

WILLIAM "BILL" EDDINS
STATE ATTORNEY



P.O. Box 12726
Pensacola, FL 32591
Telephone: (850) 595-4200
Website: <http://sa01.co.escambia.fl.us>

OFFICE OF
STATE ATTORNEY
FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

March 12, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

State Attorney Bill Eddins announced today that Santa Rosa County Commissioner Robert A. "Bob" Cole has been charged with a non-criminal violation of the Government in the Sunshine Law. This violation is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$500.

This charge arises out of Cole's membership on the Milton Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board. Prior to the beginning of January 15, 2015 meeting, Cole discussed a matter that was scheduled to be considered by the Board with another board member, Elba Robertson. This discussion occurred outside a public meeting in violation of Florida Law. No charges have been filed against Ms. Robertson in this matter. The reason for this decision is based in part on the fact that Ms. Robertson was a non-elected volunteer member of the board. In addition, Ms. Robertson has resigned from the Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board and has agreed not to serve on any Sunshine boards without additional training in the law.

Attached to this release is a copy of the charging document filed in this case as well as Ms. Robertson's resignation letter and correspondence from her attorney. For additional information, please contact State Attorney Bill Eddins at 595-4761.

Case Number _____ Arrest Date _____ Agency Report # _____

RACE: W SEX: M DOB: UNKNOWN

1) VIOLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE LAW

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

STATE OF FLORIDA


vs.

ROBERT A. "BOB" COLE

WILLIAM EDDINS, State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, prosecuting for the STATE OF FLORIDA, charges that ROBERT A. "BOB" COLE, on or about January 15, 2015 at and in Santa Rosa County, Florida, while being a public officer serving as a member of the Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board, a board subject to the requirements of the Florida Government in the Sunshine Law, did unlawfully discuss matters that were reasonably believed to come before such board with another board member, in violation of Section 286.011(1), Florida Statutes. Said violation being a noncriminal infraction pursuant to Section 286.011 (3)(a), Florida Statutes.

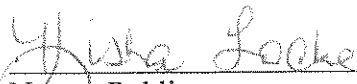
STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

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.

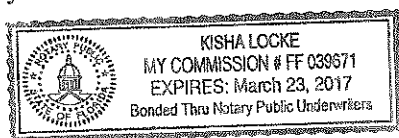


WILLIAM EDDINS
State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of March, 2015.



Notary Public



February 26, 2015

Wesley Meiss, Chairman

Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board

I, Elba Robertson do hereby resign my position as board member of the Milton Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board effective immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elba Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elba Robertson



LAW OFFICE
BROOKS, WARRICK, & ASSOCIATES, P.A.
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION



KENNETH L. BROOKS, JR.
STEVEN C. WARRICK

6867 OAK STREET
P.O. BOX 856
MILTON, FL 32572
TEL (85) 623-3605
FAX (850) 623-8990
www.brooks-warrick.com

March 9, 2015

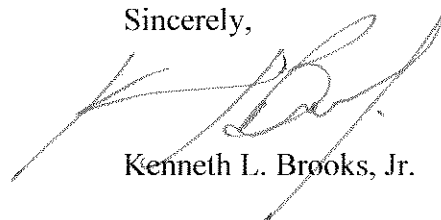
Greg Marcille
Assistant State Attorney
State Attorney Office
190 Governmental Center
Pensacola, FL 32501

RE: Elba Robertson-Milton Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Board

Dear Mr. Marcille:

Pursuant to our latest discussion, I must advise you that Elba Robertson resigned her position on the Milton Downtown Advisory Board effective February 26, 2015. That will be her last board position. She will not be serving on any future Sunshine boards, and should she change her mind she will receive "Sunshine Training" before considering accepting future positions. If you should have any future question or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Brooks, Jr.

KLB/alm