

BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

CONFIDENTIAL

In re JEFF BERGOSH,)
)
 Respondent.)
_____)

Complaint No. 24-162

DETERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIVE JURISDICTION
AND ORDER TO INVESTIGATE

UPON REVIEW of this complaint, I find as follows:

1. This complaint was filed by Pam Childers of Pensacola, Florida.
2. The Respondent, Jeff Bergosh, serves as the District 1 Escambia County Commissioner.
3. The complaint alleges that Respondent voted to improperly expend public dollars to cover a fine and cost of prosecution and investigation assessed against a former paramedic for Escambia County.
4. Specifically, the complaint alleges that after the former paramedic became aware that the County Attorney stated that this expenditure would be unlawful, he corresponded with Respondent via text message to get the expenditure on the agenda at an Escambia County Board of County Commissioners meeting anyway. The complaint alleges that the County Attorney informed Respondent that the expenditure was unlawful, yet Respondent told his fellow County Commissioners that the County Attorney had said it was legal and appropriate.
5. The complaint also alleges that after the expenditure vote passed at Respondent's urging, Respondent pushed to sue the Clerk's office for payment after it determined that it could

not make the payment because the payment was unlawful. This indicates a possible violation of Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes.¹

WHEREFORE staff of the Commission on Ethics shall conduct a preliminary investigation of this complaint for a probable cause determination of whether Respondent has violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, as set forth above.

August 21, 2024
Date
Kerrie J. Stillman
Kerrie J. Stillman
Executive Director

KJS/sjz/aln

¹ Given the litigation with the Clerk's office, it appears that this complaint was made regarding a matter in which the Complainant, as the Clerk and Comptroller, appears to have had personal knowledge.