



Florida Department of  
Law Enforcement

Gerald M. Bailey  
*Commissioner*

**Office of Executive Investigations**  
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Charlie Crist, *Governor*  
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August 31, 2007

Ms. Maria Matthews, Assistant General Counsel  
Florida Department of State  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: FDLE File EI-32-0029

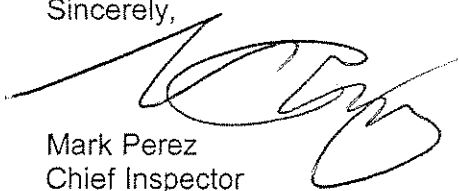
Dear Ms. Matthews,

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding dated July 1, 2006, the Division of Elections forwarded an election fraud complaint filed by Michael Brown to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) for investigation. The documents provided by the Division of Elections included a complaint from Michael Brown regarding the City of Riviera Beach municipal election held on March 13, 2007. Mr. Brown lost the mayoral race to Bishop Thomas Masters and has alleged fraud involving absentee ballot requests and absentee ballots. The purpose of the FDLE investigation was to determine whether there was sufficient information to identify whether criminal violations had occurred.

During this investigation, interviews were conducted with Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections employees, the Riviera Beach City Clerk, former Council Person Ann Iles, and other witnesses provided by Michael Brown. Based upon sworn statements provided by witnesses, and the documents provided by the City Clerk and the Supervisor of Elections Office, there is no evidence to indicate that any criminal statutes were violated. However, the investigation revealed that at least one convicted felon may have obtained and cast an absentee ballot in the same election.

There does not appear to be a criminal predicate that would warrant further investigation by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of Executive Investigation. Should you have any questions, please contact Inspector Ed Fortune at (850) 410-8240.

Sincerely,



Mark Perez  
Chief Inspector  
Office of Executive Investigations

MP/ef

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

## General Case Profile Print

<b><u>Case #</u></b>	<b><u>Case Name/Description</u></b>	<b><u>Case Type</u></b>		
EI-32-0029	Brown Against Masters	Major		
<b><u>Case Status</u></b>	<b><u>Case Status Reason</u></b>	<b><u>Case Status Date</u></b>		
Active	Ongoing Investigation - Major	04/05/2007		
<b><u>Date Opened</u></b>	<b><u>Date Closed</u></b>	<b><u>Date Re-Opened</u></b>	<b><u>Case Agent</u></b>	
04/04/2007			Fortune, Edward A.	
<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Office</u></b>	<b><u>Squad</u></b>	<b><u>Task Force</u></b>	
Executive Investigations	Executive Investigations	E		
<b><u>Approval Status</u></b>	<b><u>Approval Action By</u></b>	<b><u>Flag Case</u></b>	<b><u>Juvenile Case</u></b>	<b><u>Restricted Case</u></b>
LeFiles, Robert J.	LeFiles, Robert J.	No	No	No
<b><u>Case Origin</u></b>	<b><u>Spin Off From Case #</u></b>	<b><u>Providing Person</u></b>		
Other Government Agency		Maria Matthews		
<b><u>Counties Involved</u></b>	<b><u>Investigative Techniques Used</u></b>	<b><u>Other FDLE Offices Assisting</u></b>		
Palm Beach	Interviews			
<b><u>Highlights Selected</u></b>				
EI- Secretary of State				
<b><u>Primary Activity Code</u></b>	<b><u>Secondary Activity Codes</u></b>	<b><u>Investigative Focus</u></b>	<b><u>Jurisdiction</u></b>	
Election Laws	Election Laws	Public Integrity	Single Jurisdiction	

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**General Case Profile Print**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Wednesday, April 4, 2007, Special Agent Supervisor Robert LeFiles assigned Inspector Ed Fortune to conduct an investigation into the complaint filed by Michael D. Brown. Inspector Fortune was provided with the following information:

1. A letter from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews dated March 30, 2007
2. An Elections Fraud Complaint form dated March 22, 2007 and signed by Michael D. Brown with a two-page statement of facts attached.
3. Copies of emails between Maria Matthews and Donna Zappala who is the Absentee Ballot Coordinator for the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.
4. An eight-page fax from Donna Zappala to Maria Mathews sent on March 26, 2007.

The above listed items will be maintained as related item number 1.

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:1
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:04/04/2007	Activity End Date:04/05/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Receipt of Information from Department of State

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections

On Thursday, April 12, 2007, Inspector Fortune received additional information from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews regarding the Elections Fraud Complaint made by Michael Brown against Thomas Masters. The following items were included in the documents provided by Matthews on this date:

1. An April 5, 2007 two page letter from Michael D. Brown to the Florida Department of State. This letter was intended to supplement Brown's March 22, 2007, Elections Fraud Complaint to include Richard Giorgio, who was a consultant that worked with Thomas Masters, Shelby Lowe, Cedrick Thomas, and Lyn Hubbard in the March 13, 2007 and March 27, 2007 Municipal Elections.
2. An Affidavit by Terry Hicks dated March 21, 2007 regarding an absentee ballot that he did not request.
3. An Affidavit by Mary L. Shoemaker (Shuemaker) dated March 21, 2007 regarding an absentee ballot that she did not request.
4. An Affidavit by Beatrice Tooks dated March 21, 2007 regarding an absentee ballot that she did not request.
5. An Affidavit by Earl Davis and Laurie Davis stating that on March 13, 2007, while attempting to vote, Thomas Masters, along with a Caucasian male, approached their vehicle. Thomas Masters and the accompanying male advised Laurie Davis that she could cast her ballot without leaving the car by signing a document they possessed.
6. A March 19, 2007 letter from Michael D. Brown to Dr. Arthur Anderson requesting, "a copy of all written procedures, policies, protocols, guidelines, or regulations of any type, which governs, regulates or outlines the procedures for the maintenance, security, tabulation, or tracking of blank Absentee Ballot Forms."
7. A March 21, 2007 letter to Michael D. Brown from Donna Zappala, the Absentee Ballot Coordinator for Palm Beach County regarding Brown's public record request. Although the letter stated: "Attached is a copy of the basic Absentee Ballot procedures pursuant to your public records request dated March 19, 2007", the documents provided were not included.

The above documentation will be maintained in the related item section as related item number 2.

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:2
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:04/12/2007	Activity End Date:04/12/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Additional documents from Maria Matthews, Assistant General Counsel.

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Friday, May 4, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune received a package from Michael Brown that included copies of the absentee ballot requests that he had obtained from the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office. Also included in the package was a letter dated April 26, 2007, detailing his complaint and documenting a telephone conversation between Michael Brown and Inspector Fortune. The complaint letter and documents provided by Mr. Brown will be maintained in the related item section as related item number: 2.

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:3
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:05/04/2007	Activity End Date:05/04/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Additional Information from Michael Brown

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Monday, August 6, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune traveled to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office located at 240 South Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Florida, to meet with Supervisor of Elections, Dr. Arthur Anderson, and Chief Deputy Charmaine Kelly. Inspector Fortune briefed Dr. Anderson and Ms. Kelly on the status of this investigation. Ms. Kelly was designated as a point of contact for the Supervisor of Elections Office and provided a sworn recorded statement regarding her knowledge of the City of Riviera Beach's municipal elections that were held in March 2007. The following is a brief synopsis of Ms. Kelly's statement, which will be maintained as exhibit number 3 in the related item section of this case file:

- Ms. Kelly is the Chief Deputy for the Supervisor of Elections Office and has been so employed for the past twenty-four years.
- Ms. Kelly identified the various absentee ballot request forms that were utilized in the March 2007, Riviera Beach elections. (Copies of the forms, which will be maintained as related item number 4, were provided to Maria Matthews by Donna Zappala and were numbered from 1 to 6.)
  1. This was labeled as a 2007 Absentee ballot request form, which was a short form that had identifying information for the elector only and was described as part of a pamphlet by Ms. Kelly. There is no information on the form to identify the requestor.
  2. This was a page that contained two Absentee Ballot Request Forms, one was described as a "telephone request form," and the other was described as a "2005 old request form." According to Ms. Kelly, the telephone request form was something that was used internally when someone called into the Supervisor of Elections Office and requested an absentee ballot. The person taking the request obtained the required information on the form and asked who was making the request. The 2005 request form was very similar to the 2007 form but did not have a place for an applicant signature.
  3. This was an absentee ballot request that was done via email. According to Ms. Kelly, an elector could access the request through the Supervisor of Elections

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:4
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:08/06/2007	Activity End Date:08/06/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Interview and Sworn Statement of Chief Deputy Charmaine Kelly

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website and was then required to complete the appropriate sections. Some of the required information for this request was the date of birth, and the voter identification number.

4. This was an Absentee Ballot Request Form that was sent out by political parties in order to solicit people to vote by absentee ballot during an election cycle. According to Ms. Kelly, the form meets statutory requirements to her knowledge.
  5. This was a full page Affidavit to Request or Obtain an Absentee Ballot in Palm Beach County, Florida and was identified as an in-office voting form. Although this form also has a section B that is a section to be completed by "Person designated by a voter to request/pick up an absentee ballot, it was also used as an in office voting request form.
  6. This was a full page Affidavit to Request or Obtain an Absentee Ballot in Palm Beach County, Florida and identified as a "pick-up by wife." According to Ms. Kelly, this form was utilized when someone came into the supervisor of elections office to pick up a ballot for someone else.
  7. This was the required letter from the person authorizing the ballot to be picked up and must accompany #6.
- Ms. Kelly was asked about the required information that must be provided pursuant to Florida State Statute 101.62 which states that in order to obtain an absentee ballot, the following information must be provided:
    1. Elector's Name.
    2. Elector's Address.
    3. Elector's date of birth.
    4. Requestor's Name.
    5. Requestor's Address.
    6. Requestor's Driver License Number – if available.
    7. Requestor's Relationship to the Elector.
    8. Signature.
  - It was pointed out that none of the "requestor" information was included on the 2005 and 2007 forms. Both forms were accepted as valid absentee ballot request forms even though the 2005 form did not require a signature and none of the requestor information was included on the form.
  - The forms have since been changed and according to Ms. Kelly, all of the information required will be obtained on all forms.
  - Thomas Master did not have access to any absentee ballots prior to the March 2007 Riviera Beach elections, but he did pick-up some request forms.
  - When asked if Michael Brown obtained any absentee ballot request forms, Ms. Kelly replied, "Not to my knowledge."
  - Ms. Kelly stated that Richard Giorgio never had an office or desk inside the Supervisor of Elections Office although he had been hired to conduct some consulting work.
  - Ms. Kelly did not know how long the consulting work lasted and did not think that Mr. Giorgio was conducting any consulting work during the time of the Riviera Beach

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### Municipal Elections.

- Ms. Kelly acknowledged that the Supervisor of Elections Office would be able to identify those electors that requested an absentee ballot and those who actually voted by absentee ballot. (It should be noted that the requests have to be hand searched.)
- There is also a system in place that allows the Supervisor of Elections Office to identify who requested an absentee ballot and who actually utilized the absentee ballot.
- Ms. Kelly advised that an elector could not vote by absentee ballot without an absentee ballot request being on file with the Supervisor of Elections Office. The only exception to that rule would be if an elector came into the Supervisor of Elections Office to vote early, and in that case, the elector would complete an absentee ballot affidavit.
- If an elector appeared at the polls to vote and was told that he/she had already voted on an absentee ballot, he/she would be allowed to cast a provisional ballot.
- If the elector utilizes a provisional ballot, it would then go to the Supervisor of Elections Office where it would go through a "checking process" and all the information associated with the ballot would be forwarded to the canvassing board for review.
- If there was a dispute concerning an absentee ballot that had already been returned, Ms. Kelly stated that a copy would be made of the voter certificate and a copy of the signature on it, along with the signature on file at the Supervisor of Elections Office. Those items would then be forwarded to the canvassing board.
- Ms. Kelly did not know if Thomas Masters picked up any absentee ballots for someone else.
- Ms. Kelly then provided the following information and documents pertaining to the persons named in the letter sent to Inspector Fortune by Michael Brown:

9. Earl Davis (Claimed that his wife (Laurise) was approached by Thomas Master and told that if she signed a paper that he had in his hand she would not have to go into the polls to vote. Both Earl and Laurise cast their ballots at the polling place where they were assigned.)

- Voted at the polls in both the municipal election and the runoff election.

10. Beatrice Tooks (Claimed she did not request an absentee ballot.)

- According to Ms. Kelly, Beatrice Took did have an absentee ballot request on file but she did not vote in either election.
- According to Ms. Kelly, the absentee ballot request form appeared to be one that was mailed into the Supervisor of Elections Office or carried into the Supervisor of Elections Office. The form does not have a signature.

11. Mary L. Shuemaker (Provided Michael Brown with an affidavit attesting that a black female brought her a blank absentee ballot prior to the election.)

- According to Ms. Kelly, the absentee ballot was mailed to Ms. Shuemaker.
- Mary L. Shuemaker voted in the municipal election by absentee ballot and then voted at the polling place in the runoff election.
- Mary L. Shuemaker's absentee ballot request form was mailed or hand carried to the Supervisor of Elections Office and does not have a

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signature.

12. Terry Hicks (Provided an affidavit to Michael Brown stating that he declined an invitation from the Masters' campaign to receive an absentee ballot. Was originally prevented from voting at the polling place when advised that he had already voted via absentee ballot.)

- According to Ms. Kelly, Hicks was apparently told that he had voted via absentee ballot. The poll worker then called the Supervisor of Elections Office and Hicks' absentee ballot request was cancelled. Hicks was then permitted to vote at the polling place.
- Ms. Kelly confirmed that Hicks voted at the polling place in both the municipal election and the runoff election.
- An absentee ballot was mailed to Hicks, but never returned by him.

13. Michelle Denise Crumory (Told Michael Brown she did not order an absentee ballot but one arrived after Thomas Masters went to her home.)

- Ms. Kelly advised that the Supervisor of Elections Office had a copy of an absentee ballot request that came into the office via telephone. The form notes that the person requesting the form is "Self" and there is no signature because it was a telephone request.
- Although the absentee ballot was mailed to Crumory, Crumory did not vote in either the election or runoff.

14. Mikeisha Nicole Fuse (Told Michael Brown that she did not request and absentee ballot but received one in the mail after talking to a Masters' supporter on the telephone)

- There was an absentee ballot request on file for Fuse.
- An absentee ballot was mailed, however Fuse did not vote in either the municipal election or the runoff.

15. Hattie Jackson (Told Michael Brown that she had knowledge that Masters paid voters to sign absentee ballots.)

- Hattie Jackson had no request for an absentee ballot on file at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- Ms. Jackson voted at the polls in both the municipal election and the runoff.

16. Carl Edward Sheely (Told Michael Brown he received an absentee ballot that he had not requested.)

- Carl Edward Sheely's absentee ballot request form was mailed or hand carried to the Supervisor of Elections Office and does not have a signature.
- Sheely did not vote in the municipal election or in the runoff although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that absentee ballots were mailed to him.

17. Tricia Veronia Bell (Told Michael Brown she received an absentee ballot that she had not requested.)

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- Tricia Veronia Bell's absentee ballot request form was mailed or hand carried to the Supervisor of Elections Office and does not have a signature.
- Bell voted by absentee ballot in the municipal election but did not vote in the runoff.

18. Laura Ingram (Told Michael Brown that she did not request an absentee ballot but received one in the mail after speaking to someone from Masters' campaign on the telephone.)

- Laura Ingram did have an absentee ballot request form on file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.
- Laura Ingram did not vote although absentee ballots were mailed to her.

19. Althea Smith (Told Michael Brown that she received an absentee ballot in the mail after speaking with Masters supporters even though she did not request one.)

- Ms. Kelly was unable to locate the absentee ballot request form for Althea Smith, but did produce documents to show there was a request made on March 2, 2007.
- Althea Smith voted via absentee ballot in both the municipal election and in the runoff.

20. Lekeisha N. Bell (Told Michael Brown that absentee ballots came to her in the mail although they were unsolicited. Dwayne C. Bell, Timothy J. Bell, James C. Bell, and Shirley A. Bell also received absentee ballots.)

- Ms. Kelly confirmed that the Supervisor of Elections Office had requests for absentee ballots for all of the named people including Lekeisha N. Bell. None of the requests were "in house" requests, and none of them contained signatures.
- It was noted that the absentee ballot requests appeared to be in similar handwritten as if written by the same person.
- Lekeisha N. Bell voted via absentee ballot in both the municipal election and in the runoff.
- Ms. Kelly was asked if it was unlawful for someone other than the elector to fill out the absentee ballot request and she responded, "No."

21. Daisy Mae Washington (Told Michael Brown that absentee ballots came to her in the mail although they were unsolicited.)

- Daisy Mae Washington did have an absentee ballot on file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.
- Daisy Mae Washington voted via absentee ballot in the municipal election and in the runoff.

22. Yolanda Abrams Prichard (Told Michael Brown that a white female working for the Masters campaign provided her with an absentee ballot, which she signed and returned to Masters. Prichard said she did not order an absentee ballot.)

- Yolanda Abrams Prichard did have an absentee ballot request form on

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file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.

- Yolanda Abrams Prichard did not vote in the municipal election and in the runoff although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that absentee ballots were mailed to her.

23. Nikita R. Rolle (Told Michael Brown that Masters presented her with a blank absentee ballot, which she completed and returned to Masters who took it with him.)

- Nikita R. Rolle did have an absentee ballot request form on file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.
- Nikita R. Rolle did not vote in the municipal election and in the runoff although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that absentee ballots were mailed to her.

24. James Mathis (Told Michael Brown that he received an absentee ballot that he did not request. He took the ballot to the polling place to return it and voted at his polling place.)

- James Mathis did have an absentee ballot request form on file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.
- James Mathis had the absentee ballot request form for the municipal election cancelled on March 13, 2007 and voted at the polling place.
- James Mathis did not vote in the runoff although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that an absentee ballot was mailed to him.

25. Serena Canady Morgan (Did not order an absentee ballot but got one in the mail and still had it in her possession when she was contacted by Michael Brown)

- There were no requests for absentee ballots from Serena Canady Morgan located at the Supervisor of Elections Office.
- Serena Canady Morgan did not vote in the municipal election or in the runoff although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that absentee ballots were mailed to her.

26. Undray B. Lewis (Told Michael Brown that he received an absentee ballot that she did not request)

- Undray B. Lewis did have an absentee ballot request form on file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.
- Undray B. Lewis did not vote in the municipal election although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that an absentee ballot was mailed to her.
- Undray B. Lewis did vote by absentee ballot in the runoff.

27. Louise Paulk (Told Michael Brown that Masters received an absentee ballot for her and she did not receive the ballot in the mail.

- Louise Paulk did have an absentee ballot request form on file in the Supervisor of Elections Office. The request does not have a signature.

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- Louise Paulk did vote by absentee ballot in the municipal election.
- Louise Paulk did not vote in the runoff although documents from the Supervisor of Elections Office show that an absentee ballot was mailed to her.

All of the documents provided by Charmaine Kelly regarding the above named persons will be maintained as related item number: 6.

- None of the above named individuals was prevented from casting their ballots during the elections in question.
- Ms Kelly provided a document from the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office that indicated there were 1,067 absentee ballots requested for the March 13, 2007, Riviera Beach Municipal Election. 796 absentee ballots were returned, 31 were cancelled and 12 were rejected.
- Ms. Kelly provided copies of the absentee ballot request forms for review. The requests are those that came in via email, in office, or through the mail.
- Ms. Kelly also provided copies of the absentee ballots that were rejected as illegal. Some were rejected because they were received too late and some because they were not signed. If the ballots were rejected, they remained sealed and were held in records.
- After the election is over, the electors whose ballots were rejected as illegal were notified via letter from the Supervisor of Elections Office that their ballot was rejected and why it was rejected. A copy of the voter's certificate is also included with the letter.
- According to Ms. Kelly, once the Supervisor of Elections Office has received the absentee ballot, no changes can be made, including the adding of a signature on the Voter's Certificate.
- Ms. Kelly also provided copies of the public record requests made by Michael Brown.
- Ms. Kelly provided copies of the provisional ballots that were issued to voters. According to Ms. Kelly there were eighteen provisional ballots cast.
- The final set of copies provided by Ms. Kelly were copies of the Requests for absentee ballots that were completed by people voting in the Supervisor of Elections Office or by persons designated by a voter to pick up and absentee ballot.
- Ms. Kelly stated that she was not aware of any complaints regarding the absentee ballot process prior to the election.
- The only complaint regarding the absentee ballots that Ms. Kelly was aware of was the complaint filed by Michael Brown.
- None of the other candidates expressed any complaint regarding the conduct of the Riviera Beach Municipal Election.
- When asked if there was any specific advantage to any candidate that may have access to blank absentee ballots, Ms. Kelly stated that there must first be an absentee ballot request on file because the Supervisor of Elections Office would not just accept an absentee ballot over the counter. There must also be a properly executed voter's certificate. In addition, Ms. Kelly advised there were internal security procedures in place to prevent someone from accessing blank ballots.

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Copies of the documents referred to in Ms. Kelly's statement will be maintained in the related item section as related item number: 5. Additional details of the interview are available by listening to the recorded statement.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Monday, August 6, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune traveled to the Riviera Beach City Hall located at 600 West Blue Heron Boulevard, Riviera Beach, Florida, to meet with City Clerk Carrie Ward. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain a sworn statement from Ms. Ward concerning her knowledge of complaints of absentee ballot misuse during the March 2007 Municipal Elections in Riviera Beach. The following is a brief synopsis of Ms. Ward's statement, which will be maintained in exhibit number 3 in the related item section of this case file:

- Ms. Ward advised that she had been the City Clerk for the City of Riviera Beach for approximately ten years. Prior to becoming the City Clerk, Ms. Ward had worked for Riviera Beach for approximately thirty years.
- As the City Clerk, Ms. Ward stated that she is the custodian of records, and she serves as the Supervisor of Elections for the City of Riviera Beach. In her capacity as City Clerk, Ms. Ward acknowledged that she was responsible for the conduct of the municipal elections.
- The City of Riviera Beach's Resolution number 14-07 authorized the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections to provide the voting equipment and to process the absentee ballots for the municipal election.
- As a result of resolution 14-07, the City of Riviera Beach no longer processes the absentee ballots.
- If an absentee ballot request is returned to Ms. Ward, or arrives at her office, she advised that it was immediately forwarded to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.
- Ms. Ward acknowledged that prior to the March 2007 elections, her office did receive complaints from electors who stated that they had received absentee ballots that they did not request.
- When she received the complaints, Ms. Ward said that she questioned the electors, "as to did you have someone else to request the ballot for you? Maybe a family member or something requested it,"
- When asked if she found anything unusual about the complaints, Ms. Ward stated, "Well, uh, a couple of the complaints, uh the people that complained about it... that stated to me that they did not request and absentee ballot, that, that someone came to their home and asked them to vote for them uh, I mean some of the candidates and so forth that would approach the people and ask them to vote for them and they would assist them in voting."

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:5
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:08/06/2007	Activity End Date:08/06/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Interview and Sworn Statement of Carrie Ward

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*And my concern about that was that it's okay if you want to uh... Well, number one, for someone to assist you with voting there has to be some documentation on these people's permanent record that said they required assistance. The same way it is when you go into the polling location. Another person cannot assist them without the documentation being there, that they require assistance. So I would say to the people well do you want these people in your home or whatever. If not then you say to them you need to leave. You don't allow people, undesirable people to come into your home, it doesn't matter you know, whether they are assisting with voting or what."*

- Ms. Ward said that the complaints came in regarding the Masters campaign and she did not receive any complaints against the Brown campaign or campaigns of those running for commission seats.
- Ms. Ward acknowledged that she had received a letter from Michael Brown dated March 21, 2007, contesting the election due to absentee ballot fraud.
- According to Ms. Ward, Michael Brown was requesting the cancellation of the March 27<sup>th</sup> runoff election because of issues with the absentee ballot process. Ms. Ward indicated that she did not have the authority to suspend or delay the runoff election but she did make the City Council aware of the complaint from Michael Brown.
- Brown's letter to Ms. Ward also indicated that he had forwarded his complaint to the State Attorney's Office and to the Florida Department of State, Division of Elections.
- The City Council received the information, and opted to remain neutral in the situation. Ms. Ward did not know if the City Council had the authority to suspend the election.
- Ms. Ward acknowledged that she knew Ann Iles and described Iles as a former councilperson. Ward also acknowledged that she was aware that Ann Iles had made a statement that Thomas Masters had blank absentee ballots prior to the March election and runoff.
- Ms. Ward stated that she discussed the absentee ballot issue with then Councilperson Iles. According to Ms. Ward, when she questioned Ann Iles about the absentee ballots, Iles acknowledged that Thomas Masters did have absentee ballots in his possession. Although Iles told Ward that, she did not know how Masters came into possession of the ballots she did know what they looked like and that is what they were.
- Ms. Ward stated that she talked to Michael Brown about the absentee ballot issues several times prior to the election.
- After receiving several complaints from Michael Brown and various residents, Ms. Ward stated that she contacted Thomas Masters. According to Ward, she wanted Masters to know about the complaints and wanted to insure that he was aware of the law concerning absentee ballots.
- Masters assured Ward that the information and complaints were unfounded.
- Masters did tell Ward that he was actively pursuing the absentee ballot vote and was distributing absentee ballot requests.
- Ms. Ward acknowledged that she received complaints from people who told her that other people were actually voting for them and having them sign the ballots but she did not know who those people were. According to Ms. Ward, *"several people called in and when they said that to me, in fact, it was after the fact. It wasn't during the time, you know, that someone was there at the house. It was after the fact and my question to them was that; 'and what did you do, how did you vote, uh, did you feel intimidated, that you had to vote for the person?' And some of them of course said yes and I said well did you sign the ballot? And they proceeded to tell me, the ones that I spoke to, was that yes. I said okay, that was your vote, you signed it. If someone was trying to coerce you into voting for someone that was not your choice then you had the right to refuse it."*
- Ms. Ward stated that those people led her to believe that someone else completed their

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ballots and then had them sign it.

- Ms. Ward said that she asked some of the people that made those complaints to come into the office and complete a complaint form so it could be filed with the Division of Elections because she advised them, at the time, that she did not have jurisdiction. Ward said she copied the complaint forms and placed them on the front counter of the clerk's office and she was unsure how many people might have picked them up or mailed complaints to the Division of Elections.
- Nobody attempted to hand a completed complaint form to Ms. Ward.
- Ms. Ward was aware that there was a problem with one person's vote being rejected because a Masters campaign worker signed the woman's name for her after she had signed it with an "X". The voter's signature card is marked with an "X" and when the campaign worker signed the name is voided the ballot. Ms. Ward said she would be able to retrieve the campaign worker's name because she had been told by the elections office that the woman who signed the voter's name was assisting the Masters campaign.
- The canvassing board for the City of Riviera Beach is made up of members of the City Council, the Deputy City Clerk, the City Clerk, and the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.
- According to Ms. Ward, the electors return their absentee ballots to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections who then verifies that the signature on the ballot envelope matches the signature on file with the supervisor of elections. The canvassing board then reviews the ballots.
- Ms. Ward said she thought there was a total of eight ballots that she reviewed. Of those eight ballots, all but one was rejected. Ms. Ward said it was her understanding that the only ballots she reviewed were those that had been rejected by the supervisor of elections office. She did not view all of the absentee ballots although Dr. Anderson who was on the board did review all of them.

The interview was concluded at approximately 4:36 P.M. and the recording will be maintained in the related item section as related item number: 3. More details can be obtained by listening to the recording in its entirety.

Ms. Ward also provided Inspector Fortune with copies of the City of Riviera Beach Resolution Number 14-07, the complaint letter from Michael Brown, and copies of the rejected absentee ballots that will be maintained in related item # 7.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune traveled to the Riviera Beach City Hall located at 600 West Blue Heron Boulevard, Riviera Beach, Florida, to meet with City Clerk Carrie Ward. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain DVD recordings of the March 21, 2007 and April 4, 2007, council meetings in an attempt to clarify statements attributed to Council Person Ann Iles. Ms. Iles was alleged to have made public statements that she observed Thomas Masters with blank absentee ballots prior to the March elections held in Riviera Beach, Florida. The recordings will be maintained in the related item section as related item number: 8.

Inspector Fortune reviewed both the recordings for content. The only mention of the absentee ballot issue by Ann Iles was found in the recording of the March 21, 2007 meeting. During that meeting, Ms. Iles made the following public statement:

*"I thought that I saw Bishop Masters with some absentee ballots in his hand, but I never asked him what it was that he was holding and I think that's the basis of some of this stuff that's coming out of the City Clerk's Office because I mentioned it. What's the deal with how to get absentee ballots?"*

Additional details of what Ms. Iles may have said are contained in her sworn statement.

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:6
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:08/07/2007	Activity End Date:08/07/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Recordings of Riviera Beach Council Meetings on 03/21/07 and 04/04/07.

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune met with Bertha Ann Iles at her home which is located at 321 West 30 Street, Riviera Beach, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain a sworn statement from Ms. Iles concerning her knowledge regarding blank absentee ballots allegedly in the possession of Thomas Masters prior to the Riviera Beach Municipal Election and runoff in March 2007. The following is a brief synopsis of the statement given by Ms. Iles. Additional information may be obtained by listening to the statement in it's entirety.

- When told that Michael Brown told investigators that she had made public comments indicating that she had seen Thomas Masters in possession of blank absentee ballots prior to the elections, Ms. Iles responded. "First of all Michael Brown can't talk about what I did or said because I never talked to Michael Brown and it is no secret that Michael Brown and I butted heads quite a bit because of his behavior. I did however make a comment to the City Clerk ... Carrie Ward, that I thought that Bishop Masters had some absentee ballots when he came by my house. Because I had, that week prior, had called her office to secure some absentee ballots and the... her deputy uh clerk told me that I needed to call the supervisor of elections office. And I called the supervisor of elections office, the young man there told me that the person would have to make the request on their own and it would be sent to them via mail. And when I saw the City Clerk, I asked jokingly really, to her, how do some people get uh, special treatment and that I had requested uh, some ballots and was told that I could not get them, they had to be sent through the mail. However Bishop Masters had come by my house and he had some in his possession. And I did not clear it with Bishop Masters. I didn't ask him or said anything to him about it, I made the assumption that's what he had."
- When Ms. Iles saw Masters after she had spoken to Ms. Ward, Masters told her that he did not have absentee ballots but that they were "applications" for absentee ballots.
- Ms. Iles said that she did not remember making any public statement regarding Thomas Masters being in possession of blank absentee ballots prior to the election.
- Ms. Iles did acknowledge that she had told Thomas Masters that she had told Carrie Ward that Masters had blank absentee ballots.
- Asked if she remembered making the statement that she knew the difference between an absentee ballot and an absentee ballot request, Ann Iles said, "I don't remember

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:7
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:08/07/2007	Activity End Date:08/07/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Sworn Statement of Ann Iles - Former Riviera Beach Council Person

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making that statement and I most certainly would not have made it to Michael Brown, if I made it.”

- When asked if she did in fact know the difference between an absentee ballot request and the actual absentee ballot Iles said that she knew what the application looked like but she just saw piles of things and she assumed at the time they were absentee ballots. Iles said that she may have been angry at the time, she had heard rumors that Masters had absentee ballots and she had been unable to obtain any so those things may have led her to believe she saw Masters with absentee ballots instead of requests.
- Ms. Iles said that she was not trying to keep Masters from being in trouble and that she was “just sick and tired of Michael Brown.”
- If she made any statement regarding the absentee ballots, Iles said it would have been at the March 21, 2007 or April 4, 2007 council meetings.
- Iles said she was aware that people were helping electors obtain absentee ballots but she did not see any body with actual ballots prior to the election.
- Iles was not aware of any illegal activities by anyone prior to the elections.

The statement was concluded at 10:04 A.M. The recorded statement will be maintained in related item number3.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune traveled to the residence of Earl and Laurise Davis located at 1001 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Riviera Beach, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to ascertain whether Earl or Laurise Davis had any additional information regarding their complaint to Michael Brown about the conduct of Thomas Masters. Earl and Laurise Davis had provided an affidavit to Brown stating that when they went to their polling place at the Dan Calloway-Tate Recreation Center on March 13, 2007 Thomas Masters and another unknown W/M approached them. Masters and the W/M went to Laurise Davis and told her to sign a paper they had and she would not have to go inside to vote.

Mrs. Davis told Inspector Fortune that before she even had an opportunity to see what the paper was; Earl Davis came around from the other side of the car and told Masters and the W/M to leave his wife alone. According to Mr. Davis, Masters was well aware that Davis supported Michael Brown and there was no further interaction between the parties. Earl Davis stated that he never got a look at the paper that was being presented to Laurise so he could not say what was on it.

Both Laurise and Earl Davis indicated they cast their votes without further incident. There was no evidence of criminal activity identified.

The interview was not recorded.

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:8
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:08/07/2007	Activity End Date:08/07/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Interview Laurise and Earl Davis.

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**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**

This report is predicated upon information received from Assistant General Counsel Maria Matthews of the Florida Department of State, wherein Michael D. Brown of Riviera Beach, Florida is alleging that Bishop Thomas Masters, who is the Mayor of Riviera Beach, Florida, violated Florida State Statutes regarding elections.

On Tuesday, August 7, 2007, Inspector Ed Fortune attempted to contact the following individuals regarding complaints they had lodged with Michael Brown:

1. Terry Hicks, 201 West 29 St., Riviera Beach, Fl. Telephone: 561-644-9029
  - Inspector Fortune first attempted to contact Mr. Hicks at his listed residence. An unknown female stated that Terry Hicks did not live at that address and has never lived at the address. (This is the address on Mr. Hicks' voter registration, driver license, and the one provided by Mr. Hicks in his affidavit to Michael Brown.) Telephone messages were left for Mr. Hicks; however, he has not returned the calls.
2. Mary Shuemaker, 555 West 5 St., Riviera Beach, Fl. Telephone: 561-844-7121
  - Nobody answered the door at the Shuemaker residence and there has been no response to messages left on the door and via telephone.
3. Yolanda Prichard, 809 West 5 St., Riviera Beach, Fl. Telephone: 561-633-0437
  - Nobody answered the door at the Prichard residence and there has been no response to messages left on the door and via telephone.

Case Number:EI-32-0029	Serial #:9
Author:Fortune, Edward A.	Office:Executive Investigations
Activity Start Date:08/07/2007	Activity End Date:08/07/2007

Approved By:LeFiles, Robert J.

Description:Attempt to contact witnesses.

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