

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 18-19

WHEREAS, Joy Cooper is presently serving as Mayor for the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2018, Joy Cooper was arrested for felony and misdemeanor charges in case number 2018CF001021, in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, including: violation of campaign contribution limits, a third-degree felony under section 106.08(7)(b), Florida Statutes; official misconduct, a third-degree felony under section 838.022, Florida Statutes; money laundering (more than \$300, less than \$20,000), a third-degree felony under section 896.101(5)(a), Florida Statutes; and soliciting a campaign contribution in a government building, a first-degree misdemeanor under section 106.15(4), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, section 112.51(2), Florida Statutes, provides that the Governor may suspend from office any elected municipal officer who is arrested for a felony or for a misdemeanor related to the duties of office; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the residents of the City of Hallandale Beach, and the citizens of the State of Florida, that Joy Cooper be immediately suspended from the public office, which she now holds, upon the grounds set forth in this executive order.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, Governor of Florida, pursuant to section 112.51, Florida Statutes, find as follows:

- A. Joy Cooper is, and at all times material hereto was, Mayor for the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida.
- B. The office of Mayor for the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida, is within the purview of the suspension powers of the Governor, pursuant to section 112.51, Florida Statutes.
- C. On January 25, 2018, Joy Cooper was arrested for felony and misdemeanor charges in case number 2018CF001021, in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, including: violation of campaign contribution limits, a third-degree felony under section 106.08(7)(b), Florida Statutes; official misconduct, a third-degree felony under section 838.022, Florida Statutes; money laundering (more than \$300, less than \$20,000), a third-degree felony under section 896.101(5)(a), Florida Statutes; and soliciting a campaign contribution in a government building, a first-degree misdemeanor under section 106.15(4), Florida Statutes, as evidenced by the attached Warrant to Arrest and Affidavit to Arrest filed in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, which are incorporated as if fully set forth in this Executive Order.

BEING FULLY ADVISED in the premises, and in accordance with the Constitution and the Laws of the State of Florida, this Executive Order is issued, effective immediately:

Section 1. Joy Cooper is suspended from the public office, which she now holds, to wit: Mayor for the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida.

Section 2. Joy Cooper is prohibited from performing any official act, duty, or function of public office; from receiving any pay or allowance; and from being entitled to any of

the emoluments or privileges of public office during the period of this suspension, which period shall be from today, until further Executive Order is issued, or as otherwise provided by law.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at The Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida, this 26th day of January, 2018.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rick Scott", written over a horizontal line.

RICK SCOTT, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken Ritzman", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE

2018 JAN 26 PM 4: 08
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

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**IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

JOY FRANCES COOPER

WARRANT TO ARREST

**IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, TO ALL AND SINGULAR THE
SHERIFFS AND CONSTABLES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:**

COUNT 1

***Soliciting Campaign Contribution in a Government Building,
1st Degree Misdemeanor ***

WHEREAS, Investigator Kate Abrahamsen, ID #1258, of the 17th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office Investigations Division has this day made oath before me that:

On or about the 10th day of July, A.D. 2012, in the County aforesaid, one Joy Frances Cooper did then and there unlawfully and knowingly solicit political contributions while in her office, located within a building owned by a governmental entity, to wit: Hallandale Beach City Hall, contrary to Section 106.15(4), 2012 Florida Statutes; and

COUNT 2

Violation of Campaign Contribution Limits, 3rd Degree Felony

On or about the 13th day of September, A.D. 2012, in the County aforesaid, one Joy Frances Cooper did then and there unlawfully and knowingly accepted two or more campaign contributions from an individual(s) exceeding the \$500 campaign contribution limit. Mayor Cooper willingly accepted campaign contributions knowing that, in order to conceal the amount, it was going to be funneled to her via \$500 checks from people who were being reimbursed for their contribution, to wit: Joy Cooper accepted multiple monetary instruments from Alan Koslow (individual campaign contribution checks in the amount of \$500 each) which she knew to be an individual monetary benefit from UCEs, but disguised to avoid campaign finance regulations, contrary to Section 106.08(7)(b), 2012 Florida Statutes; and

COUNT 3

Official Misconduct , 3rd Degree Felony

On or about the 10th day of August, A.D. 2012 and the 12th Day of October, A.D. 2012, in the County aforesaid, one Joy Frances Cooper while a public servant, to wit:

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Mayor of the City of Hallandale Beach, Florida, did then and there unlawfully and knowingly, and with the corrupt intent to obtain a benefit for herself, falsify or cause another to falsify an official record or document, to wit: Florida Department of State, Division of Elections, Campaign Treasurer's Reports for Joy Cooper, covering the periods of August 10th through September 14th, 2012, September 15th through September 28th, 2012, and September 29th through October 12th, 2012, all of which were time stamped as received by the City of Hallandale, indicating Mayor Cooper had received contributions from individuals when in fact she knew the individuals were not the true source of the contributions, contrary to Section 838.022, 2012 Florida Statutes; and

COUNT 4
Money Laundering Act, 3rd Degree Felony

On or about the 13th day of September, A.D. 2012, in the County aforesaid, one Joy Frances Cooper did then and there unlawfully and knowing that the property involved in a financial transaction, to wit: monetary instruments received from Alan Koslow, represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, to wit: the violation of campaign contribution limits pursuant to Section 106.08, 2012 Florida Statutes, did conduct or attempt to conduct such a financial transaction which in fact involves the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, to wit: the violation of campaign contribution limits pursuant to Section 106.08, 2012 Florida Statutes, with the intent to promote the carrying on of specified unlawful activity, or knowing that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, the location, the source, the ownership, or the control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, contrary to Section 896.101, 2012 Florida Statutes, also known as The Florida Money Laundering Act.

The offense(s) set forth in the foregoing Warrant are contrary to the statute(s) in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Florida. Attached hereto and made a part hereof by incorporation is the Affidavit executed by Special Agent Francis Vetere, Affiant herein.

THESE ARE, THEREFORE, to command you forthwith to arrest the said Joy Frances Cooper, and bring her before me to be dealt with according to law.

Given under my hand and seal this 24 day of January A.D. 2018.

BROWARD COUNTY CIRCUIT & COUNTY COURT
I certify this document to be a true and correct copy of the original.
WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL
on JAN 23 2018
BY [Signature]
CLERK OF THE COURT
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

[Signature]
HONORABLE [Signature]
Judge of the Circuit/County Court

18-0035-Affid

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

Plaintiff,

AFFIDAVIT TO ARREST

vs.

JOY FRANCES COOPER

W/F, DOB: 5/14/1960

Defendant,

BEFORE ME

Anna Sierra

Judge of the Circuit

Court in and for Broward County, personally came, Investigator Kate Abrahamson of the Investigations Division, 17th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office in Broward County, who, after being duly sworn, deposes and said that beginning on or about the 16th day of May, 2012 and continuing through on or about the 18th day of October, 2012, in the County and State aforesaid, one **JOY FRANCES COOPER**, did commit the following offenses: one (1) count of Soliciting a Campaign Contribution in a Government Building, contrary to Section 106.15(4) 2012 Florida State Statutes; and one (1) count of Violating a Campaign Contribution Limit, contrary to Section 106.08(7)(b), 2012 Florida Statutes; and one (1) count of Official Misconduct, contrary to Section 838.022, 2012 Florida Statutes; and one (1) count of Money Laundering, contrary to Section 896.101, 2012 Florida Statutes, also known as The Florida Money Laundering Act,

Your Affiant has investigated the facts and circumstances pertaining to the evidence received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in association with FBI sting operation entitled "Red Chip", and states the following:

Between May 16th and October 18th of 2012, the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted a sting operation, entitled "Red Chip", to address alleged criminal activity related to political corruption in South Florida. Undercover FBI agents, herein referred to as UCEs (undercover employees), posed as wealthy California land developers seeking political favor for business projects, specifically, commercial land development projects. A fictitious company, herein referred to as BW LLC, was also developed in support this investigation.

During the operation, UCEs engaged former attorney and lobbyist Alan Koslow to represent them in South Florida. At this time, Alan Koslow was unaware that he was interacting with undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agents. Over the course of several months, numerous meetings and conversations were conducted, with Alan Koslow and Mayor Joy Cooper, all of which were audio or video recorded. On June 7th, 2012, Alan Koslow stated to the UCEs that he had influence with the Mayor and commissioners of the City of Hallandale Beach. He further stated to UCEs that he had the vote of the Mayor in the City of Hallandale and if they supported the Mayor's "causes" she would favorably view their projects within her City.

On July 10th, 2012, Koslow introduced the UCEs to Hallandale Beach Mayor Joy Cooper in her office at City Hall, 400 South Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach, FL. During this meeting, UCEs and Koslow told Mayor Cooper of the UCEs' desire to find a suitable site for development in the city. Mayor Cooper discussed the UCEs project and her mayoral campaign. Mayor Cooper indicated that she and two other city commissioners, William Julian and Anthony Saunders, were a "team of three" which could ensure a favorable result for the UCEs project. Alan Koslow showed Mayor Cooper a

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number representing a proposed contribution and asked her if it was a good number. She replied "No. Add a zero." Koslow confirmed "three zeros, is that fine?" and Mayor Cooper replied "Yes".

During a recorded conversation on July 27th, 2012, Mayor Joy Cooper and Alan Koslow agreed that UCE's would make two contributions to her campaign. When told that each contribution would be in the amount of \$5000, one prior to August 14th 2012 and one after that date (referring to the primary and general elections for City of Hallandale commissioner members), Mayor Cooper responded "Alright. Cool", thus Mayor Cooper knowingly and willingly solicited these illegal contributions for her campaign and further solicited contributions to the campaigns of city commissioners William Julian and Anthony Saunders. These contributions would be in the amount of \$1500 each; one before August 14, 2012 and one after that date.

On August 9th, 2012, UCEs met with Alan Koslow and Mayor Joy Cooper at her residence in Hallandale Beach. After this meeting, UCEs followed Alan Koslow to his residence in Hallandale Beach. While at his residence, UCEs gave Alan Koslow a Dunkin' Donuts bag containing \$8000.00 cash, all \$100 bills, with the understanding that Alan Koslow would channel these funds to Mayor Joy Cooper, and Commissioners Anthony Saunders and William Julian via campaign contributions. Alan Koslow advised the UCEs that he would be working with two different Russian organizations in an effort to have the organizations write checks for the election campaigns in the following manner: \$5,000.00 was designated for Joy Cooper's Mayoral campaign, and \$1000.00 each for campaign contributions to Commissioners William Julian and Anthony Saunders. Alan Koslow advised the UCEs that it would cost them between \$500 and \$1000 to have the Russian organizations provide the checks.

On August 20th, 2012, UCE 5051 stated to Mayor Joy Cooper during a recorded meeting at the Flash Back Diner, that the pledged payment to her, via her campaign, would be in the form of checks from a "bunch of Russian names".

On September 13, 2012, Alan Koslow stated to UCE5051, during a recorded phone conversation, that he had personally handed 20 checks to Joy Cooper at a Hallandale Chamber of Commerce Fashion Show. Alan Koslow indicated that with the assistance of his associate Julia Yaremchuk, the checks were all issued by persons with "Russian" last names and that he had a list of those names. Koslow stated that the checks presented to Joy Cooper comprised the \$5,000 agreed upon payment to Mayor Joy Cooper from the UCEs. Koslow also stated that when he informed Mayor Cooper what was in the envelope she stated "that's fantastic" and confirmed that she understood everything including the source of the funds.

On October 2nd, 2012, UCE's met with Alan Koslow at the Westin Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood. During this meeting, Alan Koslow provided UCEs with photo copies of ten checks that were utilized to funnel \$5,000 of the cash that Koslow received from UCEs to Mayor Joy Cooper and Commissioner William Julian. Alan Koslow advised the UCEs that he had utilized Julia Yaremchuk and her Russian contacts to complete this financial transaction. Koslow indicated that he gave Julia Yaremchuk \$5,000 cash that he had received from the UCEs, and Julia Yaremchuk in turn had her Russian contacts write personal checks to Mayor Joy Cooper's and Commissioner William Julian's campaigns in the amount of \$500.00 each, the legal limit for campaign contributions. One of the checks was written by Julia Yaremchuk and payable to "Bill Julian" in the amount of \$500.00.

According to Mayor Joy Cooper's Campaign Treasurer's Report, covering period 8/10/2012 through 9/14/2012, seven campaign contributions were recorded by "teachers" in the amount of

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\$500.00 each. These contributor names were the same names as indicated on the photocopy of checks that Alan Koslow provided to the UCEs. According to the Mayor's Campaign Treasurer's Report, covering the period 9/15/2012 through 9/28/2012, a campaign contribution was recorded by a "teacher" in the amount of \$500.00. This is the second recorded entry of this contributor, as their name and date of check are included in the report for the previous period. Another Campaign Treasurer's Report, for the period of 9/29/2012 through 10/12/12, included a campaign contribution by a "retired" person in the amount of \$500.00. This individual's name was also included in the photocopy of checks provided to the UCEs by Alan Koslow.

Mayor Cooper signed these reports certifying that she had "examined this report and it is true, correct, and complete." The reports were received by the Hallandale City Clerk's Office on September 21, October 5th, and October 18th, 2012, respectively.

According to Commissioner William Julian's Campaign Treasurer's Report, on September 28th, 2012, contribution checks were received from Julia Yaremchuk and her employee, Vital Yarashevich, each in the amount of \$500.00. Both of these contributor names were included in the photocopy of checks provided to the UCEs by Alan Koslow. There is no evidence to indicate that Commissioner Julian knew the source of these campaign contributions.

Sworn statements were taken from seven of the Russian individuals issuing the above mentioned checks, all of whom had a check from their personal accounts deposited to the Campaigns of Mayor Joy Cooper or Bill (William) Julian. These individuals all stated that they were employed by Julia Yaremchuk at the time the checks were written and that Julia Yaremchuk solicited these checks, in the amount of \$500.00. Two of the individuals recalled receiving cash for their checks. The others do not recall.

A meeting was recorded on October 3, 2012, at the Flash Back Diner in Hallandale Beach, with UCEs, Alan Koslow, and Mayor Joy Cooper. Mayor Cooper stated to UCEs "You guys have been great," acknowledging that she had received the \$5,000 campaign contribution from them, via Alan Koslow. Mayor Cooper stated to UCEs that she "got one thing back from your ladies" indicating one of the checks she received from UCEs via Koslow had bounced.

Alan Koslow provided a sworn statement on November 9th, 2017, attesting to his participation in the above mentioned events.

Mayor Joy Cooper knowingly solicited political contributions while in her office, located within a building owned by a governmental entity, to wit: Hallandale Beach City Hall, contrary to Section 106.15(4), 2012 Florida Statutes; and

Mayor Joy Cooper knowingly and willfully accepted two or more campaign contributions from an individual(s) exceeding the \$500 campaign contribution limit. Mayor Cooper willingly accepted campaign contributions knowing that, in order to conceal the amount, it was going to be funneled to her via \$500 checks from people who were being reimbursed for their contribution, to wit: Joy Cooper accepted multiple monetary instruments from Alan Koslow (Individual campaign contribution checks in the amount of \$500 each) which she knew to be an individual monetary benefit from UCEs, but disguised to avoid campaign finance regulations, contrary to Section 106.08(7)(b), 2012 Florida Statutes; and

