



OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

March 2, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

State Attorney Bill Eddins announced today that all five members of the Crestview City Council have been charged with non criminal infractions for violating Florida's Government in the Sunshine Law. Charles Baugh, Phillip Berezo, Tim Grandberry, Robyn Helt and Benjamin Iannucci, have each been charged for discussing matters that foreseeably would come before the council for action outside a public meeting. Non criminal violations of the Sunshine Law are punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.

These charges are the result of an extensive investigation involving complaints that council members were using e-mail to exchange information outside a public meeting. In addition, these were allegations that one council member, Benjamin Iannucci, had improperly deleted e-mails from his office computer. During the course of this investigation almost 5,000 e-mails and numerous other documents were reviewed. Approximately fifteen witnesses were interviewed including all five council members.

In order for an e-mail to be a violation of the Sunshine Law, it must involve an exchange of information regarding a matter that will foreseeably come before the council for action. When this standard was applied, it was determined that four e-mails constituted a violation of the law. It was also determined that these violations were not done knowingly making a non criminal infraction the appropriate charge.

Allegations involving the deletion of e-mails by Benjamin Iannucci were also investigated and it was determined that insufficient evidence existed to establish a violation of the law.

Each member of the council has been notified of the charges. An arraignment for each council member has been scheduled for March 20, at 8:30 a.m., before Judge James Ward in Crestview.

Attached to this press release are copies of the charging documents filed against each council member. For further information, please contact State Attorney Bill Eddins at (850) 595-4761.

Case Number _____ Arrest Date _____ Agency Report # _____

RACE: B SEX: M DOB: UNKNOWN SSN#: UNKNOWN

1) VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE LAW

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

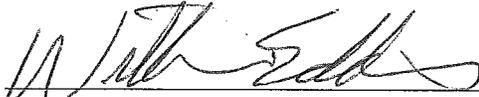
vs.

CHARLES BAUGH, JR.

WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, prosecuting for the STATE OF FLORIDA, charges that CHARLES BAUGH, JR., on, during, or between April 7, 2011 and July 22, 2011 at and in Okaloosa County, Florida, and while a member of a board or commission of a municipal corporation or political subdivision, to wit, The Crestview City Council, did unlawfully engage in a discussion or exchange of information with other members of the Crestview City Council, regarding a matter which foreseeably would come before said board or commission for action, outside of a public meeting, in violation of Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes. Said violation being a noncriminal infraction in violation of Section 286.011(3)(a), Florida Statutes.

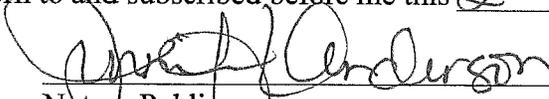
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

Before me personally appeared the undersigned State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, being personally known to me, and who first being duly sworn, says that the allegations set forth in the foregoing information and which if true, would constitute the offense there charged, that the Office of the State Attorney has received testimony from a material witness or witnesses for the offense and that this prosecution is instituted in good faith.



William Eddins
State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of March, 2012.



Notary Public

Case Number _____ Arrest Date _____ Agency Report # _____

RACE: B SEX: M DOB: UNKNOWN SSN#: UNKNOWN

1) VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE LAW

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

TIM GRANDBERRY, SR.

WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, prosecuting for the STATE OF FLORIDA, charges that TIM GRANDBERRY, SR., on, during, or between April 7, 2011 and July 22, 2011 at and in Okaloosa County, Florida, and while a member of a board or commission of a municipal corporation or political subdivision, to wit, The Crestview City Council, did unlawfully engage in a discussion or exchange of information with other members of the Crestview City Council, regarding a matter which foreseeably would come before said board or commission for action, outside of a public meeting, in violation of Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes. Said violation being a noncriminal infraction in violation of Section 286.011(3)(a), Florida Statutes.

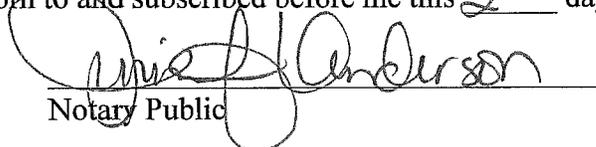
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

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State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit

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Case Number _____ Arrest Date _____ Agency Report # _____

RACE: W SEX: M DOB: UNKNOWN SSN#: UNKNOWN

1) VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE LAW

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

BENJAMIN J. IANNUCCI, III

WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, prosecuting for the STATE OF FLORIDA, charges that BENJAMIN J. IANNUCCI, III, on, during, or between April 7, 2011 and July 22, 2011 at and in Okaloosa County, Florida, and while a member of a board or commission of a municipal corporation or political subdivision, to wit, The Crestview City Council, did unlawfully engage in a discussion or exchange of information with other members of the Crestview City Council, regarding a matter which foreseeably would come before said board or commission for action, outside of a public meeting, in violation of Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes. Said violation being a noncriminal infraction in violation of Section 286.011(3)(a), Florida Statutes.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

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William Eddins
State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit

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1) VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE LAW

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

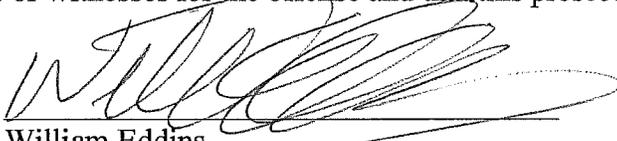
vs.

PHILLIP BEREZO

WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, prosecuting for the STATE OF FLORIDA, charges that PHILLIP BEREZO, on, during, or between April 7, 2011 and July 22, 2011 at and in Okaloosa County, Florida, and while a member of a board or commission of a municipal corporation or political subdivision, to wit, The Crestview City Council, did unlawfully engage in a discussion or exchange of information with other members of the Crestview City Council, regarding a matter which foreseeably would come before said board or commission for action, outside of a public meeting, in violation of Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes. Said violation being a noncriminal infraction in violation of Section 286.011(3)(a), Florida Statutes.

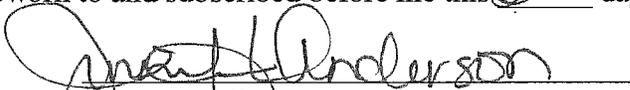
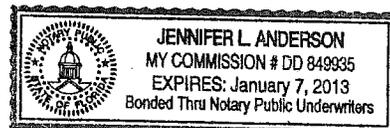
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

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William Eddins
State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit

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Notary Public

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RACE: W SEX: F DOB: UNKNOWN SSN#: UNKNOWN

1) VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE LAW

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

ROBIN HELT

WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, prosecuting for the STATE OF FLORIDA, charges that ROBIN HELT, on, during, or between April 7, 2011 and July 22, 2011 at and in Okaloosa County, Florida, and while a member of a board or commission of a municipal corporation or political subdivision, to wit, The Crestview City Council, did unlawfully engage in a discussion or exchange of information with other members of the Crestview City Council, regarding a matter which foreseeably would come before said board or commission for action, outside of a public meeting, in violation of Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes. Said violation being a noncriminal infraction in violation of Section 286.011(3)(a), Florida Statutes.

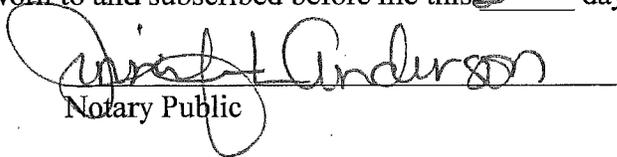
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

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William Eddins
State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit

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