



RON DESANTIS

GOVERNOR

April 3, 2023

Ms. Melinda Miguel
Chief Inspector General
Executive Office of the Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Ms. Miguel:

On February 27, 2023, I signed House Bill 9-B, Reedy Creek Improvement District, Orange, and Osceola Counties, which replaced the Disney-controlled Reedy Creek Improvement District (RCID) with a new Central Florida Tourism Oversight District (CFTOD), and appointed five new members to the CFTOD board. Recently, the new board members informed the public that they had uncovered that, immediately before the enactment of House Bill 9-B, the RCID Board of Supervisors attempted to enter into last-minute development and restrictive covenant agreements with Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc. (Walt Disney World), designed to usurp the authority of the CFTOD board. These collusive and self-dealing arrangements aim to nullify the recently passed legislation, undercut Florida's legislative process, and defy the will of Floridians. In addition, based on initial observations of counsel, the RCID board's actions appear to suffer from serious legal infirmities, including, among other things, inadequate notice, lack of consideration, improper delegation of authority, and ethical violations, such as conflicts of interest and self-dealing.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 14.32, Florida Statutes, I formally request that you, as the Chief Inspector General of the State of Florida, in consultation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, launch a thorough review and investigation into the actions of the RCID Board of Supervisors described above. Such investigation should include analysis of the following:

- RCID's adherence to applicable Florida civil and criminal laws and ethics requirements;
- The qualifications of RCID's prior Board of Supervisors and the legal validity of their actions;
- The involvement of Walt Disney World employees and agents in the execution of RCID's actions;
- Any financial gain or benefit derived by Walt Disney World as a result of RCID's actions and RCID's justification for such actions;
- All RCID board, employee, or agent communications related to RCID's actions, including those with Walt Disney World employees and agents; and
- All RCID board, employee, or agent communications related to House Bill 9-B, Reedy Creek Improvement District, Orange, and Osceola Counties, and the CFTOD.

Any legal or ethical violations should be referred to the appropriate authorities. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RDS".

Ron DeSantis
Governor

cc: Commissioner Mark Glass, Florida Department of Law Enforcement