



Florida Commission on Ethics

P. O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709
"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

MAY 20 2020

COMPLAINT

RECEIVED

ORIGINAL

20-073

1. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:

Name: JOE WARD Telephone Number: (850) 607-0565
Address: 5480 NORTH SHORE RD
City: PENSACOLA County: ESCAMBIA State: FL Zip Code: 32507

2. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT:

Use a separate complaint form for each person you wish to complain against:

Name: DOUG UNDERHILL Telephone Number: (850) 595-4920
Address: 221 PALAFOX PL
City: PENSACOLA County: ESCAMBIA Zip Code: 32501
Title of office or position held or sought: COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 2

3. STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Please provide a full explanation of your complaint, describing the facts and the actions of the person named above and why you believe he or she violated the law. Include relevant dates and the names and addresses of persons whom you believe may be witnesses. Please do not submit more than 15 pages, including this form. Please do not submit video or audio tapes, CDs, DVDs, flash drives or other electronic media; such material will not be considered part of the complaint and will be returned.

4. OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

I, the person bringing this complaint, do swear or affirm that the facts set forth in the foregoing complaint and attachments thereto are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of ☒ physical presence or ☐ online notarization, this 18 day of MAY, 20 20, by JOE WARD
(name of person making statement)

SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT

(Signature of Notary Public)

(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name, Notary Public) Expires 10/21/2023

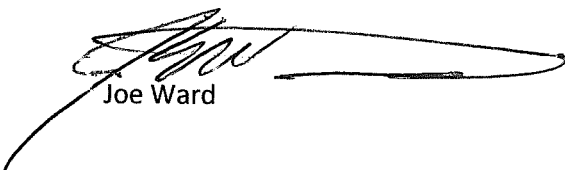
Personally Known OR Produced Identification X
Type of Identification Produced: FLORIDA DRIVERS LICENSE

ETHICS COMPLAINT AGAINST ESCAMBIA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DOUG UNDERHILL

While it is true that we seek transparency from our elected officials, we have a greater concern with any reckless misuse of the authority vested to such an elected official. Not following the "Ethics" rules of the State of Florida is a crime. Escambia County Commissioner, Doug Underhill, violated such rules. He did so by sharing sensitive information that the County Commissioners garnered in a "Shade" meeting(s) held by the County Attorney, Allison Rogers. I seek criminal charges against Mr. Underhill for his continued disregard for the rule of law, as it relates to the Public Records Laws, and the use and misuse of such entitlements.

During the week of May 11, 2020, Commissioner Doug Underhill published the transcript of the Board of County Commissioners' shade meetings that were closed to the public and involved the five Escambia County Commission Board members and the Escambia County Attorney. The five shade meetings were dated 2-18-2014, 4-10-2014, 6-25-2015, 7-7-2015, and 8-4-2016 respectfully. The subject of these five Board meetings was the still open court case concerning Innerarity Island water/sewer system.

On May 15, 2020, I verified with the County Attorney that the Board of County Commissioners had not authorized the public release of these transcripts. On Thursday, May 14, 2020, the Board discussed the public release of the transcripts but failed to vote on the issue. However, the "cat was already out of the bag" as Commissioner Underhill had already discriminated the transcripts to the general public.



Joe Ward