



Florida Department of  
Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey  
Commissioner

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Rick Scott, Governor  
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Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture

February 21, 2012



Maria Matthews  
Assistant General Counsel  
Florida Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: Elections Fraud Complaint Number 2011-09 (Cynthia D. Martin)  
Correction of Subject Information

Dear Ms. Matthews:

I am in receipt of a copy of your February 1, 2012 correspondence to Sumter County Property Appraiser Ronnie Hawkins regarding the investigation of *Cynthia D. Martin* conducted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center. As you are aware, we completed the investigation and submitted our findings to the Office of the State Attorney, 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, for review. On September 21, 2011, I provided you with a letter indicating that the State Attorney's Office had declined prosecution of this matter.

Upon review of your correspondence and that of Mr. Hawkins, I would like to provide you with further clarification regarding the basis for the declination of prosecution by the State Attorney's Office. Their decision to decline prosecution of this matter was set forth in the following memo authored by Assistant State Attorney Mark D. Simpson:

*Based on my review I would decline to file charges in this matter. Based on your investigation it is apparent that Ms. Martin was clearly qualified to vote in the Coleman City elections based on her residency. Since she had met the requirements to vote in the City elections the issue of voter fraud is moot. The next issue concerns the homestead exemption Ms. Martin had on property outside the City of Coleman on which Ms. Martin did not reside. According to your report the Property Appraisers office told Ms. Martin that she could hold homestead on the property while residing at another location so long as she did not rent the property to another. There has been no information provided that Ms. Martin ever received compensation for the homestead property and based on the information provided to her by the Property Appraisers office she clearly had a good faith belief that what she was doing did not violate the law. As this was submitted for consideration of criminal charges against Ms. Martin only I do not address the issue of her son on his homestead status. I would however point out the Property Appraiser in the past has chosen to deal with these type violations civilly; I see no reason to interfere with his handling of these matters in the way he chooses.*

Maria Matthews  
February 21, 2012  
Age 2

Thank you for bringing this matter to FDLE's attention, and please accept my apologies for any confusion which may have been created by my prior correspondence. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Troy Walker  
Assistant Special Agent In Charge  
Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center

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Cc: Ronnie Hawkins, Property Appraiser, Sumter County  
Garry Breeden, Chair, Board of County Commissioners, Sumter County

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Comms	_____	Pub Wks Div	_____
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Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center

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