

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 13-315

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, Renee Lee, is at all times material hereto the former Hillsborough County Attorney, 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 jurisdiction of the Commission on Ethics; and

WHEREAS, in the Final Order and Public Report No. COE 12-177 rendered on September 12, 2012, the Commission on Ethics found that Renee Lee violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by misusing her position in authorizing a legal opinion that justified a one percent raise in salary for herself without the need for approval from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Final Order was appealed in the Second District Court of Appeal, and on May 24, 2013, the Court affirmed the Commission on Ethics Final Order; and

WHEREAS, the Governor accepts the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission on Ethics Final Order and Public Report No. COE 12-177.

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, declaring that:

1. Renee Lee violated section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by misusing her public position in authorizing a legal opinion that justified a one percent raise in salary for herself without the need for approval from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$5,000.00 is hereby imposed against Renee Lee, 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 Renee Lee that the penalty amount was not paid with public funds and will not be reimbursed with public funds.

3. Renee Lee is hereby publicly reprimanded and censured.

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 1st day of November, 2013.





RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA