

DATE FILED

JAN 26 2022

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re CYNTHIA LYNN HOWARD,)
)
Respondent.)
)
_____)

Complaint No. 21-184

ORDER FINDING PROBABLE CAUSE

Based on the preliminary investigation of this complaint and on the recommendation of the Commission's Advocate, the Commission on Ethics finds that there is probable cause to believe the Respondent, as a local officer required to file financial disclosure, violated Section 112.3145(9)(c) [formerly Section 112.3145(8)(c)], Florida Statutes, by willfully failing or refusing to file an annual CE Form 1, "Statement of Financial Interests," for the year 2018, required to be filed by her due to her serving as a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association.

The Commission also finds, based on the preliminary investigation of this complaint and on the recommendation of the Commission's Advocate, that there is probable cause to believe the Respondent violated 112.3145(9)(c) [formerly Section 112.3145(8)(c)], Florida Statutes, by willfully failing or refusing to file an annual CE Form 1, "Statement of Financial Interests," for the year 2019, required to be filed by her due to her serving as a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association.

Therefore, the Commission orders a public hearing as to whether the Respondent violated Section 112.3145(9)(c) [formerly Section 112.3145(8)(c)], Florida Statutes, as set forth in the paragraphs above. A formal notice of hearing on the matter on which probable cause has been found will be prepared and sent to the Respondent and to the Advocate.

Under Commission Rule 34-5.020, Florida Administrative Code, the Commission may resolve a complaint proceeding through a stipulation, settlement, or consent order entered into by the Respondent and the Commission's Advocate and approved by the Commission. If the Respondent wishes to pursue a settlement of this case, she should contact the Commission's Advocate at (850) 414-3300 to discuss the terms of a possible settlement.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in executive session on January 21, 2022.

January 26, 2022
Date

JoAnne Leznoff
Chair, Florida Commission on Ethics

cc: Mr. James A. McKee, Attorney for Respondent
Ms. Melody A. Hadley, Commission Advocate