



Florida Department of  
Law Enforcement

Richard L. Swearingen  
*Commissioner*

**Office of Inspector General**  
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Ron DeSantis, *Governor*  
Ashley Moody, *Attorney General*  
Jimmy Patronis, *Chief Financial Officer*  
Nikki Fried, *Commissioner of Agriculture*

June 30, 2021

Dr. R. Philip Twogood  
Coordinator  
Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability  
111 West Madison, Room 312  
Tallahassee, FL 32399 -1475

Dear Dr. Twogood:

In accordance with Section 932.7061, Florida Statutes, enclosed is the annual report prepared by the Office of Inspector General for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact my office at (850) 410-7228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lourdes Howell-Thomas', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lourdes Howell-Thomas  
Inspector General

LHT/tc

Enclosures [2]



## State of Florida Civil Asset Forfeiture Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Reporting Cycle

Pursuant to Section (s.) 932.7061, Florida Statutes (F.S.), every law enforcement agency shall submit an annual report to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) by December 1, indicating whether the agency has seized or forfeited property under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act and detailing receipts and expenditures of those seizures/forfeitures.

The FDLE Professionalism Division – Records Section identified a total of **433** active law enforcement agencies as of August 20, 2020. Of the 433 agencies, 34 agencies were not required to comply with the reporting requirement as they did not employ law enforcement officers<sup>1</sup>. A total of **399** agencies were required to comply with s. 932.7061, F.S.

The 60-day grace period for law enforcement agencies to submit their report expired on February 1, 2021. As of this date a total of 393 reports were received.

### Chief Financial Officer Notification:

In February 2021, the FDLE Office of Inspector General (OIG) notified the office of the Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Financial Services (DFS) of **eight** law enforcement agencies that failed to submit an annual report by the prescribed deadline in accordance with s. 932.7062, F.S. The agencies are identified below:

- Gadsden County Sheriff's Office
- Gilchrist County Sheriff's Office
- Gretna Police Department
- Jennings Police Department
- Madison Police Department
- Marshal's Office 1st District Court of Appeal
- Sumter County Sheriff's Office
- Union County Sheriff's Office

After the initial notification to DFS, three law enforcement agencies' reports remained outstanding. In April 2021, the FDLE OIG notified DFS of the following law enforcement agencies with delinquent annual reports:

- Jennings Police Department
- Madison Police Department
- Union County Sheriff's Office

Subsequent to correspondence with DFS, additional information was provided identifying steps taken by the FDLE OIG to notify the law enforcement agencies of their noncompliance with statute.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix A: List of Active Law Enforcement Agencies with No Employed Officers



In May and June 2021, the FDLE OIG notified DFS of the one remaining law enforcement agency that failed to submit the annual report:

- Jennings Police Department

As of June 25, 2021, DFS has not submitted a response to our requests for a summary of any action taken against Jennings Police Department, the noncomplying agency, as required by 932.7061(2), F.S.

### **Civil Asset Forfeiture Reports**

The FDLE OIG received a total of **401** annual civil asset forfeiture reports:

- 66 Sheriff's;
- 254 Police Departments;
- 36 State Agencies;
- 2 Correctional; and
- 43 Schools and Ports.<sup>2</sup>

The annual reports received included reports from three additional agencies not required to report. The agencies are identified below:

- CSX Transportation Railroad Police (Agency Type: Police Department) – Pursuant to Chapter 354, Florida Statutes, Special Officers for Carriers; and
- Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (Agency Type: State Attorney) – A multi-agency task force, empowered to conduct narcotics, vice and organized crime investigations across jurisdictional boundaries throughout the Ninth Judicial Circuit — Orange and Osceola Counties. (This is not a law enforcement employing agency; the officers who are part of this task force are certified under Chapter 943, Florida Statutes, under their employing law enforcement agency.)
- Florida State Hospital/Agency For Persons With Disabilities – (Agency Type: Correctional) with no sworn personnel.

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<sup>2</sup> Schools and Ports: Includes Universities and Colleges; County District School Police Departments; and Airport Police Departments.



The summary below and the enclosed Excel spreadsheets<sup>3</sup> reflect data from these reports.

- Total revenue of **\$24,505,937.01** from direct forfeiture, interest income or received from other agencies.
- Total expenses of **\$10,445,233.30** disbursed as follows:
  - Drug treatment, drug abuse education, drug prevention, crime prevention, safe neighborhood, or school resource officer programs;
  - Matching funds for federal grants;
  - Protracted or complex investigation cost defrayment;
  - Additional equipment or expertise;
  - Automated external defibrillators for law enforcement vehicles;
  - Transferred to other law enforcement agency; and
  - Other law enforcement expenditures.
- The types of property seized were as follows:
  - Real property;
  - Personal property;
  - Currency;
  - Conveyance (vehicles, vessels, aircraft, etc.); and
  - Other.
- The types of primary offenses were as follows:
  - Chapter 316 – State Uniform Traffic Control;
  - Chapter 322 – Driver Licenses;
  - Chapter 787 – Kidnapping; False Imprisonment; Luring or Enticing a Child; Custody Offenses;
  - Chapter 796 – Prostitution;
  - Chapter 810 – Burglary and Trespass;
  - Chapter 812 – Theft, Robbery, and Related Crimes;
  - Chapter 817 – Fraudulent Practices;
  - Chapter 849 – Gambling;
  - Chapter 893 – Drug Abuse Prevention and Control;
  - Chapter 895 – Offenses Concerning Racketeering and Illegal Debts;
  - Chapter 896 – Offenses Related to Financial Transactions; and
  - Other.

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<sup>3</sup> Forfeiture Data by Category (FY19-20) Spreadsheet  
Report Data (FY19-20) Spreadsheet



- The types of forfeiture outcomes were as follows:
  - Transferred to another agency;
  - Returned to owner;
  - Forfeited;
  - Negotiated settlement; and
  - Pending.
  
- The types of disposition of assets were as follows:
  - Donated;
  - Retained for the agency's use;
  - Sold the property at public auction or by sealed bid to the highest bidder;
  - Salvaged, traded or transferred the property to any public or nonprofit organization;
  - Returned to owner;
  - Returned to lienholder; and
  - Pending.



## **Appendix A**

### **List of Active Law Enforcement Agencies with No Employed Officers**



*State Agencies:*

- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Transportation

*Police Departments:*

- Bellaire Beach Marshall's Office

*Schools and Ports:*

- Brevard Public Schools Police Department

*Correctional:*

- Department of Corrections, Region 1
- Department of Corrections, Region 2
- Department of Corrections, Region 3
- Department of Corrections, Ofc of Secretary
- Alachua County Department Of Court Services
- Escambia County Corrections
- Escambia County Road Prison
- Gulf County Jail
- Jackson County Corrections Facility
- Miami-Dade County Department Of Corrections & Rehabilitation
- Okaloosa County Department Of Corrections
- Orange County Corrections Department
- Osceola County Corrections
- Volusia County Department Of Corrections
- Florida State Hospital
- Florida State Hospital/agency For Persons With Disabilities
- North Florida Evaluation And Treatment Center
- Corrections Corporation of America Citrus County Detention Facility
- Bay Correctional Facility
- Blackwater River Correctional Facility
- Bridges Of America
- Correct Care South Florida Evaluation And Treatment Center
- Correct Care Treasure Coast Forensic Treatment Center
- Gadsden Correctional Institution
- Graceville Correctional Facility
- Lake City Correctional Facility
- Moore Haven Correctional Facility
- South Bay Correctional Facility
- Suncoast Community Residential Reentry Center
- Wellpath Florida Civil Commitment Center