



BROWARD OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2022

Coconut Creek Commissioner Louis Sarbone Moved Out of the City and Then Falsely Swore to Living in the City When Voting

Broward Inspector General John W. Scott announced today that the Broward Office of the Inspector General (OIG) issued [a final report](#) concluding that former City of Coconut Creek Commissioner Louis Sarbone was not primarily domiciled within Coconut Creek yet maintained his seat on the city commission and falsely swore an oath for voting purposes that his legal residence was still in the city.

The OIG investigation determined that, in July 2020, after selling his house in Coconut Creek, Commissioner Sarbone moved to a house in the city of Fort Myers in Lee County, Florida. Nonetheless, he maintained his seat on the city commission and swore to the Broward County Supervisor of Elections that he legally resided at a Coconut Creek apartment and was a qualified Broward County voter. He voted in two later elections, certifying within those votes that he was still qualified to vote in Broward County.

These constituted a violation of the city charter's requirement that commissioners remain primarily domiciled in the district they represent and false oaths in connection with voting, third degree felony violations of Florida election law.

The OIG's evidence that Commissioner Sarbone lived in Fort Myers included his swearing to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles that his physical street address and mailing address was his Fort Myers house, his directing certain mail to his Fort Myers house, his filing for and receiving a homestead exemption in Lee County for his Fort Myers house, and SunPass transponder records reflecting that the transponders associated with Commissioner Sarbone and his wife were in southeast Florida no more than 28.8 percent of the time and no more than 12 days at a time within our scope of 573 days. We also determined that one of these transponders came into Broward County from Collier County, which sits between Broward County and Lee County, on the day before or the day of a Coconut Creek city commission meeting on approximately 26 occasions.

Fifteen days after his interview with the OIG, Commissioner Sarbone resigned from the commission effective April 1, 2022.

The OIG is referring the matter to the Broward State Attorney and the Florida Division of Elections for whatever action those agencies deem appropriate.

John W. Scott, *Inspector General*

One North University Drive, Suite 111 • Plantation, Florida 33324 • (954) 357-7873 • Fax (954) 357-7857
www.browardig.org • (954) 357-TIPS