



THE FLORIDA SENATE

COMMITTEE ON RULES

Location

402 Senate Building

Mailing Address

404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100
(850) 487-5350

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, *Chair*
Senator Audrey Gibson, *Vice Chair*

Professional Staff: John B. Phelps, *Staff Director*

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

October 22, 2019

The Honorable Bill Galvano
President of the Senate

Re: Executive Order of Suspension, Number 19-14
Suspension of Mr. Scott Israel, Sheriff
Broward County, FL

Dear President Galvano:

The Committee on Rules submits this final report on the matter of suspension of Mr. Scott Israel.

By Executive Order Number 19-14 filed with the Secretary of State on January 11, 2019, and pursuant to Article IV, section 7(a) of the Florida Constitution, the Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor, suspended Mr. Scott Israel as Sheriff of Broward County for neglect of duty and incompetence.

On January 14, 2019, the Senate informed Mr. Israel of his right to a hearing and on January 24, 2019, the matter was referred to a Special Master. On January 29, 2019, Mr. Israel requested a hearing and the Special Master engaged in pre-hearing proceedings until litigation between the Governor and Mr. Israel was initiated on March 7, 2019. Pursuant to Senate Rules, on March 12, 2019, the matter was held in abeyance until the rendering of a final determination in the litigation and exhaustion of all appellate remedies.

On April 23, 2019, after a final determination in the litigation and the exhaustion of appellate remedies, the Special Master resumed proceedings. The Special Master conducted a public case management conference on May 1, 2019, and a public evidentiary hearing was held on June 18, 2019 and June 19, 2019. The Governor and Mr. Israel submitted proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law to the Special Master on August 12, 2019, and August 20, 2019, respectively. On September 24, 2019, the Special Master delivered his advisory Report and Recommendation, recommending reinstatement, for consideration.

By proclamation on September 25, 2019, the Senate was convened in special session beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 21, 2019, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2019, for the sole and exclusive purpose of considering the reinstatement or removal of Mr. Israel as Sheriff of Broward County. Additionally, on September 25, 2019, the advisory report and recommendation of the Special Master was referred to the Committee on Rules pursuant to Senate Rule 12.7.

Page 2

On Monday, October 21, 2019, a public meeting of the Committee on Rules was held for consideration and report. I report the Committee on Rules voted to recommend that the evidence supports the Executive Order of Suspension by the Governor, and that Mr. Scott Israel be removed from the office of Sheriff of Broward County pursuant to the State Constitution and the Florida Statutes.

Sincerely,



Lizbeth Benacquisto, Chair