

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 13-195 (Executive Order of Suspension)

**WHEREAS**, Gloria Uzzell is currently serving as Superintendent of Schools in Liberty County, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2013, Gloria Uzzell was arrested on count of grand theft, in violation of section 812.014(2)(c)1., Florida Statutes, and one count of official misconduct, in violation of section 838.022, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, violations of section 812.014(2)(c)1., and 838.022, Florida Statutes, constitute the commission of felonies; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the residents of the Liberty County, and the citizens of the State of Florida, that Gloria Uzzell be immediately suspended from the public office that she now holds, upon the grounds set forth in this executive order.

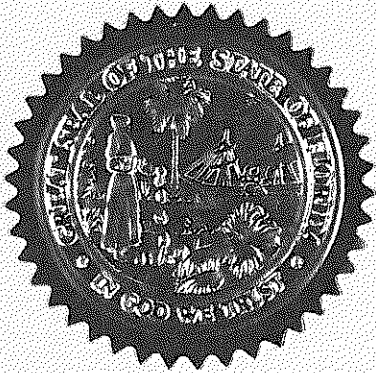
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT**, Governor of Florida, pursuant to section 112.52, Florida Statutes, find as follows:

- A. Gloria Uzzell is a Superintendent of Schools in Liberty County, Florida.
- B. The office of Superintendent of Schools in Liberty County is within the purview of the suspension power of the Governor, pursuant to section 112.52, Florida Statutes.
- C. The attached probable cause affidavit states that Gloria Uzzell committed offenses in violation of the laws of the State of Florida, which acts constitute felonies.

**BEING FULLY ADVISED** in the premises, and in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, this Executive Order is issued, effective today:

Section 1. Gloria Uzzell is suspended from the public office that she now holds, the Superintendent of Schools in Liberty County, Florida.

Section 2. Gloria Uzzell is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of the emoluments or privileges of public office during the period of this suspension, which period shall be from today, until a further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.



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 17th day of July, 2013.

Handwritten signature of Rick Scott in black ink.

\_\_\_\_\_  
RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Ken Detzner in black ink.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
2013 JUL 17 PM 4:43

FILED

**PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT**

- 1. Arrest (cont.)
- 2. Notice to Appear (cont.)
- 3. Arrest Affidavit
- 4. Complaint Affidavit
- 5. Request for Capias
- 5 Juvenile

OBTS Number	Agency ORI Number FL02 0105A	Agency Name <b>STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 2<sup>ND</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT</b>	Agency Report Number <b>SAO #13-0001 FDLE #TL-14-0041</b>
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ADMI Location of Offense (Business Names, Address) <b>12926 NW COUNTY ROAD 12 BRISTOL, FLORIDA 32321</b>	Date of Offense <b>12/30/2010</b>	Date of Arrest
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DEFENDANT Name (Last, First, Middle) <b>UZZELL, GLORIA GAY</b>	Alias																		
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Race</td> <td style="width: 15%;">W-White</td> <td style="width: 15%;">1-American Indian</td> <td style="width: 15%;">W</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Sex</td> <td style="width: 10%;">F</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Date of Birth or Age</td> <td style="width: 10%;">11/25/1961</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Height</td> <td style="width: 10%;">5-04</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Weight</td> <td style="width: 10%;">160</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Eye Color</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Brown</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Hair Color</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Blonde</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Complex. Med</td> <td style="width: 10%;">Build Med</td> </tr> </table>	Race	W-White	1-American Indian	W	Sex	F	Date of Birth or Age	11/25/1961	Height	5-04	Weight	160	Eye Color	Brown	Hair Color	Blonde	Complex. Med	Build Med	
Race	W-White	1-American Indian	W	Sex	F	Date of Birth or Age	11/25/1961	Height	5-04	Weight	160	Eye Color	Brown	Hair Color	Blonde	Complex. Med	Build Med		

Address (Street, Apt. Number) <b>13761 NW PEA RIDGE ROAD</b>	City <b>BRISTOL</b>	State <b>FL.</b>	Phone [REDACTED]
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CODE	Activity	P. Possess	B. Buy	R. Receive	S. Sell	T. Traffic	D. Deliver	K. Dispense/Distribute	E. Use	M. Manufacture/Prepare/Process/Cultivate/Other	Z.	Type	N	N/A	A	B	Amphetamine	C.	Cocaine	H	Heroin	M	Marijuana	O	Opium/Deriv.	P	Paraphernalia/Equip
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CHARGE <b>GRAND THEFT</b>	Counts	1	F.S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ord.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Statute Violation Number <b>812.014(2)(c)1</b>	Violation of Section (ORD)
Activity	Drug Type	Amount/Unit	State Attorney Number		Court Number			
<input type="checkbox"/> PC	<input type="checkbox"/> Capias	<input type="checkbox"/> AC	<input type="checkbox"/> BW	<input type="checkbox"/> FW	<input type="checkbox"/> PW	<input type="checkbox"/> Juv. PU	<input type="checkbox"/> Citation	
Date Issued							<input type="checkbox"/> Writ. Att. Order of Arrest	<input type="checkbox"/> Dom. Viol. Inj.

CHARGE <b>OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT</b>	Counts	1	F.S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ord.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Statute Violation Number <b>838.022</b>	Violation of Section (ORD)
Activity	Drug Type	Amount/Unit	State Attorney Number		Court Number			
<input type="checkbox"/> PC	<input type="checkbox"/> Capias	<input type="checkbox"/> AC	<input type="checkbox"/> BW	<input type="checkbox"/> FW	<input type="checkbox"/> PW	<input type="checkbox"/> Juv. PU	<input type="checkbox"/> Citation	
Date Issued							<input type="checkbox"/> Writ. Att. Order of Arrest	<input type="checkbox"/> Dom. Viol. Inj.

The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe that the above named Defendant committed the following violation of law:

**Between the dates of November 21, 2012 and May 3, 2013: (Specifically include facts constituting cause for arrest)**

**CHARGE #3:**

**FAILURE TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION IN A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST, F.S.S. 119.10**

In November 2012, Gloria Gay Uzzell took office as the Superintendent of Schools in Liberty County, Florida. Immediately after taking office and in the month of November 2012, Ms. Uzzell initiated measures to open a Liberty County School Board Visa credit card account. The credit card account was set up by Cadence Bank, Bristol, Florida with the Elan Credit Card Company. Ms. Uzzell did not recommend the opening of this credit card account to the Liberty County School Board for the board's review. Ms. Uzzell neither sought approval nor informed the Liberty County School Board before entering into the contract agreement to open the Visa credit card account in the School Board's name, (by Florida Statute the School Board is the contracting agent for the district school system). The credit limit established on the Visa credit card account was \$10,000.00.

P.C. Exists for Charge(s)	Judge's Signature	Date
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ADMINISTRATIVE	<input type="checkbox"/> Miranda Warning	Hold for Other Agency Name:	Verified By	Date	Bond: Charge #	Bond: Charge #
	Adults Only <input type="checkbox"/> Hold for First Appearance <b>DO NOT BOND OUT</b> Reason			Bond Type 1. ROR 2. Cash 3. Surety 4. Bail/Bond 5. Cert	Type	Type Other
	I swear/affirm the above and reverse and attached statements are true and correct	Sworn to and subscribed before me, the undersigned authority this 17 <sup>th</sup> day of July 2013		Returnable Court Date	Returnable Court Time	<input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.
	Name (Printed) <b>M.E. ROWAN</b>	I.D. No./Dist <b>S.A.O. INV.</b>	Name/Title of Person Authorized to Administer Oath	Release Date	Release Date	
				Releasing Officer	Page 1 of 4 Pages	

## PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

**DEFENDANT: GLORIA GAY UZZELL.**

All Liberty County School Board financial bills are immediately turned over to the attention of the school district finance office, (accounts payable finance employee Mary Peddie) when received; however, after opening the School Board Visa credit card account, Ms. Uzzell set in place procedures where she first received the Visa credit card bills. Ms. Uzzell personally managed the Visa credit card account and forwarded statements to the finance office only after her review.

After obtaining a credit card on the School Board Visa credit card account that she established, Ms. Uzzell utilized the credit card from November 21, 2012 to May 3, 2013 to make numerous purchases. Ms. Uzzell utilized the School Board Visa credit card for many personal purchases not associated with Liberty County School Board business; specifically, Ms. Uzzell used the School Board Visa credit card to purchase fuel for use in her personal vehicle, utilized the Visa credit card to purchase meals and alcoholic beverages, used the Visa credit card to purchase hotel lodging with In-room meals, used the Visa credit card to pay for personal clothing, lingerie, jewelry, beauty supplies, shoes and a hair style / shampoo. Ms. Uzzell utilized the Liberty County School Board Visa credit card for personal purchases totaling well above \$2,000.00.

On December 31, 2012 Ms. Uzzell charged \$53.41 at the Exxon/Mobile Store in Bristol, Florida for fuel that she put into her personal vehicle. Ms. Uzzell traveled to Panama City Beach, Florida on January 1, 2013, (New Year's Day). In Panama City Beach Ms. Uzzell shopped for personal items and used the School Board Visa credit card to purchase women's clothing and jewelry at a Chiccos clothing and jewelry store in the amount of \$1,329.83 and purchased items at an Ulta beauty supply store in the amount of \$360.07. While in Panama City Beach, Florida Ms. Uzzell used the credit card to charge a meal at a Dive In Restaurant in the amount of \$20.00.

Ms. Uzzell completed a Liberty County School Board travel voucher related to the January 1, 2013 trip. Ms. Uzzell documented that she had traveled on New Year's Day for business purposes to view school athletic fields and athletic field houses in Port St. Joe, Florida and Arnold High School in Panama City Beach, Florida.

Port St. Joe Middle / High School and Arnold High School Panama City were closed on New Year's Day. The two school's athletic field houses were not open to the public. Ms. Uzzell did not coordinate with Port St. Joe Middle / High School Athletic Director Chuck Gannon to tour in Port St. Joe and Coach Gannon was not aware of Ms. Uzzell touring any of his school's facilities.

Arnold High School's athletic facilities and Bay County Mike Gavlak Football Stadium were closed and not open to the public on New Year's Day. Neither Arnold High School Athletic Director Chrisa Wesley nor the caretaker of Mike Gavlak Stadium, (Andy Poole) were aware of Ms. Uzzell touring their facilities. The facilities were not open.

Investigation into this matter has proven that information documented by Gloria Uzzell on Liberty County travel vouchers was not credible.

When Ms. Uzzell submitted the January, 2013 School Board Visa credit card statement/bill to Mrs. Mary Peddie at the School District Finance Office, Ms. Uzzell informed Mary Peddie that Ms. Uzzell had made personal purchases with the credit card at the Chico's and Ulta stores. On February 3, 2013, Ms. Uzzell conducted transactions at the Chico's and Ulta stores to credit the two January 1, 2013 credit card charges back to the School Board Visa credit card account. Ms. Uzzell did not reimburse the fuel and meal charges associated with the Panama City Beach New Year's Day trip.

Ms. Uzzell obtained four additional credit cards on the Visa credit account that were assigned to members of Ms. Uzzell's administrative staff. These cards were used by her staff members; however, these employees did not use the cards for personal purchases.

Ms. Uzzell announced to her staff employees that the Visa credit card account was to be utilized for training and travel purposes. The credit limit on the School Board Visa credit card account was \$10,000.00. The credit account was maxed out on occasion and employees were unable to utilize the credit account for travel and training purposes. At one point, (May 22, 2013) the account balance was \$12,183.32.

The most egregious and clearly visible personal School Board Visa credit card charges by Ms. Uzzell occurred between the dates of March 20, 2013 and April 14, 2013. Ms. Uzzell used the credit card to charge lodging, meals and alcoholic beverages in Tallahassee, Florida hotels during this time period to exceed \$2,000.00. Her Tallahassee, Florida hotel stays were for unknown purposes. Ms. Uzzell used the Visa credit card to purchase a hair shampoo and style at Cost Cutters Tallahassee, Florida in the amount of \$49.85. Ms. Uzzell made two purchases at Dillard's Department Store Tallahassee, Florida for shoes, ladies clothing and lingerie in the amounts of \$178.39 and \$1,015.50 respectively. Ms. Uzzell made a purchase of \$341.64 for clothing at a Steinmart Store Tallahassee. These charges were included on the April 2013 Visa credit card statement. Ms. Uzzell maintained custody and control of this statement and did not forward the statement to the School District Finance Office. Finance Employee Mary Peddie made a minimum of five requests to Ms. Uzzell for the April 2013 credit card statement; however, Ms. Uzzell did not relinquish the statement. The final due date for an on-time payment for the April 2013 Visa credit card bill was May 17, 2013; however, Ms. Uzzell did not forward the credit card statement to the finance office until well after that date.

On or about May 3, 2013, Liberty County School Board Chairman Kyle Peddie obtained knowledge of the existence of the School Board Visa credit card account that had been opened and utilized by Ms. Uzzell. Mr. Peddie had a phone conversation with Ms. Uzzell about the existence of the credit card account. Mr. Peddie requested to view the Visa credit card statements.

Ms. Uzzell had not submitted the April 2013 credit card statement to the finance office, but had submitted the prior month's bills and related travel vouchers. After the phone conversation with Mr. Peddie, Ms. Uzzell obtained the Visa credit card statements and travel vouchers she had already submitted to the finance office. Mr. Peddie went to the School District Finance Office on May 8, 2013 to view the credit card statements; however, the records were unavailable and in Ms. Uzzell's custody.

Mr. Peddie obtained a copy of the Visa credit account statements from Cadence Bank in Bristol, Florida. These records included the April 2013 statement. Mr. Peddie observed evidence of Ms. Uzzell's personal use of the credit account.

On May 15, 2013, Liberty County resident Kevin Peddie made a public records request to the School District Office. Mr. Kevin Peddie requested in writing credit card statements for the most recent five month period of School District Office credit cards. Ms. Uzzell had maintained custody of the official School Board credit card statements and travel vouchers she had submitted that were associated with the credit cards. Mr. Kevin Peddie received the November through March credit card statements from the School District Office; however, Ms. Uzzell did not include the April statement. Ms. Uzzell blacked out totals on several statements and blacked out her personal purchases on New Year's Day at Chico's and Ulta in Panama City Beach, Florida on the statement copies to Kevin Peddie.

On June 4, 2013, Mr. Kyle Peddie confronted Ms. Uzzell at the Liberty County School Board meeting with information he had gained related to the Visa credit card account and Ms. Uzzell's personal purchases. Ms. Uzzell briefly responded to Mr. Peddie's questions. Ms. Uzzell left the meeting prior to its conclusion.

On June 5, 2013, a Subpoena Duces Tecum was issued by the State Attorney's Office and served to the Liberty County School District Office requesting copies of the Visa credit card statements and documents related to the statements. These items were ordered for pickup on the date of June 6, 2013.

Ms. Uzzell submitted the April 2013 credit card statement to the School District Finance Office on June 5, 2013. Ms. Uzzell submitted money order payments to the School District Office for some of her personal credit card use.

On June 6, 2013, I obtained documents from the Liberty School District Office ordered by Subpoena. I received the Visa credit card statements; however, Ms. Uzzell had lined through the Chico's purchase and blacked out the purchase made at the Ulta store in Panama City Beach, Florida. Ms. Uzzell lined through and altered money totals on the statements.

I visibly observed the official credit card statements that are on file at the Liberty County School District Office. Ms. Uzzell has altered these records by blacking out purchase amounts and purchase locations. An interview of finance personnel revealed Ms. Uzzell changed travel vouchers related to her Visa credit card purchases between the time she first submitted the documents to the finance office and June 6, 2013.

Investigation into this matter has revealed that after Ms. Uzzell was confronted by Mr. Kyle Peddie about the existence of the School Board Visa credit card account, Ms. Uzzell has went to hotels and stores where she made personal purchases and made payments to reimburse the School Board Visa credit card account.

Based on the foregoing, Gloria Gay Uzzell committed the following violations of law:

**1. GRAND THEFT:**

Gloria Gay Uzzell did knowingly obtain, use, or did endeavor to obtain or to use funds in excess of \$2,000.00, the property of the Liberty County School Board, with the intent to either temporarily or permanently deprive the other person or entity of a right to the property or a benefit therefrom or to appropriate the property to his or her own use or to the use of any person not entitled thereto, contrary to Section 812.014(2)(c)1, Florida Statutes.

**2. OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT:**

Gloria Gay Uzzell, the elected Superintendent of Schools for Liberty County, Florida, a Public Servant, did falsify an official record or official document, Liberty County School Board Travel Vouchers, and also concealed and altered information on any official record or official document, Liberty County School Board Visa Credit Card Statements / Liberty County School Board Travel Vouchers and by doing so did obstruct, delay, or prevent the communication of information relating to the commission of a felony that directly effects the public agency or public entity served by the public, contrary to Section 838.022, Florida Statutes.

**3. FAILURE TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION IN A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST:**

Gloria Gay Uzzell, the elected Superintendent of Schools for Liberty County, Florida, knowingly and willfully failed to disclose by blacking out and concealing information on official public records that were requested by Kevin Peddie on May 15, 2013 and supplied to Kevin Peddie on May 24, 2013, contrary to Section 119.10, Florida Statutes.

Report Made By: Investigator Matt Rowan