use.

Reference ID: 92148901066154000137247077
273611
TIMOTHY J ABRAMS
6706 Traveler Rd
West Palm Bch, FL 33411-6430
The filer has fines for: **2018 (Appeal)**

### 2018 Fines and Appeals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Received Date</th>
<th>Form Type</th>
<th>Form Signed</th>
<th>Filed by Email</th>
<th>Filing Location</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/11/18</td>
<td>Form 1</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>SOE</td>
<td>HOLMESK(SOE IMPORT) on 12/04/2018</td>
<td>Palm Beach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2018 Fine Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fine Balance</th>
<th>Fine Status</th>
<th>Fine Date</th>
<th>Original Assessment</th>
<th>Fine Amount</th>
<th>Last Payment Date</th>
<th>Payment Plan Start Date</th>
<th>Payment Plan Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$175.00</td>
<td>Appeal</td>
<td>4/17/2019</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fine Address:** 6706 Traveler Rd West Palm Bch FL 33411-6430

**Org/Suborg:** Palm Beach County School Board-Employees

#### 2018 Fine Payment History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Posted</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Payment ID</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/17/2019</td>
<td>Fine Levied</td>
<td>+ $175.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fined $175.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Current Balance:** $175.00
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08/16/2018</td>
<td>Postcard Sent</td>
<td>Courtesy Postcard Reminder</td>
<td>Print Queue: 8/16/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/06/2018</td>
<td>Letter Sent</td>
<td>Courtesy Notice of Fines Accruing</td>
<td>Print Queue: 9/6/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/11/2018</td>
<td>Form Received</td>
<td>Form 1 Received, Signed</td>
<td>Form 1 Received by Palm Beach SOE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Letter Sent To:**
Timothy J Abrams  
6706 Traveler Rd  
West Palm Bch, FL 33411 -6430  

**Form Received By:** Palm Beach County SOE  
**Filing Location:** Palm Beach County SOE  
**Record Created By:** HOLMESK(SOE IMPORT) on 12/04/2018

- 04/17/2019 Fine Levied Fined $175.00 Journal: 4/17/2019 11:22 AM  
  Printing Confirmed: 4/17/2019
Timothy J Abrams
6706 Traveler Rd
West Palm Bch, FL 33411 -6430

04/22/2019 Filer Communication: Mr. Abrams called regarding fine. He stated that the school he was working closed down and he was relocated. He was unaware he had to file because of the school closing. He will contact Hal, the coordinator, to ask about his requirement to file. He will also submit an appeal. I advised him that the appeal must be in our office no later than May 17, 2019.

05/10/2019 Fine Appeal FD 18-071 Journal: 5/10/2019
8:16 AM

05/13/2019 Letter Sent Fine Appeal Print Queue: 5/13/2019
Printing Confirmed: 5/13/2019

Letter Sent To:
Timothy J Abrams
6706 Traveler Rd
West Palm Bch, FL 33411 -6430

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Fine Appeal — FD 18-071</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Update Appeal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assign Attorney</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record Appeal Outcome</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Appeal Status: Active
Appeal Receipt Date: 05/09/2019
Timely Filed: Yes
No Hearing Requested
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print Appeal Letter:</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hearing Requested:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal Reason:</td>
<td>Lack of Notification, Previously Filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Disclosure</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Appeal Notes:</td>
<td>Appeal Number: FD 18-071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeal Analyst</td>
<td>Assigned:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Order Number:</td>
<td>Final Order Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>