

DATE FILED

MAR 22 2021

COMMISSION ON ETHICS

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

CONFIDENTIAL

In re VANESSA BAUGH,)
)
 Respondent.)
_____)

Complaint No. 21-044

DETERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION
AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE

UPON REVIEW of this complaint, I find as follows:

1. This complaint was filed by Charlie Stephenson of Sarasota, Florida.
2. The Respondent, Vanessa Baugh, allegedly serves as a County Commissioner for Manatee County.
3. The complaint alleges the Respondent directed 3,000 COVID-19 vaccines to be distributed to only two zip codes within Manatee County, despite the fact that these zip codes encompassed some of the lowest numbers of COVID-19 cases in the County, and then wrote a list prioritizing several individuals to receive the vaccine, including herself, a developer, and several other top donors. The complaint alleges some of the individuals on the Respondent's priority list did not even reside in the zip codes chosen. This indicates possible violations of Article II, Section 8(g)(2), Florida Constitution,¹ and Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by the Respondent.

WHEREFORE, staff of the Commission on Ethics shall conduct a preliminary investigation of this complaint for a probable cause determination of whether the Respondent has

¹ Article II, Section 8(g)(2) will be redesignated as Article II, Section 8(h)(2) on December 31, 2022.

violated Article II, Section 8(g)(2), Florida Constitution, and Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes,
as set forth in paragraph 3, above.

March 27, 2021
Date


C. Christopher Anderson, III
Executive Director
Florida Commission on Ethics

CCA/gps