



BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pompano Beach Mayor Admits to Campaign Finance Misconduct Again in Second OIG Referral to Florida Elections Commission

Broward Inspector General John W. Scott announced that, on June 25, 2020, City of Pompano Beach Mayor Rex Hardin entered a [consent final order](#) with the Florida Election Commission (FEC), in which he admitted to violating Florida's campaign finance laws in yet another election campaign. This is the second time that he has admitted to state campaign finance violations in just over two years.

Mayor Hardin admitted that, during his November 2018 election campaigns, he accepted contributions in excess of the legal limit; failed to timely dispose of funds in his campaign bank accounts; failed to file a termination report; and certified to the correctness of campaign reports when they were not true, correct, and complete.

The mayor paid a total civil penalty of \$2,250.

The current FEC case was based on the OIG's [October 2019 report](#) and referral, after finding probable cause to believe that Mayor Hardin engaged in campaign finance misconduct during his November 2018 campaign for commissioner, from which he ultimately withdrew, and his successful campaign for mayor in the same election cycle.

The OIG's findings included that, for the mayoral campaign, Mayor Hardin improperly reported contributions of \$5,601.60 as in-kind contributions from himself—contributions stemming from services that his company rendered the campaign. As in-kind contributions from the company, they exceeded the \$1,000 maximum contribution limit.

In addition, after withdrawing from the commissioner's race in May 2018, Mayor Hardin failed to report any commissioner campaign activity or termination until he filed a termination report in November 2018, three months after his final reporting deadline for the commissioner race. In February 2019, he falsely reported in the mayoral campaign's termination report that he transferred \$5,737.70 in surplus campaign funds to his office account—but he did not make that transfer for another six months, which was six months past the disposal and reporting deadline for that race.

The first time the FEC fined Mayor Hardin was following a [September 2016 OIG report](#) and referral about an investigation into his campaign finance practices in his 2014 commissioner re-election campaign. In that FEC case, he admitted that he wrongly certified to the correctness of his termination report, failed to include information about expenditures, and made or authorized prohibited expenditures. He and the FEC [settled in May 2018](#), and the mayor paid a \$1,300 fine as a part of that agreement.

John W. Scott, *Inspector General*

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