

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

CONFIDENTIAL

In re JONATHAN L. OWENS,)
)
 Respondent.)
_____)

Complaint No. 23-231

DETERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION
AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE

UPON REVIEW of this complaint, I find as follows:

1. This complaint was filed by Jeffrey W. Bergosh of Pensacola, Florida.
2. The Respondent, Jonathan L. Owens, allegedly served as the administrative secretary to Escambia County Commissioner Doug Underhill.¹
3. The complaint alleges that, after leaving public employment, the Respondent disclosed information not available to members of the public, and which he had gained due to his public position, to attorneys involved in litigation against Escambia County. The complaint indicates the information was data taken from the personal cell phone of the Complainant, who is a County Commissioner. The complaint alleges the attorneys who received this information from the Respondent believed the information was helpful to their case and intended to use it in the litigation against the County. This indicates possible violations of Section 112.313(8), Florida Statutes, by the Respondent.²

¹ The complaint indicates the Respondent served in this capacity until November 2022, and then left public employment.

² Unlike other provisions over which the Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction, the prohibition in Section 112.313(8), Florida Statutes, by its very language, applies to both current and former agency employees.

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 violated Section 112.313(8), Florida Statutes, as set forth in paragraph 3, above.

November 7, 2023
Date

Kerrie J. Stillman
Kerrie Stillman
Executive Director

KS/gps