



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

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JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee, *Chair*

SENATOR JOSEPH ABRUZZO

25th District

April 8th, 2013

Chairman Manuel Farach
2633 Vista Parkway
West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Re: Ethics Commissioner Ronald Harbison's public remarks for Palm Beach County Ethics
Commission audit request

Dear Chairman Farach:

I personally made the audit request for the Palm Beach County Ethics Commission with the Senate President on February 13th, 2013. I also met with OPPAGA staff that day to discuss the potential audit. To my knowledge, Philip Massa's interview took place March 21st, 2013 thirty six days after my audit request. He was officially notified in writing April 1st, 2013 that he did not receive the position.

It has never been more apparent to me that an audit is necessary to obtain information and have a thorough review for how the board conducts itself.

It is irresponsible that someone in a position representing high ethical standards would make allegations in contradiction to a factual timeline without making any attempt to verify their negative assertions.

I am sure we agree that it is imperative to have an ethics commission that is properly trained, free from influence and one that never holds prejudice. As an openly and historically strong supporter of our Inspector General and ethics oversight, I will continue to work to ensure that the process is above reproach. I respectfully request a meeting after the conclusion of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Abruzzo".

Joseph Abruzzo
Chairman of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

REPLY TO:

- 12300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite 200, Wellington, Florida 33414-5785 (561) 791-4774
- 222 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5025

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

DON GAETZ
President of the Senate

GARRETT RICHTER
President Pro Tempore