

**Sent:** Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 04:41:02 PM EST

**Subject:** Fw: FORMAL COMPLAINT: Mandatory Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits Under Florida Statute § 112.3173

November 19, 2025

**TO: Division of Retirement Investigators**

P.O. Box 9000, Tallahassee, FL 32315-9000

**SUBJECT:** Mandatory Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits Under Florida Statute § 112.3173 – Seven Named Former HCSO Command Staff + Immediate Systemic Investigation into Academic Fraud and Double-Dipping

## **I. Legal Basis**

Florida Statute § 112.3173 mandates the forfeiture of all retirement rights and benefits (pension, Health Insurance Subsidy, DROP, investment plan, etc.) when a public officer or employee commits or admits to a specified felony involving breach of public trust—including the willful intent to defraud the public of the right to receive faithful performance of duty. No criminal conviction is required.

## **II. Seven Individuals Subject to Immediate Mandatory Forfeiture**

<b>#</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank at Separation</b>	<b>Reason for Separation</b>	<b>Date (approx.)</b>
1	Anthony Collins	Chief Deputy	Resigned after admitting academic cheating	Late July 2025
2	Michael Hannaford	Colonel	Resigned – academic cheating	Oct 17, 2025
3	Christopher Rule	Colonel	Resigned – academic cheating	Oct 17, 2025
4	Lora Rivera	Captain	Resigned after admitting paying for captain's project	October 2025
5	Zuleydis Stearns	Captain	Terminated / Fired – academic cheating	Oct 22, 2025
6	Marvin Johnson	Captain	Terminated – academic cheating; DROP participant (projected 8-yr accrual \$830,983; ~\$181,385 already deposited)	Feb 1, 2024
7	James Jackson	Major	Retired to avoid termination – illegal payments and gifts & double-dipping while collecting full taxpayer salary	2025

All seven must immediately be placed on the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Brady list.

### **III. Financial Impact Already Incurred by Taxpayers (All Subject to Forfeiture)**

- Fraudulent salary increases: \$2,000–\$3,000 per year per individual
- Employer contribution rates: ~31.79% (Special Risk) / 28.98% (Senior Management) + DROP
- Health Insurance Subsidy: \$2,700/yr each × 7 = ~\$18,900 annually
- Captain Marvin Johnson's DROP alone: \$830,983 total (\$181,385 already paid)

### **IV. Expanded Systemic Investigation Demanded**

#### **A. Academic Cheating & Fraudulent Credential Investigation**

Sheriff Chronister's internal probe was deliberately limited to Sheriff's Office email accounts only, excluding private email, text messages, cloud storage, and third-party "paper-writing" services. The FRS must immediately:

1. Subpoena HCSO Human Resources for a complete list of every current and former HCSO employee who received any salary increase, step increase, promotion, educational incentive pay, or bonus tied to college degrees or certifications earned after January 1, 2015, including:
  - Full name and rank/title
  - Exact dollar amount and effective date of each salary increase tied to the credential
1. Place each listed employee under oath and require truthful answers to:
  - "Did you receive any outside assistance (paid or unpaid) in writing papers, completing assignments, or taking exams for these degrees or certifications?"
  - "Did anyone else log in under your credentials to complete coursework?"
1. Any refusal to answer or admission of fraud triggers immediate forfeiture proceedings under § 112.3173.

#### **B. Double-Dipping / Simultaneous Employment Fraud – Six-Year Lookback (2019–2025)**

Sheriff Chronister publicly admitted discovering “several overlaps” but has refused to release names or correct records. FRS must subpoena:

- Full list of every salaried HCSO employee whose recorded duty hours overlapped with documented private/off-duty employment (2019–2025), including dates, hours, and dollar amounts.
- Remove all fraudulent hours from FRS creditable service and compensation records.
- Claw back employer contributions ( $\approx 31.79\%$  + DROP rates) paid on those hours with interest.

**V. Relief Demanded**

1. Immediate forfeiture of all employer-funded retirement benefits for the seven named individuals.
2. Open formal systemic investigation and issue the subpoenas described above.
3. Schedule public evidentiary hearings.
4. Recalculate and reduce pensions/DROP for every affected employee.
5. Refer all criminal conduct to FDLE and State Attorney Suzy Lopez (813-272-5400).
6. Order HCSO to deduct fraudulent salary increases from terminal pay and repay the corresponding employer FRS match.

The \$39 billion FRS unfunded liability cannot be fixed while cheaters and double-dippers keep their ill-gotten pensions. Respectfully submitted this 19th day of November, 2025.

Immediate action is demanded.

Cc: FL Gov DeSantis, FL AG Uthmeir. FL CFO Patronis

Sincerely,

**FROM:**

**Mike Cartwright**