



Florida Commission on Ethics

P. O. Drawer 15709, Tallahassee, Florida 32317-5709

"A Public Office is a Public Trust"

COMPLAINT

1. PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:

Name: Joseph Davis Telephone Number: 850- [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Tallahassee County: Leon State: FL Zip Code: 32312

2. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT:

Use a separate complaint form for each person you wish to complain against:

Name: Reese Goad Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Address: 300 S. ADAMS ST.

City: Tallahassee County: Leon Zip Code: 32301

Title of office or position held or sought: City Manager, City of Tallahassee

3. STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Please provide a full explanation of your complaint, describing the facts and the actions of the person named above and why you believe he or she violated the law. Include relevant dates and the names and addresses of persons whom you believe may be witnesses. Please do not submit more than 15 pages, including this form. Please do not submit video or audio tapes, CDs, DVDs, flash drives or other electronic media; such material will not be considered part of the complaint and will be returned.

4. OATH

STATE OF Florida
COUNTY OF Leon

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of physical presence or online notarization, this

21 day of JULY,

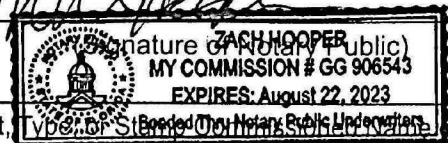
20 21, by Joseph Davis
(name of person making statement)

I, the person bringing this complaint, do swear or affirm that the facts set forth in the foregoing complaint and attachments thereto are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

[Signature]
SIGNATURE OF COMPLAINANT

[Signature]

(Print, Type or Stamp Your Name Under Seal of Notary Public)



Personally Known OR Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced: FL DL



Tallahassee Professional *F i r e f i g h t e r s*

IAFF Local 2339

Florida Commission on Ethics Complaint Against Reese Goad, City Manager of Tallahassee

July 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I ask that the Florida Commission on Ethics investigate Reese Goad, City Manager of the City of Tallahassee, for unethical behavior, as he has misused his public position by directing my department head to convey a threat, ordering me to cease acting within my lawful right under FS 119.07 to request access to public records. I further believe that he knew he stood to benefit by avoiding risk to his position if I acquiesced to the threat.

On April 19, 2021, due to concerns over substantial cuts to the Tallahassee Fire Department budget and possible safety risks that could result for myself and other employees of the Tallahassee Fire Department, as well as for the citizens we serve, I submitted a request for public records to the City of Tallahassee for documents pertaining to the Fire Services Fee of the City of Tallahassee (authorized in Chapter 8, Article III of the City of Tallahassee Code) and related items. I was told by Fire Department staff that my records requests did not “sit well” with the City Manager, but nothing else was related.

On May 21st, 2021, I submitted another records request for similar items to the first request. The next day, Saturday, May 22nd, I was contacted by the Fire Chief who stated that the City Manager had directed him to “bring me in” to discuss the records requests, but he conveyed that he did not feel that was appropriate. I told him I would be by his office on Tuesday, and he could inform me what the City Manager directed him to say.

On Tuesday, May 25th, I and Battalion Chief Byron Meadows, along with Deputy Chief Eugene Sanders, met with the Fire Chief. He stated that the City Manager had directed him to “bring me in and tell (me) to stand down.” He added that the City Manager stated that if I did not back off it “would not be good for anyone.”

Considering my position as Local President for the Tallahassee Professional Firefighters, the City Manager has my cell phone number, email address, work phone number, and access to when and where I

will be at work. He has an ample amount of ability to personally reach me to express concern or to take the opportunity to address our questions regarding the Fire Services Fund and the Fire Assessment. The decision to direct my department head (the person in my chain of command who has the immediate ability to change my work location and/or duties, discipline, or terminate me) to deliver a threatening message is inappropriate, especially for requesting items that I have a right to request.

Adding to his threat to cease requesting information, the City Manager included a threat of damage to both myself and my members with his follow-up of it “would not be good for anyone.” My immediate concern was for retaliation from the City Manager upon myself or my members due to the damage our investigation would have on the City Manager’s job security, because in that same statement he is also admitting revelations from any investigation would not be good for himself either.

Since the threat, the City Manager has reached out to meet with me but has been adamant that there would be no attorneys allowed nor recording of the meeting. He has been informed as to how we received the threat but has never communicated that we had a misunderstanding or a miscommunication.

Not only did the City Manager abuse his power by threatening an employee to “stand down” from requiring transparency through records requests, but he also betrayed the public trust in that he used bully tactics to keep the public from being informed about matters which could possibly bring his decision-making into question and possibly lead to his termination.

Joseph (Joey) Davis
President
Tallahassee Professional Firefighters
850-5 [REDACTED]