

From: Byrd, Cord
Sent time: 08/17/2022 05:45:43 PM
To: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Accepted: Press Conference

From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:14:45 PM
To: Antonacci, Peter
Subject: DeSantis/Núñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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**GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS SCHEDULE
FOR
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022**

9:45am **MEETING WITH THE INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES OF FLORIDA**

10:30am **MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES UTHMEIER**

2:00pm **PRESS CONFERENCE**
Location: Broward County Courthouse
Address: 201 Southeast 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

###

**LT. GOVERNOR JEANETTE NUÑEZ SCHEDULE
FOR
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12:00pm **MEETING WITH LT. GOVERNOR CHIEF OF STAFF
MAUREEN WAGNER**

12:30pm **MEETING WITH COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
TARYN FENSKE**

2:00pm **MEETING WITH SURGEON GENERAL DR. JOSEPH
LADAPO**

2:15pm **MEETING WITH LT. GOVERNOR DEPUTY CHIEF OF
STAFF CHRISTINA CASTILLO**

2:30pm **MEETING WITH STATE CHIEF INFORMATION
OFFICER JAMIE GRANT**

3:00pm

MEETING WITH CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES UTHMEIER

3:30pm

**INTERVIEW WITH AMBROSIO HERNANDEZ –
UNIVISION 23**

4:00pm

**MEETING WITH POLICY AND BUDGET DIRECTOR
CHRIS SPENCER**

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:14:45 PM
To: Strauss, Scott
Subject: DeSantis/Núñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:15:02 PM
To: Avila, Kevin
Subject: DeSantis/Núñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:15:08 PM
To: Schuessler, Pierce W.
Subject: DeSantis/Núñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:15:09 PM
To: Ash, Ryan C.
Subject: DeSantis/Núñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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To: Woodby, Katherine
Subject: DeSantis/Nuñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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GRANT**

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
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To: Ard, Mark
Subject: DeSantis/Núñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:15:09 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Subject: DeSantis/Nuñez Administration Schedule for Thursday, August 18, 2022

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From: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent time: 08/17/2022 05:42:23 PM

To: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>; FDLE, Mansion <mansion@fdle.state.fl.us>; Stiegler, Alex <Alex.Stiegler@eog.myflorida.com>; Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Armbrister, Robert <Robert.Armbrister@eog.myflorida.com>; Myers, Robbie <Robbie.Myers@eog.myflorida.com>; Byrd, Cord

Subject: DRIVE TIME (Real Time 12 Minutes)

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Sent time: 08/17/2022 05:42:15 PM

To: FDLE, Mansion <mansion@fdle.state.fl.us>; Stiegler, Alex <Alex.Stiegler@eog.myflorida.com>; Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Armbrister, Robert <Robert.Armbrister@eog.myflorida.com>; Myers, Robbie <Robbie.Myers@eog.myflorida.com>; Byrd, Cord

Subject: DRIVE TIME (Real Time 12 Minutes)

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From: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:21:45 PM

To: FDLE, Mansion <mansion@fdle.state.fl.us>; Stiegler, Alex <Alex.Stiegler@eog.myflorida.com>; Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Armbrister, Robert <Robert.Armbrister@eog.myflorida.com>; Myers, Robbie <Robbie.Myers@eog.myflorida.com>; Byrd, Cord

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From: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Sent time: 08/17/2022 05:45:12 PM
To: Ard, Mark; Williams, Jared <Jared.Williams@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: FW: Commissioner Speak Notes and FDLE Elections Role
Attachments: Speak Notes - Acting Commissioner Glass - Voter Fraud Case.docx FDLE's Role in elections - August 22.docx

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Hi Mark and Jared,

Attached are Commissioner's speak notes for tomorrow along with our FDLE elections role background PIO one-sheet.

Gretl

From: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 5:36 PM
To: HQ OED External Affairs <HQOEDExternalAffairs@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: Commissioner Speak Notes and FDLE Elections Role

Good afternoon,

Attached are the Commissioner's notes for tomorrow along with a one-sheet on FDLE's role in elections. I'll save both things to the OED. Gretl

Gretl Plessinger
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
(850) 410-7265, Desk
(850) 410-7001, Office
(850) 294-6538, Cell

FDLE's Role in Elections

FDLE's Role

FDLE agents investigate allegations of election crime and fraud and investigators collect and share threat intelligence with election officials. FDLE's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) provides information to the Department of State as part of the Help America Vote Act.

Investigative/Intelligence Role

Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill (SB) 524, Election Administration, to ensure that Florida continues to have secure and accurate elections. This legislation establishes the Office of Election Crimes and Security within the Department of State. FDLE is supporting the criminal investigation of election crimes in partnership with the Office of Election Crimes and Security.

FDLE collects and shares threat intelligence with election officials. FDLE has dedicated network intrusion agents who investigate a variety of crimes against computer systems--like denial of service, hacking, data breaches and ransomware--to name a few.

In addition, we have committed agents to the FBI's Cyber Task Force around the state. This task force can immediately respond to any Florida county election network to help evaluate and investigate security compromises.

FDLE is a member of the Florida Elections Security group which activates during the days surrounding both primary and general elections in Florida. Our primary mission within this group is to investigate crimes involving election computer systems and to develop and disseminate threat intelligence to the Florida Division of Elections and the individual County Supervisors of Elections.

FDLE Elections Crime Unit

This specialized unit is part of FDLE's Executive Investigations Office. Positions have been advertised and we plan to interview candidates starting later this month to have them in place prior to the November election.

The current operation and arrests made on 8/18/22 were investigated by FDLE Agents working with the Office of Executive Investigations.

Information Role

Each day, Florida Department of State (DOS) provides FDLE a list of new or updated voter registrations which is checked for matches to known convicted felons in the state criminal history repository. FDLE provides the list of potential matches to DOS. DOS performs additional research to determine voter eligibility.

Public Messaging Goals

Protecting the integrity of our elections is a priority and FDLE will continue working with our partners to investigate allegations of election crimes ensuring Florida elections are accurate and secure.

Commissioner's Quote

FDLE Acting Commissioner Mark Glass said, "Today is about our honest, hardworking and law-abiding Floridians. In Florida, your vote matters. To that end, we will do everything in our power to ensure those who cannot legally vote never cast a ballot."

Acting Commissioner Glass -- Event Overview

What: Voter Fraud Case

Where:

Your Role: Brief remarks during Gov. Press Conference

Audience: Media, FDLE members, Partner Agencies

ELECTION FRAUD PRESS CONFERENCE
AUGUST 18, 2022

Good afternoon.

Thank you, Governor.

I'm FDLE Acting Commissioner Mark Glass.

Elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. It is critical to ensure only those who are legally eligible to vote--actually do so.

Over the last month, FDLE agents and analysts in our Office of Executive Investigations have been investigating dozens of allegations of voter fraud sent to us from the Department of State.

These arrests represent either a sex offender or a convicted murderer who illegally voted in the 2020 election.

They did not just attempt to vote --- they actually voted.

With arrest warrants in hand, starting early this morning, FDLE agents from Executive Investigations, and Miami, Orlando and Tampa Bay Regional Operations Centers, began arresting these suspects for committing elections crimes.

But today is not about these violent criminals. Today is about our honest, hardworking, and law-abiding Floridians. And our message to you is simple.

(Pause)

In Florida, your vote matters. To that end, we will do everything in our power to ensure those who cannot legally vote – **Never** cast a ballot.

One of the most important ways we can ensure election integrity is to investigate and arrest those who violate our election laws.

(Pause)

Thank you to our FDLE agents and analysts, working in conjunction with the Department of State's Elections Crime Unit. I know each of you have been working diligently on this case and will continue your efforts to ensure the security of Florida's elections. Your work sends a strong message-- just days before the primary election---In Florida, when we say we have reliable and accurate elections---we mean it.

(Short PAUSE)

I want to thank Governor DeSantis for his commitment in making sure Florida is a national leader when it comes to having secure elections.

Let me conclude by saying that we will continue working with the Office of Elections Crimes to hold those who commit these crimes accountable.

There will be more arrests to come.

And to anyone out there who is thinking about engaging in illegal ballot harvesting, or other election crimes, don't even try it. We are going to identify and investigate these crimes and work closely with those who are prosecuting them.

From: Pratt, Joshua <Joshua.Pratt@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 04:00:36 PM
To: McVay, Brad R.
Subject: FW: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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FYI.

--

Joshua E. Pratt
Deputy General Counsel
Executive Office of the Governor
850-717-9267

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:53 PM
To: Pratt, Joshua <Joshua.Pratt@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022

Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282, Communications@eog.myflorida.com

Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

In Florida, if you commit an Elections Crime, you will do the time

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that following investigations by the Florida Office of Election Crimes and Security and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), 20 individuals are being arrested by FDLE for breaking Florida's elections laws. All 20 of these individuals were disqualified from voting after they were convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense, but they chose to vote anyway, and now they have all been charged with voter fraud — a third-degree felony punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine and up to 5 years in prison.

Additionally, Governor DeSantis directed the Department of State to communicate to county Supervisors of Elections with instructions on records they must preserve until additional reviews and investigations are complete.

“In 2020, Florida ran an efficient, transparent election that avoided the major problems we saw in other states. At the same time, the election was not perfect, which is why we continue our efforts to ensure the integrity of our elections,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “Our new election crimes office has sprung into action to hold individuals accountable for voter fraud. Today’s actions send a clear signal to those who are thinking about ballot harvesting or fraudulently voting. If you commit an elections crime, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

“As elected leaders, it is incumbent on us to ensure free and fair elections and instill confidence in the voting process,” said **Attorney General Ashley Moody**. “No voting system can stand without the backing and confidence of the people it serves, and thanks to Governor DeSantis, we are reinforcing that trust, and Florida’s elections system will serve as the standard-bearer for the rest of the nation.”

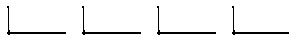
“I am grateful to Governor DeSantis for establishing the Office of Election Crimes and Security, and we are off to a great start at eliminating election fraud in our elections,” said **Secretary of State and Chief Election Officer Cord Byrd**. “These arrests put those who have no regard for the integrity our elections on notice and will ensure integrity in the voting process.”

“Today is about our honest, hardworking and law-abiding Floridians,” said **FDLE Acting Commissioner Mark Glass**. “In Florida, your vote matters. To that end, we will do everything in our power to ensure those who cannot legally vote never cast a ballot.”

“I’m glad to be a part of a team that is working hard to secure our elections,” said **Director of the Office of Election Crimes and Security Peter Antonacci**. “Our team of highly skilled investigators will conduct a thorough investigation, and if any evidence of election crime is found, there will be criminal sanctions.”

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From: Mahon, Jason <Jason.Mahon@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 12:01:48 PM
To: Ash, Ryan C.
Subject: FW: Press Release for review and quotes
Attachments: Election Crimes PR 8.18 22.docx

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The attachments/links in this message have been scanned by Proofpoint.

From: Mahon, Jason
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 9:38 AM
To: Ard, Mark <mark.ard@dos.myflorida.com>
Subject: Press Release for review and quotes

Mark,

Can you please help us secure quotes from Secretary Byrd and Director Antonacci for the attached press release?

Thank you!

Jason

Jason Mahon
Deputy Communications Director
Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
941-457-0457

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
 Contact: Governor’s Press Office, (850) 717-9282, Media@eog.myflorida.com

Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

~ In Florida, if you commit an Elections Crime, you will do the time ~

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that following investigations from the Florida Office of Election Crimes and Security and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), 20 individuals are being arrested by FDLE for breaking Florida’s elections laws. All 20 of these individuals were disqualified from voting after they were convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense, but they chose to vote anyway, and now they have all been charged with voter fraud – a third-degree felony punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine and up to 5 years in prison.

Governor DeSantis also announced that the Office of Election Crimes and Security has already identified a total of approximately 1,500 people who likely voted in the 2020 General Election who were also either disqualified from voting or who likely simultaneously voted in another state. As such, Governor DeSantis directed the Department of State to communicate to county Supervisors of Elections with instructions on records they must preserve until additional reviews and investigations are complete.

“In 2020, Florida ran one of the most secure elections in the country, but we were not completely immune to voter fraud, which is why we must do more to protect the integrity of our elections,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Today’s actions send a clear signal to those who are thinking about ballot harvesting or fraudulently voting. If you commit an elections crime you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

INSERT BYRD QUOTE

“Today is about our honest, hardworking and law-abiding Floridians,” said **FDLE Acting Commissioner Mark Glass**. “In Florida, your vote matters. To that end, we will do everything in our power to ensure those who cannot legally vote never cast a ballot.”

INSERT ANTONACCI QUOTE

###

From: Ard, Mark
Sent time: 08/18/2022 03:40:03 PM
To: Jason Mahon <jason.mahon@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Ash, Ryan C.
Subject: Fwd: quotes

See below.

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From: Ard, Mark <Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 1:41:59 PM
To: Ash, Ryan C. <Ryan.Ash@dos.myflorida.com>
Subject: Re: quotes

Update with this for now, but it hasn't been approved by SOS yet.

"I am grateful to Governor DeSantis for establishing the Office of Election Crimes and Security, and we are off to a great start at eliminating election fraud in our elections," said Florida Secretary of State and Chief Election Officer Cord Byrd. "These arrests put those who have no regard for the integrity our elections on notice and will ensure integrity in the voting process."

"I'm glad to be a part of a team that is working hard to secure our elections," said Director of the Office of Election Crimes and Security Peter Antonacci. "Our team of highly skilled investigators will conduct a thorough investigation, and if any evidence of election crime is found, there will be criminal sanctions."

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From: Ash, Ryan C. <Ryan.Ash@dos.myflorida.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:43:25 PM
To: Ard, Mark <Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Subject: quotes

Mark—EOG press release with DOS quotes is attached.

Ryan C. Ash
Deputy Director of External Affairs
Florida Department of State
850.245.6605
Ryan.Ash@dos.myflorida.com

From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 03:52:28 PM
To: Antonacci, Peter
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022

Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282, Communications@eog.myflorida.com

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Additionally, Governor DeSantis directed the Department of State to communicate to county Supervisors of Elections with instructions on records they must preserve until additional reviews and investigations are complete.

"In 2020, Florida ran an efficient, transparent election that avoided the major problems we saw in other states. At the same time, the election was not perfect, which is why we continue our efforts to ensure the integrity of our elections," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Our new election crimes office has sprung into action to hold individuals accountable for voter fraud. Today's actions send a clear signal to those who are thinking about ballot harvesting or fraudulently voting. If you commit an elections crime, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

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To: Strauss, Scott
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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To: Woodby, Katherine
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022

Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
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To: Ash, Ryan C.
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022

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To: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022

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To: Schuessler, Pierce W.
Subject: Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

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To: Antonacci, Peter
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

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Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
Communications@eog.myflorida.com

MEDIA ADVISORY

Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis will hold a press conference to make a major announcement in Fort Lauderdale on Thursday, August 18th.

All interested and credentialed media must RSVP to
Bailey.A.Smith@eog.myflorida.com

WHAT: Press Conference

WHO: Governor Ron DeSantis
Attorney General Ashley Moody
Secretary of State Cord Byrd
Department of Law Enforcement Acting Commissioner Mark Glass
Election Crimes and Security Office Director Peter Antonacci

WHEN: Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 2:00 PM
Media Arrival Time: 1:30 PM

WHERE: **Broward County Courthouse**
201 Southeast 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

###

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:18:43 AM
To: Strauss, Scott
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
Communications@eog.myflorida.com

MEDIA ADVISORY

Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:18:58 AM
To: Avila, Kevin
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
Communications@eog.myflorida.com

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:19:04 AM
To: Woodby, Katherine
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
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WHEN: Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 2:00 PM
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201 Southeast 6th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:19:05 AM
To: Ard, Mark
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE



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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:19:04 AM
To: Schuessler, Pierce W.
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:19:05 AM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:19:05 AM
To: Ash, Ryan C.
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
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From: Governor's Press Office <Governor'sPressOffice@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 11:19:05 AM
To: Ash, Ryan C.
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY: Governor Ron DeSantis to Make a Major Announcement in Fort Lauderdale

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For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
Contact: Governor's Press Office, (850) 717-9282,
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From: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent time: 08/17/2022 05:44:40 PM

Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog myflorida com>; FDLE, Mansion <mansion@fdle.state fl.us>; Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah KellyJefferson@eog myflorida com>; Fenske, Taryn M. <Taryn.M.Fenske@eog myflorida.com>; Stiegler, Alex <Alex.Stiegler@eog.myflorida.com>; Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Armbrister, Robert <Robert.Armbrister@eog.myflorida.com>; Myers, Robbie <Robbie.Myers@eog.myflorida.com>; Byrd, Cord; Castellanos, Silvia <Silvia.Castellanos@eog.myflorida com>

Subject: Press Conference

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Broward County Courthouse, Courtroom 15150

201 Southeast 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

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From: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent time: 08/17/2022 05:44:35 PM

To: FDLE, Mansion <mansion@fdle.state.fl.us>; Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>; Fenske, Taryn M. <Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com>; Stiegler, Alex <Alex.Stiegler@eog.myflorida.com>; Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Armbrister, Robert <Robert.Armbrister@eog.myflorida.com>; Myers, Robbie <Robbie.Myers@eog.myflorida.com>; Byrd, Cord; Castellanos, Silvia <Silvia.Castellanos@eog.myflorida.com>

Subject: Press Conference

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201 Southeast 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

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From: Schedule, Gov <Gov.Schedule@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent time: 08/18/2022 05:21:55 PM

To: FDLE, Mansion <mansion@fdle.state.fl.us>; Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>; Fenske, Taryn M. <Taryn.M.Fenske@eog.myflorida.com>; Stiegler, Alex <Alex.Stiegler@eog.myflorida.com>; Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Armbrister, Robert <Robert.Armbrister@eog.myflorida.com>; Myers, Robbie <Robbie.Myers@eog.myflorida.com>; Byrd, Cord; Castellanos, Silvia <Silvia.Castellanos@eog.myflorida.com>

Subject: Press Conference

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From: Mahon, Jason <Jason.Mahon@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 09:38:20 AM
To: Ard, Mark
Subject: Press Release for review and quotes
Attachments: Election Crimes PR 8.18 22.docx

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

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Mark,

Can you please help us secure quotes from Secretary Byrd and Director Antonacci for the attached press release?

Thank you!

Jason

Jason Mahon
Deputy Communications Director
Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
941-457-0457

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.



For Immediate Release: August 18, 2022
 Contact: Governor’s Press Office, (850) 717-9282, Media@eog.myflorida.com

Governor DeSantis Announces the Arrest of 20 Elections Criminals

~ In Florida, if you commit an Elections Crime, you will do the time ~

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that following investigations from the Florida Office of Election Crimes and Security and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), 20 individuals are being arrested by FDLE for breaking Florida’s elections laws. All 20 of these individuals were disqualified from voting after they were convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense, but they chose to vote anyway, and now they have all been charged with voter fraud – a third-degree felony punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine and up to 5 years in prison.

Governor DeSantis also announced that the Office of Election Crimes and Security has already identified a total of approximately 1,500 people who likely voted in the 2020 General Election who were also either disqualified from voting or who likely simultaneously voted in another state. As such, Governor DeSantis directed the Department of State to communicate to county Supervisors of Elections with instructions on records they must preserve until additional reviews and investigations are complete.

“In 2020, Florida ran one of the most secure elections in the country, but we were not completely immune to voter fraud, which is why we must do more to protect the integrity of our elections,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “Today’s actions send a clear signal to those who are thinking about ballot harvesting or fraudulently voting. If you commit an elections crime you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”

INSERT BYRD QUOTE

“Today is about our honest, hardworking and law-abiding Floridians,” said **FDLE Acting Commissioner Mark Glass**. “In Florida, your vote matters. To that end, we will do everything in our power to ensure those who cannot legally vote never cast a ballot.”

INSERT ANTONACCI QUOTE

###

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 04:21:08 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Subject: RE: Thursday

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You can ignore the arrival time for the Secretary since he'll be traveling with the boss. Thanks!

Savannah Kelly Jefferson
Director of External Affairs
Governor Ron DeSantis
850-508-1021

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer <jennifer.kennedy@dos.myflorida.com>
Subject: Thursday

Confirmed for Thursday! Wheels up from Tallahassee will be around 12:35 p.m. (I will confirm tomorrow). Thank you!

-
Thursday, August 18

Arrival Time: 1:15 p.m.

Event Time: 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Location: Broward County Courthouse, Courtroom 15150, 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Savannah Kelly Jefferson
Director of External Affairs
Governor Ron DeSantis
850-508-1021

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From: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Sent time: 08/16/2022 04:40:35 PM
To: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

Thank you! The arrival time is helpful for me. The Secretary asked me to fly down there to be at the press conference. I will tell Pete to be there at that time as well.

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

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From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 04:43:21 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Subject: RE: Thursday

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Perfect! 😊 I can confirm that the wheels up time from Tallahassee will be 12:35 p.m. They should land back in Tallahassee at 4:10 p.m.

Let me know if the Secretary needs any other information.

Savannah Kelly Jefferson
Director of External Affairs
Governor Ron DeSantis
850-508-1021

From: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:41 PM
To: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

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From: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Sent time: 08/16/2022 04:44:31 PM
To: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

Great! Thanks!

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

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850-508-1021

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From: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Sent time: 08/16/2022 04:53:56 PM
To: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

Oh sorry, I do have a question. Do you guys fly out of the [REDACTED] ?

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
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To: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
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From: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:41 PM
To: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

Thank you! The arrival time is helpful for me. The Secretary asked me to fly down there to be at the press conference. I will tell Pete to be there at that time as well.

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>
Subject: RE: Thursday

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

You can ignore the arrival time for the Secretary since he'll be traveling with the boss. Thanks!

Savannah Kelly Jefferson
Director of External Affairs
Governor Ron DeSantis
850-508-1021

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer <jennifer.kennedy@dos.myflorida.com>
Subject: Thursday

Confirmed for Thursday! Wheels up from Tallahassee will be around 12:35 p.m. (I will confirm tomorrow). Thank you!

Thursday, August 18

Arrival Time: 1:15 p.m.

Event Time: 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Location: Broward County Courthouse, Courtroom 15150, 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Savannah Kelly Jefferson
Director of External Affairs
Governor Ron DeSantis
850-508-1021

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to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.

From: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 04:13:55 PM
To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Cc: Ard, Mark; Dana Kelly; Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>; Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Good afternoon Lori,

Here is the list of the arrestees thus far. All face one count each of false affirmation – voting or elections (F.S. 104.011(1)) and voting as an unqualified elector (F.S. 104.15). Both charges are third-degree felonies.

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- Romona Brown, 55, of Tampa, was booked into Hillsborough County Jail.
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- Byron Leonard Smith, 65, of Tampa, was booked into Hillsborough County Jail.

Orange County

- Peter Washington, 59, of Orlando, was booked into Orange County Jail.
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- Leo Grant Jr, 55, of South Bay, was booked into West Palm Beach County Jail.
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- Terry Hubbard, 63, of Pompano Beach, was issued notice to appear.
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- Eugene Suggs, 65, of Miami, was booked into Broward County Jail.

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- Robert Lee Wood, 56, of Opa Locka, was booked into Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center.
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Gretl Plessinger

From: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Cc: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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Lori - FDLE is the steward of that information, I believe. I am looping in Gretl Plessinger to respond to your inquiry.

Thank you,

Bryan Griffin
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor

850-717-9268

Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com

From: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022, 3:49 PM

To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>

Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

Hi Bryan -- Arrest affidavits or charging documents if you have them, which would have useful details including the counties where the arrests took place, and the specific crimes they were arrested for, and the dates of the arrests, as well as names.

Should I instead request that information from the Secretary of State's office instead?

Thanks,

Lori

From: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>

Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 3:43 PM

To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>, Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>

Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Lori,

What kind of information are you looking for?

Bryan Griffin

Press Secretary

Executive Office of the Governor

850-717-9268

Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com

From: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:30:09 PM

To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>

Subject: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

Hi Bryan -- what's the best way for me to get more information on the arrests the governor announced this afternoon?

Thank you.

Lori Rozsa

561-301-9040

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From: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 04:17:23 PM
To: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>; Griffin, Bryan <bryan.griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Ard, Mark; Dana Kelly; Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>; Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
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Thank you very much, Gretl!

Two additional questions: do either you or Bryan know which election or election year these people are suspected of voting illegally in?

And are arrest dates available?

Thank you again for your prompt response.

Lori

From: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
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Cc: Ard, Mark (Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com) <Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com>, Kelly, Dana <DanaKelly@fdle.state.fl.us>, Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>, Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
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To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Cc: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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Bryan Griffin
Press Secretary
Executive Office of the Governor
[850-717-9268](tel:850-717-9268)
Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com

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Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022, 3:49 PM
To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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- [Should I instead request that information from the Secretary of State's office instead?](#)

- [Thanks,](#)

- [Lori](#)

From: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 3:43 PM
To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>, Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

[Lori,](#)

- [What kind of information are you looking for?](#)

- **Bryan Griffin**
[Press Secretary](#)
[Executive Office of the Governor](#)
[850-717-9268](tel:850-717-9268)
Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com

From: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 3:30:09 PM
To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>
Subject: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

- [Hi Bryan – what's the best way for me to get more information on the arrests the governor announced this afternoon?](#)

- [Thank you,](#)

- [Lori Rozsa](#)
[561-301-9040](tel:561-301-9040)

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[to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.](#)

From: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 04:36:18 PM
To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>; Griffin, Bryan <bryan.griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Ard, Mark; Dana Kelly; Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>; Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Lori,

Arrests were made today. They voted illegally in 2020. Gretl

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To: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>; 'Griffin, Bryan' <bryan.griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
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Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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Thank you very much, Gretl!

Two additional questions: do either you or Bryan know which election or election year these people are suspected of voting illegally in?

And are arrest dates available?

Thank you again for your prompt response.

Lori

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Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com

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To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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- [Should I instead request that information from the Secretary of State's office instead?](#)

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From: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
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To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>, Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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[Lori,](#)

- [What kind of information are you looking for?](#)

- [Bryan Griffin](#)
[Press Secretary](#)

[Executive Office of the Governor](#)

[850-717-9268](#)

Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com

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To: Griffin, Bryan <Bryan.Griffin@eog.myflorida.com>; Redfern, Jeremy T <Jeremy.Redfern@flhealth.gov>

Subject: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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-
[Lori Rozsa](#)

[561-301-9040](#)

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From: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Sent time: 08/18/2022 04:37:04 PM
To: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>; Griffin, Bryan <bryan.griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Ard, Mark; Dana Kelly; Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>; Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: Re: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Thank you Gretl!

From: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2022 at 4:36 PM
To: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>, 'Griffin, Bryan' <bryan.griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Ard, Mark (Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com) <Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com>, Kelly, Dana <DanaKelly@fdle.state.fl.us>, Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>, Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
Subject: RE: Washington Post request re Elections crimes office

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From: Rozsa, Lori <Lori.Rozsa@washpost.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 4:17 PM
To: Plessinger, Gretl <GretlPlessinger@fdle.state.fl.us>; 'Griffin, Bryan' <bryan.griffin@eog.myflorida.com>
Cc: Ard, Mark (Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com) <Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com>; Kelly, Dana <DanaKelly@fdle.state.fl.us>; Burns, Jeremy <JeremyBurns@fdle.state.fl.us>; Fierro, David <DavidFierro@fdle.state.fl.us>
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Lori

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Press Secretary

Executive Office of the Governor

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Lori Rozsa

561-301-9040

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From: News Alerts <NewsAlerts@eog.myflorida.com>

Sent time: 08/18/2022 01:59:59 PM

Subject: SFSS: Will there be a shakeup at Broward elections office? DeSantis plans news conference as felons accused of illegally voting

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

[Will there be a shakeup at Broward elections office? DeSantis plans news conference as felons accused of illegally voting](#)

SFSS

[Scott Travis](#), [Lisa J. Huriash](#), [Anthony Man](#) and [Brittany Wallman](#)

August 18, 2022

Gov. Ron DeSantis plans to make a “major announcement” in Fort Lauderdale today that could mean major changes for the county’s troubled Supervisor of Elections.

Sources say that Supervisor Joe Scott could face some action that affects him and his office, but whether it’s a reassignment or suspension remains unclear. Reached by phone Thursday afternoon, Scott said, “I’m going to be making a statement later.”

Joining DeSantis for the 2 p.m. news conference will be Attorney General Ashley Moody; Secretary of State Cord Byrd; Mark Glass, acting commissioner of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; and Peter Antonacci, the former Broward supervisor of elections who was tapped by DeSantis to oversee a new election crimes division.

Broward County Supervisor of Elections Joe Scott is seen in this file photo. (Carline Jean / South Florida Sun Sentinel)

The governor is also expected to announce indictments of four felons accused of illegally voting in Broward. Scott has faced criticism during the primary election after making major precinct changes that left voters confused, sending out about 1,500 people incorrect mail-in ballots and failing to send ballots at all to thousands of others.

Scott, a Democrat, was elected to November 2020, replacing Antonacci, whom former Gov. Rick Scott appointed in 2018 to clean up years of problems.

Last month, DeSantis tapped Antonacci, 73, to head a new elections investigation office.

Antonacci has had several high-profile roles in South Florida, including an appointment as Broward supervisor of elections, an appointment as Palm Beach County state attorney, and serving as executive director of the South Florida Water Management District.

The Governor’s Office has said the Office of Election Crimes and Security “is charged with investigating all election crimes in Florida and overseeing the implementation of measures that will ensure Florida’s elections remain secure.”

The objective, according to statements from the governor’s office is to “ensure that Florida’s Elections are the most secure in the nation.”

[Creation of the Office of the Election Crimes and Security](#) has raised suspicions among Democrats, who have pointed to Florida’s elections in recent years, which have had only isolated problems with alleged fraud.

Broward is the most heavily Democratic county in the state. Still, some local Democratic leaders have voiced respect for Antonacci, saying the supervisors of elections office was generally well run during his tenure.

DeSantis has said Florida’s 2020 election was well run. But as Republican voters have grown more

distrustful of elections — largely because of former President Donald Trump repeatedly making false claims of election fraud in 2020 — DeSantis and Republicans who control Florida government made several changes in state election law, including the addition of the new election crime office.

From: Ard, Mark
Sent time: 08/17/2022 10:05:19 AM
To: Jason Mahon <Jason.Mahon@eog.myflorida.com>
Subject: Talking Points
Attachments: OECS Governor's Press Conference_ra mra.docx

FYI

From: Ard, Mark
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2022 4:43 PM
To: Byrd, Cord <Cord.Byrd@dos.myflorida.com>
Cc: Kennedy, Jennifer L. <Jennifer.Kennedy@DOS.MyFlorida.com>; Ash, Ryan C. <Ryan.Ash@dos.myflorida.com>
Subject: Press Conference

Secretary – Here are some suggested talking points should we need them.

Mark R. Ard, PMP
Director of External Affairs
Florida Department of State
850.245.6529
Mark.Ard@DOS.MyFlorida.com

Governor's Press Conference
Wednesday, August 17, 2022
Fort Lauderdale

- I'd first like to start by thanking Governor DeSantis for his commitment to protecting our elections.
- Time and again Governor DeSantis has fortified elections integrity by investing in our elections infrastructure and enacting election laws that protect Florida voters and their votes.
- The establishment of the Office of Election Crimes and Security has been a crowning achievement in this effort. This Office will serve as a guardian of Florida's election integrity.
- The Office of Election Crimes and Security ensures that perpetrators of elections crimes—like the ones who were **arrested today**—are investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- We appreciate Governor DeSantis appointing Pete Antonacci as Director of the Office of Elections Crimes and Security, and we're proud of the progress Director Antonacci and his team have already made in a short amount of time.
- **These arrests are** a clear indication that we will not tolerate elections fraud in any form.

- The stakes for rooting out election fraud and malfeasance are extremely high: **ANY** corruption in our elections affects a state's paramount obligation to ensure the integrity of the voting process and threatens the public's right to representative government.
- There has been plenty of doubt and criticism from the media about the necessity of a specialized unit to investigate election fraud. The late Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in his 2008 opinion in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*:
 - "While the most effective method of preventing election fraud may well be debatable, the propriety of doing so is perfectly clear."
- The law is clear that the state has the power to engage in substantial regulation of elections in order to ensure elections are fair, honest, and transparent.
- Today, the necessity of the Office of Election Crimes and Security is on full display.
- **These arrests** send a clear message to those who are actively engaging in election crimes or irregularities:
 - Our team of highly skilled investigators will undertake a thorough investigation and – if evidence is found of a crime that has been committed – you will be punished under the law.
- I also want to give credit to our partners in law enforcement, without whom we could not do this important work.

- FDLE and the Statewide Prosecutor's Office have been indispensable during this investigation in making sure that we safely apprehend these criminals.
- The Office of Election Crimes and Security will continue to work hand in hand with our law enforcement partners at the state, local and federal levels to ensure we are doing even more to be prepared to face evolving threats and to keep our elections, and our voters, secure.
- I want to thank Governor DeSantis again for his leadership and commitment to elections integrity and for holding this press conference to bring attention to the great work this office is doing to safeguard our elections.
- The Florida Department of State will work hard to ensure that our state continues to lead the way in elections integrity in our nation.

From: Kelly Jefferson, Savannah <Savannah.KellyJefferson@eog.myflorida.com>
Sent time: 08/16/2022 04:20:39 PM
To: Kennedy, Jennifer L.
Subject: Thursday

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Confirmed for Thursday! Wheels up from Tallahassee will be around 12:35 p.m. (I will confirm tomorrow). Thank you!

-
Thursday, August 18

Arrival Time: 1:15 p.m.

Event Time: 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Location: Broward County Courthouse, Courtroom 15150, 201 SE 6th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Savannah Kelly Jefferson

Director of External Affairs

Governor Ron DeSantis

850-508-1021

Please note that under Florida law correspondence sent to the Governor's Office, which is not confidential or exempt pursuant to chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, is a public record made available upon request.