

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDEE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN LITIGATION SEEKING A DECLARATION THAT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 112.144(1)(d), FLORIDA STATUTES, THAT REQUIRE MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS TO FILE FORM 6 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORMS IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND INVALID; PROVIDING FOR THE INCORPORATION OF RECITALS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE CORRECTION OF SCRIVENERS ERRORS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Dundee (the "Town") is a Florida municipal corporation vested with home rule authority pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act (F.S. Chapter 166) and Article VIII, §2 of the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2(b), Article VIII of the Florida Constitution and Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, the Town is vested with governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable it to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, including the general exercise of any power for municipal purposes; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, Article II, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution has required that all elected State constitutional officers file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests, which is done through a state-adopted form ("Form 6") that requires, among other things, the disclosure of the specific amounts of an official's net worth, income and asset values; and

WHEREAS, historically, municipal elected officials have been required to make a more limited financial disclosure that is done through a different state-adopted form ("Form 1") that requires, among other things, the disclosure of information related to

sources of income, real property, intangible personal property liabilities and interests in specified businesses, but does not include the specific amounts of an official's net worth, income and asset values; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and all current elected members of the Town Commission of the Town of Dundee, Florida (the "Town Elected Officials") were elected by the voters of the Town subject to and in reliance upon Florida law that required them to annually file Form 1 (not Form 6) financial disclosures forms; and

WHEREAS, although the State Legislature has the power in the Florida Constitution to require that additional public officers file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests, it must do so consistent with other constitutional limitations; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, the voters of the State of Florida amended the Florida Constitution by adopting Article 1, Section 23, the "Right to Privacy," which states that "[e]very natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life except as otherwise provided herein"; and

WHEREAS, because the right of privacy is a fundamental right within Florida's constitution, the Florida Supreme Court has consistently required that any law intruding on the right is presumptively unconstitutional and must be justified by a "compelling state interest" which the law serves or protects through the "least restrictive means;" and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and Article 1, Section 4 of the Florida Constitution, protects the freedom of speech, which includes the right to choose what to say and what not to say, any impairment of which must be justified by a "compelling state interest" which the law serves or protects through the "least restrictive means;" and

WHEREAS, during the 2023 legislative session, Senate Bill 774 was passed and codified at Law of Florida 2023-09, amending Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, to change the financial disclosure requirements and now require that all elected municipal mayors and elected members of the governing board file a Form 6 financial disclosure, which is substantially more burdensome and personally intrusive than Form 1; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of the Form 6 disclosure requirements at the municipal level (a) represents an unwarranted intrusion into the privacy rights of municipal elected officials, most of which receive little or no compensation for their service, (b) unnecessarily risks the safety of such officials (making them targets of, among other things, burglary, identity theft and extortion), and (c) will deter many otherwise qualified and interested citizens from running for elected office; and

WHEREAS, in fact, over 100 municipal elected officials resigned from elected office prior to December 31, 2023, as a result of Form 6 and the new disclosure requirements, disrupting the ability of some local governments to operate for lack of a quorum; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of the intrusive Form 6 disclosure requirements at the municipal level is not the least restrictive means of serving the governmental interests of preventing abuse of the public trust, as demonstrated by, among other things, the lack of such requirements at the municipal level in other states and at the federal level (even the President of the United States and members of the U.S. Congress are not required to make such extensive disclosures); and

WHEREAS, requiring that unpaid (or low paid) municipal elected officials disclose their precise net worth, income and assets does not serve (let alone constitute the least

restrictive means of serving) any compelling interest – Form 1 disclosures constitutes sufficient transparency to inform the public of potential conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of new financial disclosure requirements upon municipal elected officials who were elected without such requirements violates due process, is fundamentally unfair and violates fundamental constitutional rights; and

WHEREAS, a group of municipalities and municipal elected officials filed two (2) lawsuits, one in State Court and one in Federal Court, on February 15, 2024, seeking a declaration that the provisions of Section 112.3144(1)(d), Florida Statutes, that require municipal elected officials to file Form 6 financial disclosure forms are unconstitutional and invalid and should be enjoined (the “Lawsuits”); and

WHEREAS, copies of the Lawsuits are attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit “A”** and made a part hereof by reference; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission of the Town of Dundee, Florida, believes it is in the best interest of the citizens and residents of the Town of Dundee to participate in the Lawsuits as plaintiffs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDEE, FLORIDA:

Section 1: Incorporation of Recitals. The above-referenced factual recitals (WHEREAS clauses) and referenced exhibits are incorporated herein as true and correct statements which form a factual and material basis for the passage of this Resolution, and the Town Commission of the Town of Dundee, Florida, hereby adopts the above-referenced factual recitals as the legislative findings supporting the passage of this Resolution. The above factual recitals are hereby incorporated herein and serve as a factual and material basis for the passage of this Resolution.

Section 2: Authorization. The Town Commission of the Town of Dundee, Florida, hereby authorizes the participation of the Town, and any of the individual members of the Town Commission who choose to participate as plaintiffs, in the Lawsuits, which are attached hereto as **Exhibit “A”** and made a part hereof. The Town Commission hereby further authorizes the Town Manager to take any necessary further action(s) in order to effectuate the intent and carry out the aims of this Resolution.

Section 3: Participation. Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, PL (the “Firm”) is hereby retained to represent the Town in the Lawsuits (see **Composite Exhibit “A”**). The Firm will charge the Town a flat fee, inclusive of attorneys’ fees and costs, of \$10,000 to represent the Town and the individual elected officials who choose to participate as plaintiffs, for the Lawsuits in the trial court. The Town and elected officials recognize that such flat fee may be less than the actual attorneys’ fees and costs incurred, and that if the Town and elected officials prevail in the Lawsuits, the Firm may apply with the Court for its actual reasonable attorneys’ and costs from the defendants. The filing of any appeals will be authorized by separate resolution under the terms thereof. The Town and its elected officials also acknowledge that the Firm will be representing other local governments and officials in this lawsuit and waives any conflicts related to such representation. **[ONLY FOR CITIES WHERE WSH DOES NOT SERVE AS CITY ATTORNEY:** The City further acknowledges that, from time to time, the Firm may be called upon by client to represent them as to requests for various approvals and as to other matters with respect to or involving the Town. The Town hereby waives any potential conflict of interest in the Firm’s representation of those clients arising from its representation of the Town in the Lawsuit.]

Section 4: Administrative Correction of Scrivener's Errors. Any provision in this Resolution may be renumbered or re-lettered and the correction of typographical and/or scrivener's errors which do not affect the intent may be authorized by the Town Manager or his/her designee, without the need of consideration by the Town Commission, by filing a corrected or recodified copy of same with the Town Clerk.

Section 5: Conflicts. All Resolutions in conflict with this Resolution are repealed to the extent necessary to give this Resolution full force and effect.

Section 6: Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase of this Resolution, or the application thereof shall be held invalid by any court, administrative agency, or other body with appropriate jurisdiction, the remaining section, subsection, sentences, clauses, or phrases under application shall not be affected thereby. The Town Commission hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section 7: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED at a duly called meeting of the Town Commission of the Town of Dundee, Florida assembled on the 12th day of March, 2024.

TOWN OF DUNDEE

Samuel Pennant, Mayor

ATTEST WITH SEAL:

Trevor Douthat, Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

Frederick J. Murphy, Jr., Town Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05
EXHIBIT "A"

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.

TOWN OF BRINY BREEZES, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

TOWN OF PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FLORIDA, a Florida
municipal corporation;

TOWN OF GOLDEN BEACH, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

VILLAGE OF INDIAN CREEK, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

VILLAGE OF BAL HARBOUR, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF WESTON, FLORIDA, a Florida
municipal corporation;

CITY OF DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

COOPER CITY, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal
corporation;

CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, a
Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF WILTON MANORS, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF DESTIN, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF LAUDERHILL, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF AVENTURA, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

VILLAGE OF PINECREST, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

CITY OF SEBASTIAN, FLORIDA, a Florida municipal corporation;

PRESIDENT OF TOWN COUNCIL ELIZABETH A. LOPER, ALDERMAN KEITH J. BLACK, ALDERMAN KATHLEEN M. GROSS and ALDERMAN WILLIAM BIRCH, elected officials of the Town of Briny Breezes;

COUNCILMEMBERS WALTER FAJET and JACKY BRAVO, elected officials of Miami Springs, Florida;

COMMISSIONER PATRICIA PETRONE, an elected official of Lighthouse Point, Florida;

MAYOR DANIELLE H. MOORE, PRESIDENT OF TOWN COUNCIL MARGARET A. ZEIDMAN, COUNCIL MEMBER EDWARD A. COONEY, COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS CRAMPTON, COUNCIL MEMBER JULIE ARASKOG and COUNCIL MEMBER BOBBIE LINDSAY, elected officials of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida;

MAYOR BRENT LATHAM, VICE MAYOR RICHARD CHERVONY, and COMMISSIONER ANDY ROTONDARO, elected officials of North Bay Village, Florida;

MAYOR GLENN SINGER, an elected official of the Town of Golden Beach, Florida;

MAYOR BERNARD KLEPACH, an elected official of Indian Creek, Florida;

MAYOR JEFFREY P. FREIMARK, VICE-MAYOR SETH E. SALVER, COUNCILMAN DAVID ALBAUM, and COUNCILMAN DAVID WOLF, elected officials of the Village of Bal Harbour, Florida;

MAYOR MARGARET BROWN, COMMISSIONER MARY MOLINA-MACFIE, COMMISSIONER CHRIS EDDY, COMMISSIONER HENRY MEAD, and COMMISSIONER BYRON L. JAFFE, elected officials of the City of Weston, Florida;

MAYOR SHELLY PETROLIA, VICE-MAYOR RYAN BOYLSTON, DEPUTY VICE-MAYOR ROB LONG, COMMISSIONER ADAM FRANKEL, and COMMISSIONER ANGELA BURNS, elected officials of the City of Delray Beach, Florida;

MAYOR JOSEPH AYOUB, COMMISSIONER ANDY STEINGOLD, COMMISSIONER

CARLOS DIAZ, COMMISSIONER NANCY J. BESORE, and COMMISSIONER CLIFF MERZ, elected officials of the City of Safety Harbor, Florida;

COMMISSIONER JEREMY KATZMAN, an elected official of Cooper City, Florida;

MAYOR SCOTT J. BROOK, VICE-MAYOR SHAWN CERRA, COMMISSIONER JOSHUA SIMMONS, COMMISSIONER JOY CARTER, and COMMISSIONER NANCY METAYER BOWEN, elected officials of the City of Coral Springs, Florida;

VICE-CHAIR ERIK BRECHNITZ, an elected official of the City of Marco Island, Florida;

VICE MAYOR ARLENE SCHWARTZ, COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE, and COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, elected officials of the City of Margate, Florida;

MAYOR ROBERT T. WAGNER, COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN STEPHENS III, COUNCIL MEMBER TORY CJ GEILE, COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES B. BAGBY, and COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. HEBERT, elected officials of the City of Destin, Florida;

MAYOR KENNETH R. THURSTON, COMMISSIONER MELISSA P. DUNN, and COMMISSIONER SARAI “RAY” MARTIN, elected officials of the City of Lauderhill, Florida,

MAYOR BILL GANZ, VICE-MAYOR BERNIE PARNES, COMMISSIONER BEN PRESTON, and COMMISSIONER MICHAEL HUDAK, elected officials of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida;

VICE-MAYOR PAUL A. KRUSS and
COMMISSIONER RACHEL FRIEDLAND,
elected officials of the City of Aventura, Florida;

VICE-MAYOR MICHAEL NAPOLEONE,
COUNCILWOMAN TANYA SISKIND,
COUNCILMAN JOHN T. MCGOVERN, and
COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRAHOS, elected
officials of the Village of Wellington;

MAYOR FRED CLEVELAND, elected official
of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida;

COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER ANDREU,
elected official of the City of Plantation, Florida;

COUNCILMEMBER KEM E. MASON, elected
official of the Town of Lantana, Florida, and

MAYOR CHARLES EDWARD DODD, VICE
MAYOR KELLY DIXON, COUNCIL
MEMBER FREDERICK B. JONES, COUNCIL
MEMBER BOB MCPARTLAN, AND
COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER NUNN,
elected officials of the City of Sebastian, Florida,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ASHLEY LUKIS, in her official capacity as
Chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics;
MICHELLE ANCHORS, in her official capacity
as Vice Chair of the Florida Commission on
Ethics; WILLIAM P. CERVONE, in his official
capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission
on Ethics; TINA DESCOVICH, in her official
capacity as Member of the Florida Commission
on Ethics; FREDDIE FIGGERS, in his official
capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission
on Ethics; LUIS M. FUSTE, in his official
capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission
on Ethics; and WENGAY M. NEWTON, SR., in
his official capacity as a Member of the Florida
Commission on Ethics,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants for declaratory and injunctive relief, and state as follows:

OVERVIEW

1. This is an action by a large number of Florida municipalities and elected municipal officials challenging a recently enacted law (“SB 774”) that requires municipal elected officials in office as of January 1, 2024, to disclose quintessentially private, highly personal financial information, including, among other things, the exact amount of their net worth and income, the total dollar value of their household goods, and the precise value of every asset and amount of every liability in excess of \$1,000, on or before July 1, 2024, or otherwise face significant fines, civil penalties, and even potential removal from office.

2. SB 774 amended, among other statutes, sections 112.3144, and 99.061, Florida Statutes, and renders elected municipal officials and candidates subject to the financial disclosure requirements of article II, section 8(j) of the Florida Constitution.

3. Prior to the enactment of SB 774, elected municipal officials and candidates were required to provide financial disclosures via a document called “Form 1,” pursuant to section 112.3145, Florida Statutes, but were not subject to the requirements of article II, section 8(j). However, sections 112.3144 and 99.061, as amended by SB 774 in 2023, make all elected municipal officers and candidates subject to the filing requirements of “Form 6,” which demands much more intrusive financial disclosures as outlined in the Florida Constitution and section 112.3144. A copy of Form 1 is attached as Exhibit A, and a copy of Form 6 is attached as Exhibit B.

4. Forcing municipal elected officials and candidates to publicly disclose such private information impairs their right to privacy under the Florida Constitution. Because the right to privacy is enumerated as a fundamental right, any such impairment is impermissible unless it is the least restrictive means of achieving a compelling state interest.

5. Rather than being the *least restrictive* means of accomplishing a compelling state interest, the new financial disclosure requirements imposed on municipal officials and candidates through SB 774 are the *most restrictive* means available—stricter and more onerous than those required of federal elected officials (including the President of the United States) and of elected officials in other states throughout the country.

6. The additional financial information required to be disclosed by Form 6 (*e.g.*, the exact net worth, exact income, and precise values of household goods and other assets and liabilities), as compared to Form 1, has little bearing, if any, on an elected official's municipal service, does not prevent conflicts of interest or public corruption, and does not increase public confidence in government.

7. Form 1 is a less restrictive alternative means of accomplishing the same governmental interests, as would be the less onerous disclosure forms used by the federal government or any of the other states in the United States.

8. Indeed, municipal elected officials and candidates operated under the requirements of Form 1 for decades, and nothing in the Legislature's enactment of the new Form 6 requirement reflected that Form 1 was insufficient and necessitated a change.

9. As such, this action seeks an order (i) declaring the 2023 amendments to sections 112.3144 and 99.061, Florida Statutes, related to elected municipal officials and candidates and any penalties arising therefrom, including those in section 112.317, Florida Statutes, violate Article

1, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution, and (ii) enjoining Defendants from enforcing the disclosure requirements.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This is an action for declaratory relief, pursuant to Chapter 86, Florida Statutes, seeking to declare that the 2023 amendments to sections 112.3144 and 99.061, Florida Statutes, and any penalties arising therefrom, including those in section 112.317, Florida Statutes, are unconstitutional and invalid. The Court has jurisdiction to grant declaratory relief. *See* §§ 86.011, 86.021, 86.101, Fla. Stat. The Court further has jurisdiction to grant supplemental relief, including injunctive relief. § 86.061, Fla. Stat.

11. Venue is proper in Leon County because Defendants are all members of the Commission on Ethics, which is located and conducts business in Leon County, Florida. In addition, any enforcement of the Form 6 requirement would take place in Leon County, Florida.

12. All conditions precedent to the institution of this lawsuit have been, or will be, satisfied or waived.

THE PARTIES

13. The Plaintiffs in this action consist of Florida municipalities and current elected officials of Florida municipalities.

A. The Municipal Plaintiffs

14. The Florida municipal plaintiffs, each of which is an incorporated municipality existing under the laws of the State of Florida (collectively, “Municipal Plaintiffs”), consist of:

- a. Town of Briny Breezes, located in Palm Beach County, Florida;
- b. City of Miami Springs, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- c. City of Lighthouse Point, located in Broward County, Florida;

- d. Town of Palm Beach, located in Palm Beach County, Florida;
- e. North Bay Village, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- f. Town of Golden Beach, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- g. Village of Indian Creek, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- h. Village of Bal Harbour, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- i. City of Weston, located in Broward County, Florida;
- j. City of Delray Beach, located in Palm Beach County, Florida;
- k. City of Safety Harbor, located in Pinellas County, Florida;
- l. Cooper City, located in Broward County, Florida;
- m. City of Coral Springs, located in Broward County, Florida;
- n. City of St. Augustine, located in St. Johns County, Florida;
- o. City of Marco Island, located in Collier County, Florida;
- p. Village of Key Biscayne, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- q. City of Wilton Manors, located in Broward County, Florida;
- r. City of Margate, located in Broward County, Florida;
- s. City of Destin, located in Okaloosa County, Florida;
- t. City of Lauderdale, located in Broward County, Florida;
- u. City of Deerfield Beach, located in Broward County, Florida;
- v. City of Aventura, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- w. Village of Wellington, located in Palm Beach County, Florida;
- x. Village of Pinecrest, located in Miami-Dade County, Florida;
- y. City of New Smyrna Beach, located in Volusia County, Florida, and
- z. City of Sebastian, located in Indian River County, Florida.

15. As a result of SB 774, as of January 1, 2024, each elected member of, and candidate for, the governing body of every Municipal Plaintiff herein is required to file a Form 6.

16. The Municipal Plaintiffs each have a strong interest in having qualified people run for, and continue to serve in, municipal elected office. The Form 6 requirement will deter qualified people from running for and serving in elected office in the Municipal Plaintiffs. In fact, the Florida League of Cities has advised that, throughout Florida, over 100 municipal elected officials have already resigned rather than be subjected to the filing of a Form 6 financial disclosure, significantly disrupting the operations of those municipalities.

17. For example, in plaintiff Briny Breezes, former Mayor Gene Adams, former Council President Christina Adams, and former Alderman and Council President Sue Thaler all resigned in December 2023 because of the Form 6 requirement. As a result of resignations, municipalities, including Municipal Plaintiffs, have been (and/or will be) forced to expend significant public funds for filling vacancies, including temporary appointments and special elections. In addition, the vacancies have disrupted municipal operations.

18. In addition, pursuant to section 112.3144(9), a municipal elected official can be subject to “an order recommending that the officer or employee be removed from his or her public office” for refusing to file the Form 6, potentially creating even more vacancies, disrupting Municipal Plaintiffs’ operations, and causing the additional expenditure of public funds to fill those vacancies.

19. The Florida Legislature has expressly recognized the strong interest of the Municipal Plaintiffs to attract qualified candidates to run for and hold office, and the importance of ensuring that ethics laws not deter people from seeking municipal elected office:

It is also essential that government attract those citizens best qualified to serve. Thus, the law against conflict of interest must be so designed as not to impede

unreasonably or unnecessarily the recruitment and retention by government of those best qualified to serve. Public officials should not be denied the opportunity, available to all other citizens, to acquire and retain private economic interests except when conflicts with the responsibility of such officials to the public cannot be avoided.

§ 112.311, Fla. Stat. The application of the Form 6 disclosure requirement does precisely what the law says it is not to do, to the detriment of the Municipal Plaintiffs: it “impede[s] unreasonably or unnecessarily the recruitment and retention by government of those best qualified to serve.” Indeed, its impact is particularly felt at the municipal level where local legislators volunteer to serve their fellow residents, often with little or no compensation.

20. The Municipal Plaintiffs thus have a statutorily recognized interest in ensuring that qualified candidates run for office and remain in office and thus have a substantial interest in this action.

B. The Elected Official Plaintiffs

21. The “Elected Official Plaintiffs” consist of the following, each of whom is currently serving as a municipal elected official:

- a. Town of Briny Breezes President of Town Council Elizabeth A. Loper;
- b. Town of Briny Breezes Alderman Keith J. Black;
- c. Town of Briny Breezes Alderman Kathleen M. Gross;
- d. Town of Briny Breezes Alderman William Birch;
- e. City of Miami Springs Councilmember Walter Fajet;
- f. City of Miami Springs Councilmember Jacky Bravo;
- g. City of Lighthouse Point Commissioner Patricia Petrone;
- h. Town of Palm Beach Mayor Danielle H. Moore;
- i. Town of Palm Beach President of Town Council Margaret A. Zeidman;

- j. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Edward A. Cooney;
- k. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Lewis Crampton;
- l. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Julie Araskog;
- m. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Bobbie Lindsay;
- n. North Bay Village Mayor Brent Latham;
- o. North Bay Village Vice Mayor Richard Chervony;
- p. North Bay Village Commissioner Andy Rotondaro;
- q. Golden Beach Mayor Glenn Singer;
- r. Indian Creek Mayor Bernard Klepach;
- s. Village of Bal Harbour Mayor Jeffrey P. Freimark ;
- t. Village of Bal Harbour Vice-Mayor Seth E. Salver;
- u. Village of Bal Harbour Councilman David Albaum;
- v. Village of Bal Harbour Councilman David Wolf;
- w. City of Weston Mayor Margaret Brown;
- x. City of Weston Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie;
- y. City of Weston Commissioner Chris Eddy;
- z. City of Weston Commissioner Henry Mead;
- aa. City of Weston Commissioner Byron L. Jaffe;
- bb. City of Delray Beach Mayor Shelly Petrolia;
- cc. City of Delray Beach Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston;
- dd. City of Delray Beach Deputy Vice-Mayor Rob Long;
- ee. City of Delray Beach Commissioner Adam Frankel;
- ff. City of Delray Beach Commissioner Angela Burns;

gg. City of Safety Harbor Mayor Joseph Ayoub;

hh. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Andy Steingold;

ii. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Carlos Diaz;

jj. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Nancy J. Besore;

kk. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Cliff Merz;

ll. Cooper City Commissioner Jeremy Katzman;

mm. City of Coral Springs Mayor Scott J. Brook;

nn. City of Coral Springs Vice Mayor Shawn Cerra;

oo. City of Coral Springs Commissioner Joshua Simmons;

pp. City of Coral Springs Commissioner Joy Carter;

qq. City of Coral Springs Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen;

rr. City of Marco Island Vice-Chair Erik Brechnitz;

ss. City of Margate Vice-Mayor Arlene Schwartz;

tt. City of Margate Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio;

uu. City of Margate Commissioner Joanne Simone;

vv. City of Margate Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano;

ww. City of Destin Mayor Robert T. Wagner;

xx. City of Destin Council Member John Stephens III;

yy. City of Destin Council Member Torey CJ Geile;

zz. City of Destin Council Member James B. Bagby;

aaa. City of Destin Council Member Teresa R. Hebert;

bbb. City of Lauderhill Mayor Kenneth R. Thurston;

ccc. City of Lauderhill Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn;

ddd. City of Lauderhill Commissioner Sarai “Ray” Martin;
eee. City of Deerfield Beach Mayor Bill Ganz;
fff. City of Deerfield Beach Vice-Mayor Bernie Parness;
ggg. City of Deerfield Beach Commissioner Ben Preston;
hhh. City of Deerfield Beach Commissioner Michael Hudak;
iii. City of Aventura Vice-Mayor Paul A. Kruss;
jjj. City of Aventura Commissioner Rachel Friedland;
kkk. Village of Wellington Vice-Mayor Michael Napoleone;
lll. Village of Wellington Councilwoman Tanya Siskind;
mmm. Village of Wellington Councilwoman John T. McGovern;
nnn. Village of Wellington Councilwoman Michael Drahos;
ooo. City of New Smyrna Beach Mayor Fred Cleveland;
ppp. City of Plantation Councilmember Jennifer Andreu;
qqq. Town of Lantana Councilmember Kem E. Mason;
rrr. City of Sebastian Mayor Charles Edward Dodd;
sss. City of Sebastian Vice Mayor Kelly Dixon;
ttt. City of Sebastian Council Member Frederick B. Jones;
uuu. City of Sebastian Council Member Bob McPartlan; and
vvv. City of Sebastian Council Member Christopher Nunn.

22. The Elected Official Plaintiffs are each elected Mayors or members of the governing bodies of incorporated municipalities existing under the laws of the State of Florida, who are currently in office.

23. As a result of the passage of SB 774, as of January 1, 2024, each Elected Official Plaintiff is subject to the Form 6 financial disclosure requirements of section 8, article II of the Florida Constitution, and section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, and are further subject to the fines, penalties and other enforcement mechanisms outlined therein and in sections 112.317 and 112.324, Florida Statutes, if they do not timely file Form 6 financial disclosures.

24. Each Elected Official Plaintiff is therefore required to file the requisite Form 6 (rather than the prior Form 1) on or before July 1, 2024.

25. The failure of any municipal elected official to file a Form 6, including each Elected Official Plaintiff, subjects him or her to a daily fine of \$25 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500 and, following an investigation and public hearing, a potential civil penalty of up to \$20,000 and, among other things, a potential recommendation of removal from office. *See* §§ 112.3144(8)(f), 112.324(4), 112.317, Fla. Stat.

26. The Elected Official Plaintiffs now face the Hobson's choice of either sacrificing their constitutionally protected right to privacy by filing a Form 6 on or before the imminent deadline of July 1, 2024, as now required by section 112.3144, or face fines, penalties, and other enforcement, including the possible removal from office. Throughout Florida, more than 100 municipal elected officials have resigned rather than agree to surrender their constitutionally protected privacy. The Elected Official Plaintiffs strongly desire to continue to serve the public and have therefore not yet resigned, but instead have chosen to challenge the new requirement.

27. Accordingly, the Elected Official Plaintiffs each has a significant interest in this action.

C. The Defendants

28. Defendant, Ashley Lukis (“Lukis”) is the Chair and a Member of the Florida Commission on Ethics (“Commission”), a commission existing pursuant to article II, section 8(h)(1) of the Florida Constitution and section 112.320, Florida Statutes. Lukis is sued in her official capacity as Chair of the Commission.

29. Defendant, Michelle Anchors (“Anchors”) is the Vice Chair and a Member of the Commission. Anchors is sued in her official capacity as Vice Chair of the Commission.

30. Defendant, William P. Cervone (“Cervone”) is a Member of the Commission. Cervone is sued in his official capacity as Member of the Commission.

31. Defendant Tina Descovich (“Descovich”) is a Member of the Commission. Descovich is sued in her official capacity as Member of the Commission.

32. Defendant, Freddie Figgers (“Figgers”) is a Member of the Commission. Figgers is sued in his official capacity as Member of the Commission.

33. Defendant, Luis Fuste (“Fuste”) is a Member of the Commission. Fuste is sued in his official capacity as Member of the Commission.

34. Defendant, Wengay M. Newton, Sr. (“Newton”) is a Member of the Commission. Newton is sued in his official capacity as Member of the Commission.

35. Lukis, Anchors, Cervone, Descovich, Figgers, Fuste, and Newton, collectively, comprise the Commission.

36. “The Agency Head is the entire Commission, which is responsible for final agency action.” *See* Statement of Organization and Operation of the Commission on Ethics, <https://www.ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Ethics/statement%20of%20org.pdf?cp=2024127>, last accessed February 12, 2024.

37. The Commission, through each Defendant, is charged with implementing and enforcing the State's financial disclosure laws, including, among many other things, the receipt of the Form 6 disclosure forms, training regarding Form 6, investigating alleged violations regarding Form 6 filings, imposing fines for failure to file Form 6, holding enforcement hearings regarding failure to file Form 6, making recommendations of removal from office for failure to file Form 6, and rendering legally binding advisory opinions regarding Form 6. *See* Art II, § 8(g), Fla. Const.; §§ 112.3144, 112.317, 112.320, Fla. Stat.

38. The Commission is also required to identify every person required to file Form 6, provide notice of said requirements to each person subject to these disclosures, and ensure compliance with the disclosure requirements by each person subject thereto. *See* Art II, § 8(g), Fla. Const.; §§ 112.3144, 112.317, 112.320, Fla. Stat.

39. In addition, the Commission's 2022 Annual Report (as well as previous annual reports) expressly requested that the Legislature enact legislation to require municipal elected officials to complete Form 6, rather than Form 1, leading to the enactment of SB 774. *See* Annual Report to the Florida Legislature for Calendar Year 2022, p. 23, <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/2022%20Annual%20Report.pdf?cp=202425> (last accessed February 12, 2024). The only justification given by the Commission for its recommendation was:

Elected municipal officials are very important and administer vast amounts of public resources. For these, and other reasons, their disclosure should be on par with that of county officials and others who file Form 6, rather than Form 1. The Commission believes the enhanced disclosure should be applied to all elected municipal officials regardless of the population or revenue of the municipality.

40. Nowhere in its report did the Commission conclude that there has been an increase in the need to oppose corruption or conflicts of interest at the municipal level or that Form 1 in any

way was insufficient to the task of guarding against those governmental ills. In short, the Commission justified its recommendation merely by noting that municipal officials should have to disclose the same information others already disclose, without regard to the municipality's population, revenue, annual budget, or any elected municipal compensation amount, if any.

41. Plaintiffs bring this action against the state officers (namely, the members of the Commission) who have the responsibility to enforce the Form 6 requirement against municipal elected officials (including the Elected Official Plaintiffs) and seek only declaratory and injunctive relief to end the continuing violations of Article 1, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution. Plaintiffs do not seek damages in this action.

BACKGROUND

A. History of Ethical Standards in Florida

42. Beginning in the late 1960s, the Florida Legislature has enacted numerous laws regulating ethical conduct for Florida's elected officials, including laws related to the solicitation or acceptance of gifts, unauthorized compensation, misuse or abuse of public position, disclosure of certain information, doing business with one's agency, conflicting employment, lobbying restrictions, dual public employment, anti-nepotism, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure. *See generally* Chapter 112, Fla. Stat.

43. The interests that the financial disclosures are intended to serve are stated by the Commission: "Financial disclosure is required of public officials and employees because it enables the public to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, deters corruption, and increases public confidence in government." *See* Florida Commission on Ethics, Financial Disclosure Information, www.ethics.state.fl.us/FinancialDisclosure/Index.aspx, last accessed February 12, 2024.

44. In 1976, the Florida Constitution was amended to require that all elected state constitutional officers annually file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests, which is done through the state-adopted Form 6, which requires the disclosure of highly personal financial information. *See* Art. II, § 8, Fla Const.; § 112.3144, Fla. Stat. *See also* Exh. B.

45. The Form 6 requirement did not apply to elected municipal officials or candidates for elected municipal office prior to 2024.

B. The Change from Form 1 to Form 6 For Elected Municipal Officials

46. Instead, until 2024, elected municipal officials have been required to make a more limited financial disclosure that nevertheless provides sufficient information to satisfy the interest of preventing conflicts of interest and public corruption and increasing public confidence in government. *See* § 112.3145, Fla. Stat. The elected municipal officials' financial disclosure has for years been accomplished through the use of Form 1. *See* Exh. A.

47. In the 2023 legislative session, the Florida Legislature duly enacted (and the Governor signed) SB 774, which was codified at Laws of Florida 2023-09, and which amended (in relevant part) sections 99.061, 112.3144 and 112.317, Florida Statutes to change the financial disclosure requirements to now require that all elected municipal mayors and elected members of the governing board (and candidates for such offices) file a Form 6 financial disclosure, rather than the previously required Form 1. *See* S.B. 774; § 112.3144, Fla. Stat. (2023).

C. Comparison of Form 6 to Form 1

48. Form 6 represents a highly intrusive and extreme level of required financial disclosure, mandating the disclosure of private financial information unrelated to any official duties and unnecessary to satisfy the interest of preventing conflicts of interest and public corruption or increasing public confidence in government.

49. Specifically, Form 6 requires that the official disclose:

(a) the official's exact net worth, to the penny, (b) the exact aggregate value of all household goods and personal effects, (c) the precise value of every other asset individually valued at over \$1,000 (including a description of the asset), (d) the exact outstanding amount of all liabilities in excess of \$1,000, including the name and address of the creditor, (e) every primary source of income that exceeded \$1,000 during the year, including the name and address of the source of income and the precise amount of income, (f) every secondary source of income in excess of \$1,000 from any business of which the official owns more than 5%, including the name of the business entity, the major sources of business income (namely, any that account for 10% or more of the business's revenue), and the address and principal business activity or source, and (g) any interest in certain specified types of businesses.

See Exh. A.

50. In contrast, Form 1 requires that the official disclose:

(a) the name, address and principal business active for every primary sources of income in excess of \$2,500 (but not the amount), (b) every secondary source of income in excess of \$5,000 from any business of which the official owns more than 5%, including the name of the business entity, the major source of business income (any that account for 10% or more of the business's revenue), and the address and principal business activity or source, (c) a description of all real property (but not the value) of which the official had more than a 5% ownership interest, (d) a description (but not the value) of intangible property owned by the official and valued at more than \$10,000, (e) the name and address of each creditor to whom the official owed more than \$10,000 (but not the amount owed), and (f) any interest in certain specified types of businesses.

See Exh. B.

51. The information in Form 1 and Form 6 of each filer is made publicly available through the Commission's website.

D. The Applicable Constitutional Protection

52. In 1980, the voters of Florida amended the Florida Constitution by adopting Article 1, Section 23, the "Right to Privacy," which states that "[e]very natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life except as otherwise

provided herein.” The *only* limitation on this right codified in the Florida Constitution is that the right “shall not be construed to limit the public’s right of access to public records and meetings as provided by law.” Art. I, § 23, Fla. Const.

53. Because the right to privacy is a fundamental right within Florida’s constitution, the Florida Supreme Court has required that any law intruding on that right is presumptively unconstitutional and must be justified by a “compelling state interest” which the law serves or protects through the “least restrictive means.” *See, e.g., Winfield v. Div. of Pari-Mutuel Wagering*, 477 So. 2d 544 (Fla. 1985).

E. The Impact of the Change from Form 1 to Form 6 for Municipal Elected Officials

54. The imposition of the Form 6 disclosure requirements at the municipal level (a) represents an unwarranted intrusion into the privacy of municipal elected officials, most of whom receive little or no compensation for their service; (b) unnecessarily risks the safety of such officials (making them targets of, among other things, robbery, identity theft, and extortion); and (c) will deter many otherwise qualified and interested citizens from running for local office.

55. The Florida League of Cities has indicated that over 100 elected municipal officials resigned on or before December 31, 2023, stating that they did not want to be subject to the Form 6 filing requirement (which applies to municipal elected officials in office beginning on January 1, 2024).

56. Requiring that uncompensated (or minimally compensated) municipal elected officials disclose their precise net worth, income and assets does not serve (let alone constitute the least restrictive means of serving) any compelling interest. Form 1 disclosures have for years provided sufficient transparency to inform the public of potential conflicts, prevent corruption, and create public confidence in government.

COUNT I

VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO PRIVACY UNDER FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

57. The Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 56, inclusive, as if fully set forth herein.

58. This count is an action for declaratory judgment, pursuant to sections 86.011, *et. seq.*, Florida Statutes, seeking a declaration from the Court that the requirement in section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, that municipal elected officials file Form 6 financial disclosures violates article I, section 23 of the Florida Constitution, and is therefore unconstitutional and invalid, and to enjoin the enforcement thereof.

59. Any law that intrudes on Florida's Constitutional right to privacy under article 1, section 23 is presumptively unconstitutional and must be justified by a "compelling state interest" which the law serves or protects through the "least restrictive means."

60. Form 6 requires the disclosure of highly private and confidential financial information that the Elected Official Plaintiffs have kept private and desire to continue to keep private.

61. Once disclosure occurs through the filing of Form 6 with the Commission, the highly private financial information will be readily available on the Internet by anyone for many years to come and will be readily associated with the individual filer.

62. Although Plaintiffs recognize the government's interest in preventing conflicts of interest and deterring corruption, SB 774's expansion of section 112.3144 and the requirements of Form 6 to municipal elected officials and candidates is not narrowly tailored to achieve this interest.

63. The highly intrusive disclosures required by Form 6 (as opposed to Form 1 or the forms used by the federal government and every other state in the United States) are not the least restrictive means to accomplish any compelling government purpose.

64. An actual controversy exists between Plaintiffs and Defendants, who have adverse legal interests of sufficient immediacy to warrant the issuance of a declaratory judgment and injunctive relief.

65. All elements necessary to support a cause of action for declaratory relief are present:

- a. There is a bona fide, actual, present need for a declaration that the requirement in section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, that municipal elected officials file Form 6 financial disclosures violates article I, section 23 of the Florida Constitution.
- b. The declaration sought deals with a present controversy as to an ascertainable set of facts.
- c. Plaintiffs' constitutionally protected rights and privileges are dependent upon the law applicable to the facts.
- d. The Plaintiffs and the Defendants have an actual, present, adverse, and antagonistic interest in the subject matter of this Complaint.
- e. The antagonistic and adverse interests are all before this Court.
- f. The relief sought is not merely the giving of legal advice or providing the answer to a question propounded from curiosity, but stems from an actual controversy.

Prayer for Relief

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be entered in their favor:

- A. Declaring that the requirement in section 112.3144, Florida Statutes, that municipal elected officials (including the Elected Official Plaintiffs) and candidates file Form 6 financial disclosures violates Article I, Section 23 of the Florida Constitution.
- B. Pursuant to the Court's power to grant supplemental relief under section 86.061, Florida Statutes, temporarily and permanently enjoining the Defendants from enforcing section 112.3144 (including the imposition of any fines, penalties, or other enforcement) arising from the failure of any of the Elected Official Plaintiffs or candidates or elected official of any of the Municipal Plaintiffs, for the failure to file a Form 6.
- C. Awarding Plaintiffs their costs incurred in bringing this action, and
- D. Granting such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2024.

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Co-Counsel for City of Destin, Florida

Exhibit A

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

General Information

Name: DISCLOSURE FILER

Address: SAMPLE ADDRESS

County: SAMPLE COUNTY

PID SAMPLE

AGENCY INFORMATION

Organization	Suborganization	Title
SAMPLE	SAMPLE	SAMPLE

Disclosure Period

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 .

Primary Sources of Income

PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME (Over \$2,500). (Major sources of income to the reporting person)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Source of Income	Source's Address	Description of the Source's Principal Business Activity

Secondary Sources of Income

SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME (Major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses owned by the reporting person) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Business Entity	Name of Major Sources of Business' Income	Address of Source	Principal Business Activity of Source

Real Property

REAL PROPERTY (Land, buildings owned by the reporting person) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Location/Description

Intangible Personal Property

INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY (Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc. over \$10,000) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Type of Intangible	Business Entity to Which the Property Relates

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

Liabilities

LIABILITIES (Major debts valued over \$10,000):
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor

Interests in Specified Businesses

INTERESTS IN SPECIFIED BUSINESSES (Ownership or positions in certain types of businesses)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Business Entity # 1

Training

Based on the office or position you hold, the certification of training required under Section 112.3142, F.S., is not applicable to you for this form year.

E-FILING SAMPLE

Signature of Filer

Digitally signed:

Filed with COE:

E-FILING SAMPLE

Exhibit B

General Information

Name: DISCLOSURE FILER
 Address: SAMPLE ADDRESS PID SAMPLE
 County: SAMPLE COUNTY

AGENCY INFORMATION

Organization	Suborganization	Title
SAMPLE	SAMPLE	SAMPLE

Net Worth

My Net Worth as of December 31, 2023 was \$ [AMOUNT].

Assets

Household goods and personal effects may be reported in a lump sum if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. This category includes any of the following, if not held for investment purposes: jewelry; collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic items; art objects; household equipment and furnishings; clothing; other household items; and vehicles for personal use, whether owned or leased.

The aggregate value of my household goods and personal effect is N/A.

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER \$1,000:

Description of Asset	Value of Asset

2023 Form 6 - Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests

Liabilities

LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000:

Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor	Amount of Liability

JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:

Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor	Amount of Liability

Income

Identify each separate source and amount of income which exceeded \$1,000 during the year, including secondary sources of income. Or attach a complete copy of your 2022 federal income tax return, including all W2s, schedules, and attachments. Please redact any social security or account numbers before attaching your returns, as the law requires these documents be posted to the Commission's website.

I elect to file a copy of my 2023 federal income tax return and all W2s, schedules, and attachments.

PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME:

Name of Source of Income Exceeding \$1,000	Address of Source of Income	Amount

SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME (Major customers, clients, etc. of businesses owned by reporting person):

Name of Business Entity	Name of Major Sources of Business Income	Address of Source	Principal Business Activity of Source

Interests in Specified Businesses

Business Entity # 1

Training

Based on the office or position you hold, the certification of training required under Section 112.3142, F.S., is not applicable to you for this form year.

Signature of Reporting Official or Candidate

Under the penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Form 6 and that the facts stated in it are true.

Digitally signed:

Filed with COE:

UNITED STATE DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No.

PRESIDENT OF TOWN COUNCIL
ELIZABETH A. LOPER, ALDERMAN KEITH
J. BLACK, ALDERMAN KATHLEEN M.
GROSS and ALDERMAN WILLIAM BIRCH,
elected officials of the Town of Briny Breezes;

COUNCILMEMBERS WALTER FAJET and
JACKY BRAVO, elected officials of Miami
Springs, Florida;

COMMISSIONER PATRICIA PETRONE, an
elected official of Lighthouse Point, Florida;

MAYOR DANIELLE H. MOORE,
PRESIDENT OF TOWN COUNCIL
MARGARET A. ZEIDMAN, COUNCIL
MEMBER EDWARD A. COONEY, COUNCIL
MEMBER LEWIS CRAMPTON, COUNCIL
MEMBER JULIE ARASKOG and COUNCIL
MEMBER BOBBIE LINDSAY, elected
officials of the Town of Palm Beach, Florida;

MAYOR BRENT LATHAM, VICE MAYOR
RICHARD CHERVONY, and
COMMISSIONER ANDY ROTONDARO,
elected officials of North Bay Village, Florida;

MAYOR GLENN SINGER, an elected official
of the Town of Golden Beach, Florida;

MAYOR BERNARD KLEPACH, an elected
official of Indian Creek, Florida;

MAYOR JEFFREY P. FREIMARK, VICE-
MAYOR SETH E. SALVER, COUNCILMAN
DAVID ALBAUM, and COUNCILMAN
DAVID WOLF, elected officials of the Village
of Bal Harbour, Florida;

MAYOR MARGARET BROWN,
COMMISSIONER MARY MOLINA-MACFIE,
COMMISSIONER CHRIS EDDY,

COMMISSIONER HENRY MEAD, and
COMMISSIONER BYRON L. JAFFE, elected
officials of the City of Weston, Florida;

MAYOR SHELLY PETROLIA, VICE-
MAYOR RYAN BOYLSTON, DEPUTY
VICE-MAYOR ROB LONG,
COMMISSIONER ADAM FRANKEL, and
COMMISSIONER ANGELA BURNS, elected
officials of the City of Delray Beach, Florida;

MAYOR JOSEPH AYOUB, COMMISSIONER
ANDY STEINGOLD, COMMISSIONER
CARLOS DIAZ, COMMISSIONER NANCY J.
BESORE, and COMMISSIONER CLIFF
MERZ, elected officials of the City of Safety
Harbor, Florida;

COMMISSIONER JEREMY KATZMAN, an
elected official of Cooper City, Florida;

MAYOR SCOTT J. BROOK, VICE-MAYOR
SHAWN CERRA, COMMISSIONER JOSHUA
SIMMONS, COMMISSIONER JOY CARTER,
and COMMISSIONER NANCY METAYER
BOWEN, elected officials of the City of Coral
Springs, Florida;

VICE-CHAIR ERIK BRECHNITZ, an elected
official of the City of Marco Island, Florida;

VICE MAYOR ARLENE SCHWARTZ,
COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO,
COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE, and
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N.
CAGGIANO, elected officials of the City of
Margate, Florida;

MAYOR ROBERT T. WAGNER, COUNCIL
MEMBER JOHN STEPHENS III, COUNCIL
MEMBER TORY CJ GEILE, COUNCIL
MEMBER JAMES B. BAGBY, and COUNCIL
MEMBER TERESA R. HEBERT, elected
officials of the City of Destin, Florida;

MAYOR KENNETH R. THURSTON, COMMISSIONER MELISSA P. DUNN, and COMMISSIONER SARAI "RAY" MARTIN, elected officials of the City of Lauderhill, Florida,

MAYOR BILL GANZ, VICE-MAYOR BERNIE PARNES, COMMISSIONER BEN PRESTON, and COMMISSIONER MICHAEL HUDAK, elected officials of the City of Deerfield Beach, Florida;

VICE-MAYOR PAUL A. KRUSS and COMMISSIONER RACHEL FRIEDLAND, elected officials of the City of Aventura, Florida;

VICE-MAYOR MICHAEL NAPOLEONE, COUNCILWOMAN TANYA SISKIND, COUNCILMAN JOHN T. MCGOVERN, and COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DRAHOS, elected officials of the Village of Wellington;

MAYOR FRED CLEVELAND, elected official of the City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida;

COUNCILMEMBER JENNIFER ANDREU, elected official of the City of Plantation, Florida,

COUNCILMEMBER KEM E. MASON, elected official of the Town of Lantana, Florida; and

MAYOR CHARLES EDWARD DODD, VICE MAYOR KELLY DIXON, COUNCIL MEMBER FREDERICK B. JONES, COUNCIL MEMBER BOB MCPARTLAN, AND COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER NUNN, elected officials of the City of Sebastian, Florida,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ASHLEY LUKIS, in her official capacity as Chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics; MICHELLE ANCHORS, in her official capacity as Vice Chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics; WILLIAM P. CERVONE, in his official

capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission on Ethics; TINA DESCOVICH, in her official capacity as Member of the Florida Commission on Ethics; FREDDIE FIGGERS, in his official capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission on Ethics; LUIS M. FUSTE, in his official capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission on Ethics; and WENGAY M. NEWTON, SR., in his official capacity as a Member of the Florida Commission on Ethics,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants for declaratory and injunctive relief, and state as follows:

OVERVIEW

1. This is an action by a large number of Florida elected municipal officials challenging a recently enacted law (“SB 774”) that on or before July 1, 2024 compels elected municipal officials in office as of January 1, 2024 to utter very specific statements, in writing and available to the public at large through the Internet, regarding the elected officials’ personal finances, including, among other things, stating the exact amount of their net worth and income, the total dollar value of their household goods, and the precise value of every asset and amount of every liability in excess of \$1,000. An elected municipal official’s failure to make these public statements will result in significant fines, civil penalties, and even potential removal from office.

2. SB 774 amended, among other statutes, Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, and renders elected municipal officials in office as of January 1, 2024, and municipal candidates subject to the financial disclosure requirements of Fla. Const., art. II, § 8(j).

3. Prior to the enactment of SB 774, elected municipal officials and municipal candidates were required to provide financial disclosures via a document called “Form 1” pursuant

to Fla. Stat. § 112.3145, but were not subject to the requirements of Fla. Const., art. II, § 8(j). However, Florida Statute sections 112.3144 and 99.061, as amended by SB 774 in 2023, respectively make *all* elected municipal officers and municipal candidates subject to the filing requirements of “Form 6,” which demands much more intrusive financial disclosures as outlined in the Florida Constitution and section 112.3144. A copy of Form 1 is attached as Exhibit A, and a copy of Form 6 is attached as Exhibit B.

4. Forcing municipal elected officials and municipal candidates to publicly make such statements impairs their right to be free of government-compelled, content-based, non-commercial speech, in violation of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

5. Rather than being the least restrictive, narrowly tailored means of accomplishing a compelling state interest, these new, financial disclosure requirements imposed on elected municipal officials and municipal candidates through SB 744 are the most restrictive means available – stricter and more onerous than required of federal elected officials (including the President of the United States) and of elected officials in other states throughout the country.

6. The additional, financial information statements required to be made by Form 6 (*e.g.*, the disclosure of exact net worth, exact income and precise values of household goods and other assets and liabilities), as compared to Form 1, have little, if any, bearing on an elected official’s municipal service, does not prevent or even ameliorate conflicts of interest or public corruption, and does not increase public confidence in government.

7. Form 1 is a less restrictive, alternative means of accomplishing the same governmental interests, as would be the less onerous disclosure forms used by the federal government or any of the other states in the United States.

8. Indeed, municipal elected officials and candidates operated under the requirements of Form 1 for decades, and nothing in the Legislature's enactment of the new Form 6 requirement reflected that Form 1 was insufficient and necessitated a change.

9. As such, this action seeks an order (i) declaring the 2023 amendments to Fla. Stat. § 112.3144 related to elected municipal officials and any penalties arising therefrom, including those in Fla. Stat. § 112.317, are unconstitutional under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and (ii) enjoining Defendants from enforcing the disclosure requirements.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case pursuant to this Court's federal question jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as this case arises under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, as made applicable to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

11. This case seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 57, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

12. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), as two of the Defendants (Freddie Figgers and Luis M. Fuste) reside in this District (and all are residents of this State), the majority of the plaintiffs reside and serve as elected officials in the District, and a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim herein occurred in this District.

THE PARTIES

A. Plaintiffs

13. Plaintiffs in this action consist of the following current, elected officials of Florida municipalities:

- a. Town of Briny Breezes President of Town Council Elizabeth A. Loper;
- b. Town of Briny Breezes Alderman Keith J. Black;
- c. Town of Briny Breezes Alderman Kathleen M. Gross;
- d. Town of Briny Breezes Alderman William Birch;
- e. City of Miami Springs Councilmember Walter Fajet;
- f. City of Miami Springs Councilmember Jacky Bravo;
- g. City of Lighthouse Point Commissioner Patricia Petrone;
- h. Town of Palm Beach Mayor Danielle H. Moore;
- i. Town of Palm Beach President of Town Council Margaret A. Zeidman;
- j. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Edward A. Cooney;
- k. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Lewis Crampton;
- l. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Julie Araskog;
- m. Town of Palm Beach Council Member Bobbie Lindsay;
- n. North Bay Village Mayor Brent Latham;
- o. North Bay Village Vice Mayor Richard Chervony;
- p. North Bay Village Commissioner Andy Rotondaro;
- q. Golden Beach Mayor Glenn Singer;
- r. Indian Creek Mayor Bernard Klepach;
- s. Village of Bal Harbour Mayor Jeffrey P. Freimark ;
- t. Village of Bal Harbour Vice-Mayor Seth E. Salver;
- u. Village of Bal Harbour Councilman David Albaum;
- v. Village of Bal Harbour Councilman David Wolf;
- w. City of Weston Mayor Margaret Brown;
- x. City of Weston Commissioner Mary Molina-Macfie;

- y. City of Weston Commissioner Chris Eddy;
- z. City of Weston Commissioner Henry Mead;
- aa. City of Weston Commissioner Byron L. Jaffe;
- bb. City of Delray Beach Mayor Shelly Petrolia;
- cc. City of Delray Beach Vice Mayor Ryan Boylston;
- dd. City of Delray Beach Deputy Vice-Mayor Rob Long;
- ee. City of Delray Beach Commissioner Adam Frankel;
- ff. City of Delray Beach Commissioner Angela Burns;
- gg. City of Safety Harbor Mayor Joseph Ayoub;
- hh. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Andy Steingold;
- ii. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Carlos Diaz;
- jj. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Nancy J. Besore;
- kk. City of Safety Harbor Commissioner Cliff Merz;
- ll. Cooper City Commissioner Jeremy Katzman;
- mm. City of Coral Springs Mayor Scott J. Brook;
- nn. City of Coral Springs Vice Mayor Shawn Cerra;
- oo. City of Coral Springs Commissioner Joshua Simmons;
- pp. City of Coral Springs Commissioner Joy Carter;
- qq. City of Coral Springs Commissioner Nancy Metayer Bowen;
- rr. City of Marco Island Vice-Chair Erik Brechnitz;
- ss. City of Margate Vice-Mayor Arlene Schwartz;
- tt. City of Margate Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio;
- uu. City of Margate Commissioner Joanne Simone;
- vv. City of Margate Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano;

- ww. City of Destin Mayor Robert T. Wagner;
- xx. City of Destin Council Member John Stephens III;
- yy. City of Destin Council Member Torey CJ Geile;
- zz. City of Destin Council Member James B. Bagby;
- aaa. City of Destin Council Member Teresa R. Hebert;
- bbb. City of Lauderhill Mayor Kenneth R. Thurston;
- ccc. City of Lauderhill Commissioner Melissa P. Dunn;
- ddd. City of Lauderhill Commissioner Sarai “Ray” Martin;
- eee. City of Deerfield Beach Mayor Bill Ganz;
- fff. City of Deerfield Beach Vice-Mayor Bernie Parness;
- ggg. City of Deerfield Beach Commissioner Ben Preston;
- hhh. City of Deerfield Beach Commissioner Michael Hudak;
- iii. City of Aventura Vice-Mayor Paul A. Kruss;
- jjj. City of Aventura Commissioner Rachel Friedland;
- kkk. Village of Wellington Vice-Mayor Michael Napoleone;
- lll. Village of Wellington Councilwoman Tanya Siskind;
- mmm. Village of Wellington Councilwoman John T. McGovern;
- nnn. Village of Wellington Councilwoman Michael Drahos;
- ooo. City of New Smyrna Beach Mayor Fred Cleveland;
- ppp. City of Plantation Councilmember Jennifer Andreu;
- qqq. Town of Lantana Councilmember Kem E. Mason;
- rrr. City of Sebastian Mayor Charles Edward Dodd;
- sss. City of Sebastian Vice Mayor Kelly Dixon;
- ttt. City of Sebastian Council Member Frederick B. Jones;

uuu. City of Sebastian Council Member Bob McPartlan; and

vvv. City of Sebastian Council Member Christopher Nunn.

14. Plaintiffs are each duly elected or appointed officials of incorporated municipalities existing under the laws of the State of Florida and are currently in office.

15. As a result of the passage of SB 774, as of January 1, 2024, each, individual Plaintiff is subject to the financial disclosure requirements of Fla. Const., art. II, § 8(j) and Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, and are further subject to the fines, penalties and other enforcement mechanisms outlined in Fla. Stat. §§ 112.317 and 112.324.

16. Each Plaintiff is, therefore, required to file the requisite Form 6 (rather than the prior Form 1) on or before July 1, 2024.

17. The failure of any municipal elected official, including each Plaintiff, to make the compelled statements subjects him or her to a daily fine of \$25 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500 and, following an investigation and public hearing, a potential civil penalty of up to \$20,000 and, among other things, a potential recommendation of removal from office. *See* Fla. Stat. §§ 112.3144(8)(f), 112.324(4), and 112.317.

18. Plaintiffs now face prior to the imminent deadline of July 1, 2024, the obligation to engage in non-commercial, content-based speech requirement to publicly disclose, against their will, the financial information required in Form 6, or face fines or other penalties.

19. Throughout Florida, more than 100 municipal elected officials resigned rather than agree to engage in such unwanted speech.

20. Plaintiffs strongly desire to continue to serve the public and have therefore not yet resigned, but instead have chosen to challenge the new compelled speech requirement.

21. Accordingly, Plaintiffs have each suffered a concrete and particularized injury-in-fact that is actual or imminent.

B. Defendants

22. Defendant, Ashley Lukis (“Lukis”) is the Chair and a member of the Florida Commission on Ethics (“Commission”), a commission existing pursuant to Fla. Const., Art. II, § 8(h)(1) and Fla. Stat. § 112.320. Lukis is sued in her official capacity as Chair of the Commission.

23. Defendant, Michelle Anchors (“Anchors”) is the Vice Chair and a member of the Commission. Anchors is sued in her official capacity as Vice Chair of the Commission.

24. Defendant, William P. Cervone (“Cervone”) is a member of the Commission. Cervone is sued in his official capacity as member of the Commission.

25. Defendant Tina Descovich (“Descovich”) is a member of the Commission. Descovich is sued in her official capacity as member of the Commission.

26. Defendant, Freddie Figgers (“Figgers”) is a member of the Commission. Figgers is sued in his official capacity as member of the Commission and is a resident of this District.

27. Defendant, Luis Fuste (“Fuste”) is a member of the Commission. Fuste is sued in his official capacity as member of the Commission and is a resident of this District.

28. Defendant, Wengay M. Newton, Sr. (“Newton”) is a member of the Commission. Newton is sued in his official capacity as member of the Commission.

29. Lukis, Anchors, Cervone, Descovich, Figgers, Fuste, and Newton, collectively, comprise the Commission.

30. “The Agency Head is the entire Commission, which is responsible for final agency action.” *See* Statement of Organization and Operation of the Commission on Ethics, <https://www.ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Ethics/statement%20of%20org.pdf?cp=2024127> (last accessed February 12, 2024).

31. The Commission, through each Defendant, is charged with implementing and enforcing the State’s financial disclosure laws, including, among many other things, the receipt of

Form 6 disclosures, training regarding Form 6, investigating alleged violations regarding Form 6 filings, imposing fines for failure to file Form 6, holding enforcement hearings regarding failure to file Form 6, making recommendations of removal from office for failure to file Form 6, and rendering legally binding advisory opinions regarding Form 6. *See* Fla. Const., Art. II, § 8(g); Fla. Stat. §§ 112.3144, 112.317, 112.320.

32. The Commission is also required to identify every person required to file Form 6, provide notification of said requirement to each person subject to these disclosures, and ensure compliance with the disclosure requirements by each person subject thereto. *See* Fla. Const., Art. II, § 8(g); Fla. Stat. §§ 112.3144, 112.317, 112.320.

33. In addition, the Commission's 2022 Annual Report (as well as previous annual reports) expressly requested that the Legislature enact legislation to require that elected municipal officials complete Form 6, rather than Form 1, leading to the enactment of SB 774. *See* Annual Report to the Florida Legislature for Calendar Year 2022, pg. 23, <https://ethics.state.fl.us/Documents/Publications/2022%20Annual%20Report.pdf?cp=202425> (last accessed February 12, 2024).

34. The only justification given by the Commission for its recommendation was:

Elected municipal officials are very important and administer vast amounts of public resources. For these, and other reasons, their disclosure should be on par with that of county officials and others who file Form 6, rather than Form 1. The Commission believes the enhanced disclosure should be applied to all elected municipal officials regardless of the population or revenue of the municipality.

35. Nowhere in its report did the Commission conclude that there has been an increase in the need to oppose corruption or conflicts of interest at the municipal level or that Form 1 in any way was insufficient to the task of guarding against those governmental ills. In short, the Commission justified its recommendation merely by noting that municipal officials should have

to disclose the same information others already disclose, without regard to the municipality's population, revenue, annual budget, or any elected municipal compensation amount, if any.

36. All acts alleged herein by Defendants and their agents, servants, employees, or persons acting on their behalf were done and are continuing to be done under color of state law.

37. Plaintiffs bring this action against the state officers (namely, the members of the Commission) who have the responsibility to enforce the Form 6 requirement against municipal elected officials (including Plaintiffs) and seek only prospective equitable relief to end the continuing violations of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

BACKGROUND

A. History of Ethical Standards in Florida

38. Beginning in the late 1960s, the Florida Legislature has enacted numerous laws regulating ethical conduct for Florida's elected officials, including laws related to the solicitation or acceptance of gifts, unauthorized compensation, misuse or abuse of public position, disclosure of certain information, doing business with one's agency, conflicting employment, lobbying restrictions, dual public employment, anti-nepotism, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure. *See generally* Fla. Stat., Chapter 112.

39. The interests that the financial disclosures are intended to serve are stated by the Commission: "Financial disclosure is required of public officials and employees because it enables the public to evaluate potential conflicts of interest, deters corruption, and increases public confidence in government." *See* Florida Commission on Ethics, Financial Disclosure Information, www.ethics.state.fl.us/FinancialDisclosure/Index.aspx, last accessed February 12, 2024.

40. In 1976, the Florida Constitution was amended to require that all elected, state constitutional officers annually file a full and public disclosure of their financial interests, which

is done through the state-adopted Form 6, requiring the disclosure of highly personal financial information. *See* Fla. Const. Art. II, § 8; Fla. Stat. § 112.3144; Exh. B.

41. The Form 6 requirement did not apply to elected municipal officials or candidates for municipal office prior to January 1, 2024.

B. The Change from Form 1 to Form 6 for Elected Municipal Officials

42. Instead, prior to January 1, 2024, elected municipal officials were required to make a more limited financial disclosure that nevertheless provides sufficient information to satisfy the interests of preventing conflicts of interest and public corruption and increasing public confidence in government. *See* Fla. Stat. § 112.3145. The elected municipal officials' financial disclosure was done through the state-adopted Form 1. Exh. A.

43. In the 2023 legislative session, the Florida Legislature duly enacted (and the Governor signed) SB 774, which was codified at Laws of Florida 2023-09, and which amended (in relevant part) Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, to change the financial disclosure requirements to require, as of January 1, 2024, that all elected municipal mayors and elected members of municipal governing boards (and candidates for such offices) file a Form 6 financial disclosure, rather than the previously required Form 1. *See* Fla. S.B. 774; Fla. Stat. §§ 99.061, 112.3144 (2023).

C. Comparison of Form 6 to Form 1

44. Form 6 is a highly intrusive and extreme level of required, public financial disclosure, mandating the disclosure of private financial information unrelated to any official duties and unnecessary to satisfy the interest of preventing conflicts of interest and public corruption or increasing public confidence in government. *See* Exh. B.

45. Specifically, Form 6 requires that the official disclose:

(a) the official's exact net worth, to the penny, (b) the exact aggregate value of all household goods and personal effects, (c) the precise value of every other asset individually valued at over \$1,000 (including a description of

the asset), (d) the exact outstanding amount of all liabilities in excess of \$1,000, including the name and address of the creditor, (e) every primary source of income that exceeded \$1,000 during the year, including the name and address of the source of income and the precise amount of income, (f) every secondary source of income in excess of \$1,000 from any business of which the official owns more than 5%, including the name of the business entity, the major sources of business income (namely, any that account for 10% or more of the business's revenue), and the address and principal business activity or source, and (g) any interest in certain specified types of businesses.

See Exh. B.

46. In contrast, Form 1 requires that the official disclose:

(a) the name, address and principal business active for every primary sources of income in excess of \$2,500 (but not the amount), (b) every secondary source of income in excess of \$5,000 from any business of which the official owns more than 5%, including the name of the business entity, the major source of business income (any that account for 10% or more of the business's revenue), and the address and principal business activity or source, (c) a description of all real property (but not the value) of which the official had more than a 5% ownership interest, (d) a description (but not the value) of intangible property owned by the official and valued at more than \$10,000, (e) the name and address of each creditor to whom the official owed more than \$10,000 (but not the amount owed), and (f) any interest in certain specified types of businesses.

See Exh. A.

47. The information in Form 1 and Form 6 of each filer is made publicly available through the Commission's website.

COUNT I

COMPELLED, CONTENT-BASED SPEECH IN VIOLATION OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. § 1983

48. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 47, as if fully set forth herein.

49. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, as applied to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment, prohibits the government, including Defendants, from abridging Plaintiffs' freedom of speech though government-compelled speech.

50. The First Amendment's speech rights include the right to speak freely, the right to refrain from speaking at all, and the right not to speak certain words or messages.

51. The statements required by Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, through Form 6, constitute non-commercial, compelled speech from Plaintiffs in violation of the First Amendment.

52. Specifically, Fla. Stat. § 112.3144 unconstitutionally compels Plaintiffs to make invasive, public disclosures about their personal finances through Form 6.

53. The required disclosures of Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, through Form 6, are content-based speech because they compel individuals to speak a particular message. Compelled speech is no less compelled and no less speech because it is required to be in writing.

54. For example, among many other things, on July 1, 2024, each Plaintiff will be forced to say the words: "My Net Worth as of December 31, 2023 was \$_____." *See* Exh. B at 1.

55. Plaintiffs would not otherwise engage in such non-commercial, content-based speech (namely, publicly disclosing to the public their exact net worth, income, asset values and other personal financial information required in Form 6) but for the requirements of Fla. Stat. § 112.3144 and the threat of fines, penalties and other enforcement mechanisms set forth in Fla. Stat. § 112.317.

56. The compelled speech in Form 6, as required by Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, is readily reviewable (now and for many years to come) by the public on the Internet, and the information in each filed Form 6 is clearly and readily associated with the individual filer (i.e., via the name of each individual Plaintiff).

57. Because the compelled speech is effectuated through state statute, the constitutional deprivation at issue here is caused by official policy of the state and under color of state law.

58. Although Plaintiffs recognize the government's interest in preventing conflicts of interest, deterring corruption, and increasing public confidence in government, Fla. Stat. § 112.3144, as amended by SB 744, and the application of Form 6 to elected municipal officials are not narrowly tailored to achieve these interests.

59. Requiring Plaintiffs to make the additional, compelled speech required by Form 6 (as opposed to the statements previously required through Form 1) are not the least restrictive means to accomplish any compelling government purpose.

60. Accordingly, an actual controversy exists between Plaintiffs and Defendants, each of whom have adverse legal interests of sufficient immediacy to warrant the issuance of a declaratory judgment and injunctive relief.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that judgment be entered in their favor:

A. Declaring, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and Rule 57, Fed. R. Civ P., that Fla. Stat. § 112.3144 (2023) compels Plaintiffs to engage in content-based, non-commercial speech in violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and is, therefore, unconstitutional;

B. Enjoining, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2202, Defendants from enforcing Fla. Stat. § 112.3144 (including the imposition of any fines, penalties or other enforcement) against Plaintiffs, arising from the failure of any Plaintiffs to file a Form 6 while subject to such requirements;

C. Awarding Plaintiffs their costs and expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in bringing in this action, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, 28 U.S.C. § 1920, and other applicable law; and

D. Granting such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 15th day of February, 2024.

WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN
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Counsel for Plaintiffs

Exhibit A

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

General Information		
Name:	DISCLOSURE FILER	
Address:	SAMPLE ADDRESS	PID SAMPLE
County:	SAMPLE COUNTY	
AGENCY INFORMATION		
Organization	Suborganization	Title
SAMPLE	SAMPLE	SAMPLE

Disclosure Period
THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS YOUR FINANCIAL INTERESTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 .

Primary Sources of Income		
PRIMARY SOURCE OF INCOME (Over \$2,500) (Major sources of income to the reporting person) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")		
Name of Source of Income	Source's Address	Description of the Source's Principal Business Activity

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

Secondary Sources of Income

SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME (Major customers, clients, and other sources of income to businesses owned by the reporting person) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Business Entity	Name of Major Sources of Business' Income	Address of Source	Principal Business Activity of Source

Real Property

REAL PROPERTY (Land, buildings owned by the reporting person) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Location/Description

Intangible Personal Property

INTANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY (Stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, etc. over \$10,000) (If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Type of Intangible	Business Entity to Which the Property Relates

E-FILING SAMPLE

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

Liabilities

LIABILITIES (Major debts valued over \$10,000):
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor

Interests in Specified Businesses

INTERESTS IN SPECIFIED BUSINESSES (Ownership or positions in certain types of businesses)
(If you have nothing to report, write "none" or "n/a")

Business Entity # 1

Training

Based on the office or position you hold, the certification of training required under Section 112.3142, F.S., is not applicable to you for this form year.

E-FILED SAMPLE

2023 Form 1 - Statement of Financial Interests

Signature of Filer

Digitally signed:

Filed with COE:

E-FILING SAMPLE

Exhibit B

2023 Form 6 - Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests

General Information

Name: DISCLOSURE FILER
 Address: SAMPLE ADDRESS PID SAMPLE
 County: SAMPLE COUNTY

AGENCY INFORMATION

Organization	Suborganization	Title
SAMPLE	SAMPLE	SAMPLE

Net Worth

My Net Worth as of December 31, 2023 was \$ [AMOUNT].

Assets

Household goods and personal effects may be reported in a lump sum if their aggregate value exceeds \$1,000. This category includes any of the following, if not held for investment purposes: jewelry; collections of stamps, guns, and numismatic items; art objects; household equipment and furnishings; clothing; other household items; and vehicles for personal use, whether owned or leased.

The aggregate value of my household goods and personal effect is N/A.

ASSETS INDIVIDUALLY VALUED AT OVER \$1,000:

Description of Asset	Value of Asset

2023 Form 6 - Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests

Liabilities		
LIABILITIES IN EXCESS OF \$1,000:		
Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor	Amount of Liability
JOINT AND SEVERAL LIABILITIES NOT REPORTED ABOVE:		
Name of Creditor	Address of Creditor	Amount of Liability

Income			
Identify each separate source and amount of income which exceeded \$1,000 during the year, including secondary sources of income. Or attach a complete copy of your 2022 federal income tax return, including all W2s, schedules, and attachments. Please redact any social security or account numbers before attaching your returns, as the law requires these documents be posted to the Commission’s website.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I elect to file a copy of my 2023 federal income tax return and all W2s, schedules, and attachments.			
PRIMARY SOURCES OF INCOME:			
Name of Source of Income Exceeding \$1,000	Address of Source of Income	Amount	
SECONDARY SOURCES OF INCOME (Major customers, clients, etc. of businesses owned by reporting person):			
Name of Business Entity	Name of Major Sources of Business Income	Address of Source	Principal Business Activity of Source

2023 Form 6 - Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests

Interests in Specified Businesses

Business Entity # 1

Training

Based on the office or position you hold, the certification of training required under Section 112.3142, F.S., is not applicable to you for this form year.

Signature of Reporting Official or Candidate

Under the penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Form 6 and that the facts stated in it are true.

Digitally signed:

Filed with COE: