



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

July 19, 2024

Edward Danko
56 Wasserman Drive,
Palm Coast, FL - 32137
Email: EdDanko@outlook.com

RE: Notice to Cease and Desist

Mr. Danko:

The Sheriff's Office is aware your campaign is running an advertisement on YouTube in which you include Lt. Col. Oliver North making a statement which either indicates you had endorsed Sheriff Staly's campaign, or Sheriff Staly has endorsed you for your election to County Commissioner. The Sheriff's Chief of Staff has received numerous phone calls from voters seeking clarification. Additionally, in the commercial, you use images of Sheriff Staly to imply he is supporting and/or endorsing your candidacy. As you are aware, both the statements and the implications are inaccurate; you did not endorse Sheriff Staly's campaign, nor has he endorsed you. Sheriff Staly has not endorsed any local candidate for this position.

Florida Statute §106.143(4) is crystal clear on the use of endorsements. The Statute provides the following:

- (4) It is unlawful for any candidate or person on behalf of a candidate to represent that any person or organization supports such candidate, unless the person or organization so represented has given specific approval in writing to the candidate to make such representation. However, this subsection does not apply to:
 - (a) Editorial endorsement by any newspaper, radio or television station, or other recognized news medium.
 - (b) Publication by a party committee advocating the candidacy of its nominees.

While you indicate you did not write the script for the advertisement, you and/or your campaign have promoted it, providing a false narrative and misleading the voters of Flagler County. We demand both you and your campaign immediately cease and desist all uses and references to Sheriff Staly, the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, and/or any likeness of either in all mediums including, but not limited to, social media, mailers and commercials.

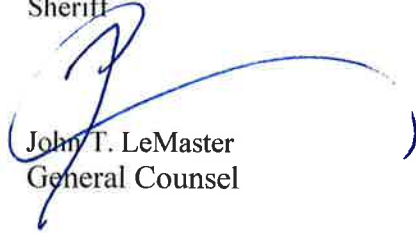
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You will not receive another warning letter. Failure to comply will cause this office to take any and all legal action necessary to gain compliance.

Sincerely,

Rick Staly
Sheriff



John T. LeMaster
General Counsel

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