

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 2020E-08

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Florida, by constitutional amendment, have declared that a public office is a public trust and the people have a right to secure and sustain that trust against abuse; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida Commission on Ethics has been created to assure that public officers and employees do not abuse the trust placed in them; and

WHEREAS, Ricardo “Ric” Fernandez is at all times material hereto the former City Manager for the City of Tallahassee, and as such was subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and subject to the jurisdictions of the Commission on Ethics; and

WHEREAS, in the Final Order and Public Report No. 19-013 rendered on December 4, 2018, the Commission on Ethics found that Ricardo “Ric” Fernandez violated section 112.3148(8), Florida Statutes, by failing to report a gift in excess of \$100 and violated section 112.3148(3), Florida Statutes by soliciting a gift from a vendor, lobbyist, and/or the partner, firm, employer, or principal of a lobbyist of the City of Tallahassee; and

WHEREAS, the Governor accepts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission on Ethics Final Order and Public Report No. 19-013.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue this Executive Order, effective immediately, declaring that:

1. Ricardo "Ric" Fernandez violated section 112.3148(8), Florida Statutes, by failing to report a gift in excess of \$100 and violated section 112.3148(3), Florida Statutes by soliciting a gift from a vendor, lobbyist, and/or the partner, firm employer, or principal of a lobbyist of the City of Tallahassee.
2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$6,000 for the violation of 112.3148(8) and 112.3148(3), Florida Statutes, is hereby imposed against Fernandez, which shall be satisfied within thirty (30) days of the date of this order. Payment must be submitted with a written statement under oath by Fernandez that the penalty amount was not paid with public funds and will not be reimbursed with public funds.
3. Ricardo "Ric" Fernandez is hereby publicly censured and reprimanded.



RON DESANTIS

GOVERNOR

DATE: February 11, 2020

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Jacquot".

Joseph Jacquot
GENERAL COUNSEL

On behalf of and by the authority of Governor Ron DeSantis

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laurel M. Lee".

Laurel M. Lee
SECRETARY OF STATE

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