



Office of
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ATTORNEY**

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
William K. DeBral, Deputy County Attorney
Susan J. Prado, Assistant County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
DATE: August 11, 2020
SUBJECT: Jill Jaynes Litigation

BACKGROUND.

In August 2018, an arrest warrant was issued for Jill Hollis Jaynes, which included five felony counts relating to the billing practices of her acupuncture practice in Vero Beach. On July 28, 2020, that case came to a close as she pled no contest to one felony count of insurance fraud greater than \$100,000. She was adjudicated guilty of that count and ordered to serve two years under community control, one year of probation confined to home and work, followed by two years of standard probation. She also was required to surrender her acupuncture license as of September 1, 2020 and ordered to pay restitution to Indian River County of \$173,007.28, plus pay the costs of the investigation and prosecution and court costs.

Records in the case indicate that the damages to Indian River County caused by Jill Jaynes's billing practices exceeded a million dollars. The County Attorney's Office recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") authorize the County Attorney's Office to seek further legal recourse against Ms. Jaynes and her business in order to recoup the losses sustained by her fraudulent billing practices. The County Attorney's Office has already begun research of the State Attorney's Office files and has requested files from the Division of Investigative & Forensic Services, Bureau of Insurance Fraud. As this matter will more than likely involve in depth discovery, the County Attorney's Office recommends that the Board authorize the County Attorney's Office to hire outside counsel to assist in the matter. Please know that there may be an issue as to collectability in this case.

FUNDING.

Depending on the extent of discovery necessary in the case, the County Attorney's Office anticipates outside counsel could cost as much as \$150,000. Funding for this expense will be provided by a budget amendment from General Fund/Cash Forward Oct 1st. Per section 772.104, Florida Statutes, Indian River County can recoup its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs if successful.

RECOMMENDATION.

The County Attorney's Office recommends that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners authorize the County Attorney's Office to seek further legal recourse against Ms. Jaynes and her business in order to recoup the losses sustained by her fraudulent billing practices. As this matter will more than likely involve in depth discovery, the County Attorney's Office recommends that the Board authorize the County Attorney's Office to hire outside counsel to assist in the matter.