

FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
MAR 07 2023
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**BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

**In re: Jennie Blackburn,
Respondent.**

Complaint No. 22-146

**PRE-PROBABLE CAUSE
JOINT STIPULATION OF FACT, LAW, AND RECOMMENDED ORDER**

Respondent, Jennie Blackburn, and the Advocate for the Florida Commission on Ethics enter into this Pre-Probable Cause Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order with respect to the above-styled Complaint. Subject to acceptance by the Commission on Ethics, the parties agree that they enter into this stipulated settlement in lieu of further hearings in this cause. The parties stipulate as follows:

STIPULATED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent served as a Commissioner for the Town of Redington Shores, Florida and therefore is subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.
2. On September 9, 2022, a sworn Complaint was filed with the Commission on Ethics alleging that Respondent violated the Code of Ethics.
3. Pursuant to Section 112.322, Florida Statutes, the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics found that the Complaint was legally sufficient and ordered a preliminary investigation of the Complaint for a probable cause determination of whether Respondent had violated the Code of Ethics. The Report of Investigation was released on January 20, 2023.

4. The allegations are:

I. Respondent violated Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate CE Form 1, "Statement of Financial Interests," for the year 2020."

II. Respondent violated Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate CE Form 1, "Statement of Financial Interests," for the year 2021."

5. On February 1, 2023, the Advocate filed her Advocate's Recommendation in this case recommending that:

In Allegations I and II, the Commission on Ethics find probable cause to believe Respondent violated Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes.

6. Respondent admits the facts as set forth in the Report of Investigation as to the allegations as incorporated by reference in this Joint Stipulation.

7. Respondent has filed a CE Form 1X, "Amendment to Statement of Financial Interests," for the years 2020 and 2021.

STIPULATED CONCLUSION OF LAW

8. Respondent is subject to the provisions of Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

9. The Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction over the Complaint as filed in this proceeding and over Respondent.

10. Respondent admits the allegations as set forth in paragraph four (4) of the Stipulated Findings of Fact above.

11. Respondent violated Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate CE Form 1, "Statement of Financial Interests," for the year 2020."

12. Respondent violated Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, by filing an inaccurate CE Form 1, "Statement of Financial Interests," for the year 2021."

STIPULATED RECOMMENDED ORDER

13. The Advocate accepts Respondent's admissions in this proceeding.

14. The Advocate and Respondent have entered into this Joint Stipulation and urge the Commission on Ethics to approve it in lieu of further hearings in this cause.

15. Therefore, the parties request and the Advocate recommends that:

(a) The Commission on Ethics approve this Joint Stipulation, embodying the stipulations, admissions, and recommendations of the parties; and,

(b) The Commission on Ethics enter a Final Order and Public Report finding that Respondent violated Section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, and recommending:

A civil penalty of:

\$500.00 for Allegation I and

\$500.00 for Allegation II

For a total civil penalty of \$1,000.

FURTHER STIPULATIONS

16. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate and covenant that they have freely and voluntarily entered into this Pre-Probable Cause Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order with full knowledge and understanding of its contents. Respondent and the Advocate further stipulate and covenant that this Joint Stipulation constitutes the full agreement of the parties and that there are no oral or written understandings between the parties other than those contained in this Pre-Probable Cause Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order.

17. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate and covenant that, in consideration of the provisions of this Pre-Probable Cause Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order, they accept and will comply with the above-referenced Final Order and Public Report of the

Commission on Ethics.

18. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate that this Pre-Probable Cause Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order is submitted to the Commission on Ethics for its consideration and ratification. In the event that it is not approved by the Commission on Ethics as written, this document shall be of no purpose and effect and shall not be deemed an admission by Respondent.

19. Respondent enters into this Joint Stipulation with the understanding of the seriousness of the allegations and gives her assurance that this proceeding has affected the manner in which she conducts herself as a public official in a positive way.

20. Effective upon approval of this Pre-Probable Cause Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order by the Commission on Ethics, Respondent waives all time, notice, hearing rights, requirements, and entitlements, as to all subsequent hearings in this proceeding. By her signature hereto, Respondent waives any and all confidentiality with respect to these proceedings.

Signed, dated, and entered into:

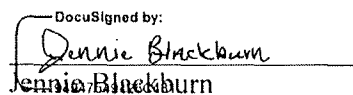
this 7th day of March, 2023.



Melody A. Hadley
Advocate for the Florida
Commission on Ethics
Florida Bar No. 0636045
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 414-3300

Signed, dated, and entered into: 3/6/2023

this 6th day of March, 2023.



Jennie Blackburn
Respondent
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Redington Shores, FL 33708
(727) 599-5418