BEFORE THE
STATE OF FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS

In re: Gregory Tony,

Referral No.: 22-041
Complaint.: 22-115

Respondent.
_____/

JOINT STIPULATION OF FACT, LAW, AND RECOMMENDED ORDER

Respondent, Gregory Tony, and the Advocate for the Florida Commission on Ethics enter into this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order with respect to the above-styled Referral and Complaint. Subject to acceptance by the Commission on Ethics, the parties agree that they enter into this stipulated settlement in lieu of further hearings in this cause. The parties stipulate as follows:

STIPULATED FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent serves as the Sheriff of Broward County and, therefore, is subject to the provisions of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes.

2. On February 1, 2022, a Referral from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was filed with the Commission on Ethics alleging that Respondent violated the Code of Ethics. On August 2, 2022, a Complaint was filed with the Commission on Ethics alleging that Respondent violated the Code of Ethics.

3. Pursuant to Section 112.324, Florida Statutes, and the Commission Rule Chapter 34-17, the Commission on Ethics voted to investigate the referral for a probable cause determination of whether Respondent had violated the Code of Ethics. The Report of Investigation was released on July 1, 2022.

4. On September 14, 2022, pursuant to the Referral, the Commission on Ethics found probable cause to believe Respondent had violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes.

The allegation is:

> Respondent violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, in the following manner:
>
> - During the hiring process for his employment with the Coral Springs Police Departmen, Respondent provided false information and/or did not disclose information concerning his traffic citation history, his drug use history, his arrest history, and whether he had previously applied for a law enforcement position.
>
> - During the appointment process for service as Broward County Sheriff, Respondent provided false information and/or did not disclose information concerning his drug use history and an arrest for murder.
>
> - While serving as Broward County Sheriff, Respondent completed and notarized a certification form – namely, a Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) Form 68 submitted to FDLE – falsely indicating he had never had a criminal record sealed or expunged.
>
> - While serving as a law enforcement officer, Respondent applied to renew his driver's license in October 2005, August 2007, December 2013, and February 2019, and falsely indicated in each of these applications that his driving privileges had never been revoked, suspended, or denied in any state.

5. On December 7, 2022, pursuant to the Complaint, the Commission on Ethics found probable cause to believe Respondent had violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes.

The allegation is:

> Respondent violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, in the following manner:
>
> - During the appointment process for service as Broward County Sheriff, Respondent provided false information and/or did not disclose information concerning his drug use history and an arrest for murder.
>
> - While serving as Broward County Sheriff, Respondent completed and notarized a certification form – namely, a Criminal Justice Standards and

Training Commission (CJSTC) Form 68 submitted to FDLE – falsely indicating he had never had a criminal record sealed or expunged.

- While serving as a law enforcement officer, Respondent applied to renew his driver's license in February 2019, and falsely indicated in each of these applications that his driving privileges had never been revoked, suspended, or denied in any state.

6. On behalf of the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC), which regulates Respondent's law enforcement certification, the FDLE determined that it would only pursue the matter regarding the driver's license allegation(s) with a hearing at the Department of Administrative Hearings (DOAH), case number 23-2751 PL. After a proceeding at DOAH, the CJSTC ultimately issued a "letter of counseling" regarding the February 2019 matter only.

7. Respondent accepts the findings of the Administrative Law Judge as outlined in the Recommended Order that issued in case 23-2751 PL. Respondent denies the other facts as set forth in the Report of Investigation and CJSTC investigation regarding all the other matters.

STIPULATED CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

8. Respondent is subject to the provisions of Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

9. The Commission on Ethics has jurisdiction over the Referral and Complaint as filed in this proceeding and over Respondent.

10. Respondent violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, by using his position to secure a benefit, privilege, or exemption regarding the February 2019 driver's renewal.

STIPULATED RECOMMENDED ORDER

11. The Advocate accepts Respondent's admission in this proceeding.

12. The Advocate and Respondent have entered into this Joint Stipulation and urge

the Commission on Ethics to approve it in lieu of further hearings in this cause.

13. Therefore, the parties request and the Advocate recommends that:

(a) The Commission on Ethics approve this Joint Stipulation, embodying the stipulations, admissions, and recommendations of the parties;

(b) The Commission on Ethics enter a Final Order and Public Report finding that Respondent violated Section 112.313(6), Florida Statutes, and recommending:

public censure and reprimand.

FURTHER STIPULATIONS

14. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate and covenant that they have freely and voluntarily entered into this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order with full knowledge and understanding of its contents. Respondent and the Advocate further stipulate and covenant that this Joint Stipulation constitutes the full agreement of the parties and that there are no oral or written understandings between the parties other than those contained in this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order.

15. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate and covenant that, in consideration of the provisions of this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order, they accept and will comply with the above-referenced Final Order and Public Report of the Commission on Ethics.

16. Respondent and the Advocate stipulate that this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order is submitted to the Commission on Ethics for its consideration and ratification. In the event that it is not approved by the Commission on Ethics as written, this document shall be of no purpose and effect and shall not be deemed an admission by Respondent.

17. Respondent enters into this Joint Stipulation with the understanding of the

seriousness of the allegations and gives his assurance that this proceeding has affected the manner in which he conducts himself as a public official in a positive way.

18. Effective upon approval of this Joint Stipulation of Fact, Law, and Recommended Order by the Commission on Ethics, Respondent waives all time, notice, hearing rights, requirements, and entitlements, as to all subsequent hearings in this proceeding.

Signed, dated, and entered into:
this 11th day of Feb., 2025.

Melody Hadley

Melody A. Hadley, Esquire
Advocate for the Florida
Commission on Ethics
Florida Bar No. 0636045
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol, PL-01
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1050
(850) 414-3300

Signed, dated, and entered into:
this 11th day of February, 2025.

Stephen G. Webster, Esquire
Attorney for the Respondent
Florida Bar No.: 14054
WEBSTER + BAPTISTE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, PLLC
1785 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32303
(850) 597-7142

Signed, dated, and entered into:
this 14 day of Feb, 2025.

Gregory Tony
Respondent