

Fake Retirements Give 18 SW Florida Bureaucrats \$1.5 Million in Pension Cash Bonuses in August 2023

State-wide 405 Florida Bureaucrats take \$56.6 Million in Fake Retirement Pension Cash Bonuses in August 2023



Ricky Smith of Lehigh Acres collected \$236,128 in a Fake Retirement Pension Bonus this August 2023 working for the Florida Department of Corrections. Then Ricky Smith will collect over a \$47,255 pension per month for life plus \$255 monthly health care money! The average Lehigh Acres Taxpayer would have to work 5.3 years at their average \$44,489 salary¹ to earn Ricky Smith's outrageous taxpayer-paid pension bonus. Only 15 percent of private industry workers had access to a traditional defined benefit pension plan, compared with 86 percent of state and local government workers². Ricky Smith's Triple Dip is that he doesn't pay 3% of his salary into the Florida Retirement System like other public employees shifting personal responsibility to taxpayers. <https://www.zippia.com/miami-fl-jobs/salary/> Florida's minimum wage was just raised to \$12 an hour earning \$24,000 a year and must work 9.8 years to make Rick Smith's obscene pension cash bonus.

Miami Dade Sargent Armando Planas is the August 2023 Triple Dipper King taking a fake retirement pension cash bonus of \$658,235 and a salary of \$129,526³ at the same time doing the same job and not paying 3% of his salary \$3,885 into the Florida Retirement System like other public employees.. <https://tripleddippers.org/fl-cops-tripledippers-july-2022/>

“Triple Dippers are Florida Public Employees who take a salary and a pension with interest at the same time to do the same job!” said Dave Jaye, Researcher, www.tripledippers.org “Triple Dippers are the only Florida Public employees who don't pay 3% of their salary into the Florida retirement system-cheating

¹ <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/-in-Lehigh-Acres,FL>

² <https://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-12/how-do-retirement-plans-for-private-industry-and-state-and-local-government-workers-compare.htm#:~:text=Only%2015%20percent%20of%20private,to%20a%20defined%20contribution%20plan.>

³ <https://openpayrolls.com/employee/armando-j-planas-306>

taxpayers out of \$62.8 Million! No private company allows such abuses.” The August 2023 Fake Retirement Pensions cash bonus list is attached. See the Statewide list of Florida’s Triple Dippers at <https://tripleedippers.org/fl-statewide-2023-june-28537-tripleedippers/>

Giving “Public Servants” a paycheck and a pension at the same time to do the same job has led to \$36 Billion in unfunded Florida Retirement obligations, a \$1,675 liability for every man, woman and child in Florida! Instead of reducing this abuse of taxpayers, the Florida Legislature voted to extend the time Politicians and bureaucrats can collect retirement benefits and a salary at the same time by 60% from 5 to 8 years and 10 years for teachers! <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2023/html/3071#:~:text=Extend%20the%20maximum%20time%20a,or%20after%20July%201%2C%202023.>

This giveaway of taxpayer money will cost an extra \$3.1 Billion in the first fiscal year 2023-2024. The Legislature increased the taxpayer-paid interest rate from 1.3% to 4% for fake retirement pensions and allows politicians and bureaucrats to at a much younger age to start collecting fake retirement pensions and salaries at the same time. The Monthly taxpayer-paid health benefit increases to \$225 up from \$150. <https://thecapitolist.com/frs-double-dip-retirement-expansion-will-make-it-harder-for-private-sector-to-compete-with-state/>

Add the Cherry on the top – these Triple Dippers are cashing out their unused days off at their final highest salary, not the salary when the days were earned taking more money from taxpayers and artificially increasing the final year’s pay on which their pensions are calculated. Collecting a paycheck and a pension at the same time, Triple Dippers can afford to delay Social Security which then increases 8% per year to age 70. That’s about a 40% increase in Social Security payments! Triple Dippers are formally called the **Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**⁴. Greedy School Triple Dippers enrich themselves at the taxpayer’s expense while cheating substitute and part-time teachers out of the employer Social Security match which ever other Public and Private employer pays. 235 Triple Dippers are collecting over \$ in August Pension cash bonuses from taxpayers.

The SW Florida Triple Dippers who received a fake retirement cash Bonus in August 2023 are:

	First	Last	Employer	Fake Retirement Date	Pension Cash Bonus Date	Pension Cash Bonus	Home Town	Email
1	RICKY	SMITH	DEPT OF CORRECTIONS - REGION 3	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 236,128	LEHIGH ACRES	ritsmith4@aol.com
2	SANDRA	SPRENGER	COLLIER CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 145,047		beanheads@mac.com
3	JEAN	FULBROOK	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 141,013	FORT MYERS	jeanfulbrook@gmail.com
4	JAMES	LAPOINT	LEE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	11/1/2019	8/30/2023	\$ 128,422		junglejl@hotmail.com
5	MICHAEL	GRACI	LEE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 126,496	CAPE CORAL	themikeson@gmail.com
6	HELEN	HERNANDEZ	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 121,425	LEHIGH ACRES	helenhe@leeschools.net

⁴ <https://myfrsguide.com/drop-info/>

7	MELINDA	WING	CHARLOTTE CO SCHOOL BOARD	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 93,268	PORT CHARLOTTE	melindawing@hotmail.com
8	BRAD	PUGH	BREVARD CO CLERK OF CIRCUIT CT	8/1/2021	8/31/2023	\$ 72,902	CAPE CORAL	rainman61fl@yahoo.com
9	ANTOINET T	JOHNSON	BROWARD CO SCHOOL BOARD	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 61,184	FORT MYERS	hotrod462000@yahoo.com
10	SCOTT	WEEDO	CHARLOTTE CO SCHOOL BOARD	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 60,114	PORT CHARLOTTE	sweedo1@comcast.net
11	LINDA	JONES	BROWARD CO SCHOOL BOARD	2/1/2019	8/31/2023	\$ 56,507	FORT MYERS	l.jones@browardschools.com
12	KAREN	HAMILTON	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	3/1/2022	8/15/2023	\$ 55,542	FORT MYERS	kahrebel@aol.com
13	MARGIE	CUTCHINS	BAY CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	12/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 54,537	CAPE CORAL	margie.cutchins@bayso.org
14	DENNIS	ATKINS	BREVARD CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2019	8/31/2023	\$ 51,761	CAPE CORAL	dennis.atkins@brevardfl.gov
15	SUZANNE	REEVES	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 42,240	NAPLES	sreeves566@yahoo.com
16	ARTHUR	KUHLENSCHMID T	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	8/1/2020	8/21/2023	\$ 30,668	CAPE CORAL	arthurk@leeschools.net
17	SILVIA	MARTINEZ	COLLIER CO SCHOOL BOARD	3/1/2019	8/31/2023	\$ 28,451	NAPLES	dancezum77@gmail.com
18	LINDA	PEREZ	LEE CO SCHOOL BOARD	12/1/2022	8/31/2023	\$ 17,465	CAPE CORAL	leolinfl@gmail.com
	Total					\$1,523,170		

The Top 13 Baker's Dozen of Florida Triple Dippers who received a fake retirement cash bonus in August 2023 are:

	First	Last	Employer	Fake Retirement Date	Pension Cash Bonus Date	Pension Cash Bonus	Email
1	ARMANDO	PLANAS	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	4/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 658,235	armandojplanas@gmail.com
2	KENNETH	WOOLDRIDGE	PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 648,940	anoutstretchedarm@yahoo.com
3	KELLY	HOFFMAN	PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 635,366	khoffman817@gmail.com
4	BESSIE	BICKHAM	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	11/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 555,713	godzjuice@yahoo.com
5	EDGAR	JOHNSON	BROWARD CO SHERIFF'S DEPT	10/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 529,980	moebetter8668@yahoo.com

6	SHARON	CLARK	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 505,127	harp7319@yahoo.com
7	JULIO	QUINONES	MIAMI-DADE CO SCHOOL BOARD	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 476,663	jhquinones@hotmail.com
8	LYNETTE	SMITH	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 469,370	b21w1222@gmail.com
9	ROBERT	WEBB	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 453,765	rtlw67@aol.com
10	GREGORY	JOHNS	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 419,814	gjohns3122@comcast.net
11	ROBIN	NAITOVE	DOT - OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 400,173	rnaitove@hotmail.com
12	PAUL	JONES	MARTIN CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2018	8/31/2023	\$ 397,568	surfmore65@comcast.net
13	RICHARD	GARCIA	MIAMI-DADE CO BD OF CO COMMISSIONERS	9/1/2020	8/31/2023	\$ 387,635	onerichtrade@gmail.com

“Instead of giving overpaid bureaucrats and politicians more money, use our tax money to help 10,000 people left homeless due to Hurricane Ian⁵ and Hurricane Nicole’s destruction”, suggested Dave Jaye.

“Although they never really retired, approximately **28,537 Florida** Public Employees and Politicians just file paperwork pretending to retire but keep on working and pocket approximately \$1 Billion in salaries and \$4.63 Billion in pension payments at the same time to do the same job and are the only Florida Public employees who don’t pay 3% of their salary into the Pension System,” stated Dave Jaye. “No Retirement Party, No Speeches, No Gold Watch, and No break in Employment! This scheme to rip off taxpayers was approved by Florida Government Entities by a majority vote from Mosquito Districts to Cities, Counties, Schools, Universities, the State Legislature, and the Governor. These Public Employees in conjunction with their supervisors are perpetrating fraud. The Public Manager or Politician simply signs off on the Fake retirement. If the paperwork is in order that’s good enough. Even though the public employee and Politician never really left their job”.

“Hurricane Ian destroyed the financial security of thousands of Florida retirees whose life savings were invested in houses and condos lost to the storm’s winds and flooding”⁶, said Dave Jaye, Researcher, tripledippers.org “Hurricane Ian has displaced thousands of Floridians whose homes are now uninhabitable, taking not only their shelter but their financial safety nets.” Replacing the approximately **28,537** Statewide over-the-hill retired Triple Dippers with freshly educated and trained employees would save approximately 40% around \$902.8 Million” stated Dave Jaye.

⁵ <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2079623235780#:~:text=The%20magnitude%20of%20Hurricane%20Ian's,millions%20more%20still%20without%20power>

⁶ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/hurricane-ian-destroyed-retirees-life-savings/>

“This abuse of taxpayers must stop”. “We need to create opportunities for young people to move into these jobs to buy a home and start a family replacing these overpriced-cum-golden oldie Triple Dippers who are just putting \$763,622 or more of cash bonuses into the bank. Young people have much lower health care costs, are better educated and have much more energy than these Senior Citizen Triple Dippers,” noted Dave Jaye.

Law enforcement employees typically collect huge amounts of overtime which result in even higher pension cash bonuses.

“The Florida Legislature and Governor should require Triple Dippers to contribute 3% of pay to the State Pension program just like every other ‘Public Servant’ and increase the ‘Public Servant’ contribution from 3% to 5% as proposed by then-Governor Rick Scott. Retirement cash bonuses should be eliminated”. <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/fl-xpm-2011-02-01-fl-scott-announces-pension-reforms-20110201-story.html>

The public employer (taxpayer-paid) match of DROP Triple Dippers’ salary to the Florida pension system has increased to 21.34% compared to 13.82% for regular-class employees. In 2012 the Employer match for DROP employees was 4.33%. <https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/fl/2022/bills/FLB00027524/>
A major reason the Triple Dippers Program is expanding is that many Triple Dippers work for the Florida State Senate, State House, and Governor’s office and are Elected Politicians. The Employer contribution rate (taxpayer paid) for Legislators, the Governor and the Florida Cabinet is 66.73%
https://www.dms.myflorida.com/workforce_operations/retirement/employers/contribution_rates .

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