

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 12-165

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 Commission on Ethics of the State of Florida has been created to represent the people in assuring that public officers do not abuse trust placed in them; and

WHEREAS, Chris Hughes, is at all times material hereto former Okaloosa County Tax Collector, and as such is subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, and within the jurisdiction of the State of Florida Commission on Ethics; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Ethics concluded that Mr. Hughes violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes by using County office equipment and resources during work hours for personal business, by using a County vehicle to travel to a funeral for the mother of an employee, and by using County funds to reimburse an employee for costs associated with attending the funeral of the mother of a co-employee; and

WHEREAS, the Governor accepts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission on Ethics Final Order and Public Report rendered on April 4, 2012, and the Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order adopted on March 30, 2012;

NOW THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and pursuant to the

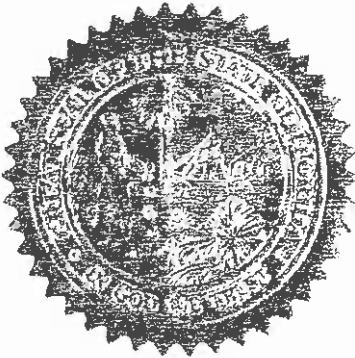
Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue this Executive Order effective immediately finding that:

1. Chris Hughes violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes by using County office equipment and resources during work hours for personal business, by using a County vehicle to travel to a funeral for the mother of an employee, and by using County funds to reimburse an employee for costs associated with attending the funeral of the mother of a co-employee.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$3,000.00 is hereby imposed against Mr. Hughes, which penalty shall be satisfied within thirty (30) days of the date of this order. Payment must be submitted with a written statement made under oath by Mr. Hughes that the penalty was not paid with public funds and will not be reimbursed with public funds.

3. Mr. Hughes is hereby publicly censured and reprimanded.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 30th day of July, 2012.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
2012 JUL 30 PM 2:32
Department of State
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA