

DATE FILED

OCT 29 2021

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Complaint No. 21-184

DETERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION
AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE

UPON REVIEW of records of the Commission on Ethics, I find as follows:

1. The Respondent, Cynthia Lynn Howard, allegedly serves as a member of the Board of Governors of the Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association.
2. The Respondent failed or refused to file a 2018 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, within 60 days of September 3, 2019, the date automatic fines of \$25 per day began to accrue under Section 112.3145(8)(g), Florida Statutes, for the 2018 Form year.
3. As of November 2, 2019, the Respondent accrued the maximum fine (\$1,500) authorized under Section 112.3145(8)(g) regarding the 2018 CE Form 1.
4. The Respondent also failed or refused to file a 2019 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, within 60 days of September 1, 2020, the date automatic fines of \$25 per day began to accrue under Section 112.3145(8)(g), Florida Statutes, for the 2019 Form year.
5. As of October 31, 2020, the Respondent accrued the maximum fine (\$1,500) authorized under Section 112.3145(8)(g) regarding the 2019 CE Form 1.

6. The Respondent was sent or received notice regarding the failure to file a 2018 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests, as well as the 2019 CE Form 1, Statement of Financial Interests.

7. Pursuant to Section 112.3145(9)(c), Florida Statutes, if a person holding public office or public employment fails or refuses to file an annual statement for any year in which the person received notice from the Commission regarding the failure to file and has accrued the maximum automatic fine authorized under Section 112.3145(8)(g), regardless of whether the fine imposed was paid or collected, the Commission shall initiate an investigation and conduct a public hearing without receipt of a complaint to determine whether the person's failure to file is willful.

8. The facts stated in this order are sufficient to invoke the jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics as set forth in Section 112.3145(9)(c) regarding both the 2018 and 2019 CE Form 1s.

WHEREFORE staff of the Commission on Ethics shall conduct an investigation of this matter for a probable cause determination as to whether the Respondent has willfully failed or refused to file an annual disclosure statement, as set forth above.

October 29, 2021
Date

Kerrie J. Stillman
Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

KJS/gps