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State of Florida
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
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"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Re: Complaint No. 17-106, In re RICARDO "RIC" FERNANDEZ

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The Florida Commission on Ethics has completed a full and final investigation of a complaint involving Ricardo "Ric" Fernandez, the former City Manager for the City of Tallahassee. Pursuant to Section 112.324(8), Florida Statutes, we are reporting our findings and recommending appropriate disciplinary action to you in this case. Enclosed are copies of our final order and of our file in this matter. As we have found pursuant to a stipulation that Mr. Fernandez violated the Code of Ethics in the manner described by our order, we recommend that you impose a public censure and reprimand upon him, as well as a civil penalty in the amount of \$6,000 (six thousand dollars), penalties which he has agreed to be subjected to and to pay. If we may be of any assistance to you in your deliberations, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would appreciate your informing us of the manner in which you dispose of this matter. For information regarding collection of the civil penalty, please contact the Office of the Attorney General, Ms. Elizabeth A. Miller, Assistant Attorney General.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Virlindia Doss".

Virlindia Doss
Executive Director

VAD/gps

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Richard E. Coates, Attorney for Respondent
Mr. Emmett Mitchell, IV, Attorney for Respondent
Ms. Elizabeth A. Miller, Commission Advocate
Mr. Erwin D. Jackson, Complainant

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re RICARDO "RIC" FERNANDEZ,)	
)	Complaint No. 17-106
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
_____)	Final Order No. 19-013

FINAL ORDER AND PUBLIC REPORT

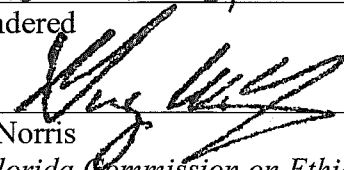
The State of Florida Commission on Ethics, meeting in public session on March 8, 2019, adopted the Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order entered into between the Advocate for the Commission and the Respondent in this matter.

In accordance with the Stipulation, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, the Commission finds that the Respondent, who served as the City Manager for the City of Tallahassee, violated Section 112.3148(8), Florida Statutes, by failing to report a gift (i.e., discount on catering for his daughter's wedding reception) in excess of \$100, violated Section 112.3148(3), Florida Statutes, by soliciting a gift (i.e., football tickets) from a vendor, lobbyist, and/or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist of the City of Tallahassee, and violated Section 112.3148(4), Florida Statutes, by accepting gifts in excess of \$100 (i.e., FSU vs. Charleston Southern football tickets; FSU vs. North Carolina football tickets; FSU vs. Wake Forest football tickets; and FSU vs. Boston College football tickets) from a vendor, lobbyist, and/or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist of the City of Tallahassee.¹

¹ The other allegations for which the Commission found probable cause are dismissed for the reasons enumerated in the Stipulation.

For the violations, in accordance with the Stipulation, the Commission hereby recommends a public censure and reprimand of the Respondent, as well as a civil penalty in the total amount of \$6,000, penalties which the Respondent has agreed to be subjected to and to pay.

ORDERED by the State of Florida Commission on Ethics meeting in public session on March 8, 2019.

March 13, 2019
Date Rendered


Guy W. Norris
Chair, Florida Commission on Ethics

cc: Mr. Richard E. Coates, Attorney for Respondent
Mr. Emmett Mitchell, IV, Attorney for Respondent
Ms. Elizabeth A. Miller, Commission Advocate
Mr. Erwin D. Jackson, Complainant